



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council briefing on
the situation in the Middle East (Syria – Chemical Weapons)
4 June 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered
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Thank you Madame President,

At the outset, I would like to thank the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, for her briefing. I also welcome the participation of the Permanent Representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye to this meeting.

Greece reiterates its full support to the sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of Syria, as well as to a fully inclusive Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political transition, in the spirit of the UN Security Council Resolution 2254.

The ongoing political transition in Syria will remain incomplete, without the final resolution of the chemical weapons file, which remains an important legacy issue and a consequence of the prolonged conflict.

In this regard, I wish to highlight three points.

First, we welcome the positive developments -as highlighted by the High Representative- regarding the ongoing efforts of the new Syrian government to uncover the remnants of the Assad regime's chemical weapons programme, secure the associated materials and equipment and prevent any potential threat to civilians.

In particular, the reported recent identification of chemical materials, equipment, stockpiles, and munitions directly linked to the Assad regime's chemical weapons programme, as well as their transfer to a secure storage facility, constitutes a crucial step towards the goal of the total elimination of the remaining chemical weapons in the country. Greece encourages the Syrian authorities to continue their constructive cooperation with OPCW, aiming to accelerate field visits to suspected sites and destruction operations.

Nevertheless, we are concerned that 19 outstanding issues on Syria's initial declaration remain unresolved, especially noting that, according to OPCW Technical Secretariat, they involve large quantities of potentially undeclared or unverified chemical warfare agents and chemical munitions.

Allow me now to turn to the issue of the reported removal and destruction of 75 cylinders of Category 3 chemical weapons in the Aleppo region, last January, without prior notification of OPCW's Technical Secretariat. In this regard, we welcome the preliminary information provided by Syria, through its latest monthly report, and we take note that investigations are ongoing to determine the circumstances of the incident.

Second, Greece fully supports the efforts of Syria to resolve all outstanding issues of the Syrian chemical file. In this regard, we are engaging with the competent Syrian authorities, with a view to provide further assistance and capacity building.

Third, 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.

All perpetrators should be held accountable, as a necessary means to provide justice to the victims. We commend OPCW's Investigation and Identification Team for its professional work, towards establishing accountability for all those involved in the use of chemical weapons in Syria.

To conclude, Madame President, we reiterate our call for the unity of the Council into upholding Resolution 2118 (2013) and the international norm against any use of chemical weapons. The Syrian people deserve to finally close this dark chapter of their recent history and move swiftly to a more democratic, stable and peaceful future.

Greece is committed to supporting Syria in a tangible manner throughout this process.

I thank you