



**STATEMENT BY H.E. JURAJ PODHORSKÝ,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
TO THE OPCW,
AT THE 110th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
(The Hague, 7 to 10 October 2025)**

Agenda item 6(c) – Elimination of the Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme

Mr. Chair,

Slovakia aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

In my national capacity, I wish to make some additional remarks.

The fall of the Assad regime last year has opened the doors for a new chapter in the history of Syria, and it has also presented the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the OPCW with a historic opportunity to obtain clarifications on the full extent and scope of its chemical weapons programme and to remove the threat of chemical weapons posed by this programme.

Against this backdrop, the continued commitment and engagement of the Syrian authorities to fully cooperate with the OPCW is crucial in order to fully uncover all elements and stockpiles of the chemical weapons programme and verifiably destroy it.

Slovakia welcomes the overall progress made in planning to fulfil this important task, as reported by the Secretariat. Swift implementation of the next steps and a clear Council-agreed framework are necessary. In this regard, we welcome the adoption of the decision on the *Expedited On-site Destruction of any Remnants of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic* which Slovakia has co-sponsored. We wish to use this opportunity to applaud the State of Qatar for its tireless work on the Syrian *dossier* in general and on the present decision in particular.

We are aware that it is an immense task with significant financial implications. While we welcome the eventual compromise reached on the budget for the next biennium, we would have favoured financing of the Syria-related activities primarily through the regular budget via assessed contributions, as the destruction of the chemical weapons programme is a core activity of the Organization. At the same time and with view to the budget decision to be adopted, we encourage all OPCW States Parties to support the mandate and activities pertaining to the Syrian chemical weapons programme with extrabudgetary resources.

Mr. Chair,

We wish to express our full trust in the professionalism, knowledge and experience of the OPCW personnel under the newly created Office of Special Missions, to successfully manage all challenges ahead and to fulfil its mandated activities.

Slovakia will also continue to support bringing justice to the victims of CW attacks in Syria and ending impunity for the use of chemical weapons.

Mr. Chair,

I wish to conclude by commending once again the cooperation of the Syrian authorities with the OPCW and reiterating Slovakia's full support to the activities of the OPCW in Syria.

I wish to kindly request the issuance of this statement as an official-series document of the session, as well as its posting on the OPCW public website.

Thank you.