

**Statement of Dr. Nikolaus J. Korczynski, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to
the OPCW
at EC-110 on 7th October 2025
under agenda item 5**

Mr. Chairperson, Director-General,

Excellencies and distinguished Delegates,

Germany aligns itself with the statement issued by Denmark on behalf of the European Union.

We said in July that this period is of paramount significance for the OPCW, with several key dossiers requiring focused attention and concerted effort. Things have not changed. This is still true, and now even more than before.

We welcome the continued deployments of TS missions to Syria and the constructive approach displayed by the new Syrian authorities. In this regard, we recall with appreciation the renewed commitment expressed by the Permanent Representative of Syria at the UN Security Council session of 12 September to verify and destroy to all remaining chemical weapons.

We welcome the Decision on Expedited On-Site Destruction of Any Remnants of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic and are happy to co-sponsor the decision.

The unique opportunity to dispose of the remnants of the Assad regime's chemical weapons program should be seized. Time is of the essence. Significant proliferation risks remain until all sites are secured and all CW-relevant chemicals, munitions, equipment and sites are documented and verified, followed by the effective destruction or dismantlement of chemical weapons and precursors.

This requires a pragmatic approach in accordance with the stipulations of the Convention and its Verification Annex. We and other States Parties are looking forward to further, more detailed information on what is necessary both for the TS to fulfill its mandate, and for the new Syria to be able to fulfill its obligations.

Furthermore, we would like to stress that it remains vital that all actors militarily active in Syria practice restraint and do not endanger the OPCW's mission.

Germany regrets that the costs of the Syria mission will mainly have to be covered from voluntary contributions. Ridding the world of Assad's chemical weapons should be our joint endeavour, supported not only by words, but also by resources by all States Parties. It should not depend on the good will of the same small group of States Parties who have financed so much of this Organisation's Syria-related work in the past. We welcome the creation of the Special Fund for Syria and call on all States Parties to contribute financially or in-kind to this important line of work.

Mr. Chairperson,

The other urgent topic that the OPCW has to focus - and act on - is of a nature that is threatening the prohibition norm of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Three Technical Assistance Visits have proven the use of Riot Control Agents against Ukrainian frontline positions, an act clearly prohibited in Article 1 of our Convention. We know that Russia is routinely using riot control agents and other toxic chemicals, such as the scheduled choking agent chloropicrin, in its ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine and has even been intensifying its use of chemical weapons in Ukraine

It is now of critical importance for the OPCW to identify the perpetrators in order to uphold and defend the norm against CW use. We continue to believe that this should be done through an attribution mechanism set up by the TS.

Mr. Chairperson,

Among the significant concerns that lie before us this year, one is particularly noteworthy for its long-term impact: electing a successor to Director-General Fernando Arias. The unprecedented number of 11 DG candidatures underlines the standing of this Organisation. The selection process was fair, transparent, and efficient.

Germany remains a strong supporter of the OPCW and its work, fully dedicated to this Organisation's sound, effective governance, financial viability, and professional and pragmatic approach to Chemical Weapons related concerns, including Industry Verification. These factors remain crucial to the OPCW's ability to respond to threats and to adjust to new circumstances.



Permanent Representation
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the OPCW