



**Security Council Briefing on the Situation in the Middle East Syria
(Chemical Weapons)**
8 January 2026

Greece's Statement delivered
by Mr. Ioannis Stamatelos

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Thank you, Mr. President.

I would like to thank the Deputy High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Ebo, for his briefing and I would also like to welcome the participation of the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to this meeting.

Mr. President,

More than a year after the fall of the Assad regime, the Syrian people have embarked on a new path marked by aspiration and hope.

The Security Council's recent visit to Syria sent an important signal of support for the country's reintegration into the international community. This transition cannot be complete without the definitive resolution of the chemical weapons file, which remains a critical legacy of the prolonged conflict. We welcome the latest monthly reports of the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and wish to highlight three points.

First, Greece fully supports the principles and objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We condemn in the strongest possible terms any use of chemical weapons—by any State or non-State actor, anywhere and under any circumstances. Such acts are unacceptable and must not go unpunished. Accountability is essential. In this regard, we express our full support for the OPCW in the impartial, professional, and rigorous execution of its mandate.

Second, we take note of the tangible progress reported by the OPCW Secretariat. As we have heard from Mr. Ebo, since March 2025, OPCW teams have conducted visits to 19 locations in Syria, including suspected chemical weapons-related sites, collected samples and documentation, and re-established a continuous in-country presence as of October 2025. These steps are important for advancing verification and rebuilding

confidence. At the same time, information indicating that more than 100 additional locations may be linked to past chemical weapons activities highlights the scale of the remaining task and the need for sustained cooperation and access.

Third, Greece welcomes the willingness demonstrated by the Syrian authorities and the progress achieved thus far, as reflected in the re-establishment of the Syrian National Authority, the resumption of progress reporting, and the appointment of a new Permanent Representative to the OPCW. At the same time, significant challenges remain, and we urge the Syrian authorities to intensify their efforts to address them fully.

In conclusion, Mr. President,

Greece reaffirms the importance of upholding all relevant international agreements and Security Council Resolutions, in particular Resolution 2118 (2013) and of preserving the international norm against any use of chemical weapons.

In this regard, my country has decided to contribute financially to the Trust Fund for Syria Missions of OPCW and stands ready to provide further assistance, in particular training, for the enhancement of the means and resources of Syria, in order to implement its obligations from the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We reiterate our full support to the sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of Syria, as well as to a peaceful, inclusive, and democratic political transition that ensures that all Syrians without discrimination feel safe and equal.

I thank you.