



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Meeting on the  
Situation in the Middle East (Syria – Chemical Weapons)  
Tuesday 10 March 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered  
by H.E. Ms. Aglaia Balta  
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations

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Thank you, Madame President,

At the outset, I would like to thank the Deputy High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Ebo, for his briefing, as well as Mr. Moore and Mr. Philips for their remarks. I also welcome the participation of the Permanent Representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye to this meeting.

As a fundamental principle, Greece strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, at any time and under any circumstances. It constitutes a grave violation of international law and may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

While the entire Middle East region is facing complex challenges and multiple crises, we reiterate our aspiration that the ongoing political transition in Syria will contribute to the resolution of the chemical weapons file, which remains a legacy and consequence of the prolonged conflict. In this regard, I wish to highlight three points.

**First**, my country commends the ongoing constructive cooperation between the OPCW Technical Secretariat and the Syrian transitional authorities, with a view to dismantling the Assad-era chemical weapons programme, as well as to Syria fulfilling its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We commend Syria for having re-initiated the regular monthly reporting and we welcome the submission of four monthly national reports, covering the period between 15 August 2025 and 15 January 2026.

However, we note with concern the recent handling of 75 cylinders of Category 3 chemical weapons in the Aleppo region. We regret that the Secretariat received neither prior notification nor any subsequent information regarding the reported removal and destruction of these cylinders.

Greece has taken note of the measures taken by Syria in response and encourages the Syrian National Authority to complete the inquiries into the matter as soon as possible and share the information with the Secretariat and the States Parties.

In addition, we repeat our call to Syrian National Authority to work closely with OPCW Technical Secretariat, in order to resolve the 19 remaining outstanding issues in Syria's initial declaration.

**Second**, we took note of the fifth OPCW Investigation and Identification Team report of 21 January 2026, which found the Syrian Arab Air Force responsible for a chemical weapons attack in Kafr Zeita on 1 October 2016.

We pay tribute to the OPCW Investigation and Identification Team for its thorough and professional work. It is now time to hold those responsible accountable and provide justice for the victims.

**Third**, Greece remains committed to supporting the OPCW, including through its capacity as a member of the Executive Council, as well as through its pledge for a financial contribution to the OPCW Trust Fund for Syria Missions, with a view to ensuring full accountability for those responsible for these heinous crimes in Syria.

Moreover, we are working closely with the competent Syrian authorities with a view 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 Convention.

Madame President,

To conclude, we reiterate our full support to the sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of Syria, as well to a fully inclusive Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political transition, in the spirit of UN Security Council Resolution 2254 and call for the unity of the Council into upholding Resolution 2118 (2013) and the international norm against any use of chemical weapons.

I thank you