

Statement of Dr. Nikolaus J. Korczynski, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the OPCW at EC-110 on 7th October 2025 under agenda item 6 c

Germany is pleased to see the new Syrian government's dedication to tackle Assad's chemical weapons programme, in close cooperation with, and verification by, the OPCW. It is encouraging that the OPCW has access to all essential sites, materials, and information in Syria. We would like to express our gratitude to both the Technical Secretariat and the Syrian authorities for their joint commitment to this cooperation.

It is clear that the process of securing, verifying and eradicating the chemical weapons remnants of the Assad regime is a complex undertaking. As long as it is not finished, the risk of proliferation remains significant. The potential for chemical agents, precursors, munitions or equipment to fall into the wrong hands remains a concern until every site is secured.

We would like to express our appreciation to the Technical Secretariat for laying the foundations for a permanent presence of the OPCW in Damascus, and we hope that the OPCW will be able to commence its destruction verification activities. It is crucial that this work begins immediately. We are convinced that a pragmatic approach in accordance with the stipulations of the Convention and its Verification Annex is imperative in order to accelerate the inspection of facilities, the documentation of findings and the securing of remains of Assad's chemical weapons programme with a view to their rapid destruction under the supervision of the OPCW.

In this context, as stated in our National Statement, we welcome the Decision put forward by Qatar, and are content to co-sponsor it. We call on all EC Members to support it.

Germany also invites all States Parties with the relevant capabilities to provide support to the Secretariat in order to facilitate the completion of this significant undertaking. Germany will be looking to provide financial assistance and in-kind contributions, as we have done in the past, and we urge all States Parties to do the same.

