



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



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

Greece's Statement delivered
by H.E. Ambassador Aglaia Balta
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Thank you Mr. President,

Allow me to begin by congratulating France for assuming the Presidency of the Security Council for the month of September. I wish to thank the Permanent Representative of Denmark and her team, for the way in which they have conducted the work of the Council for the past month, and for their dedication throughout their Presidency.

O thank High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, for her briefing. And I also wish to welcome the participation of the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic in this meeting, and I thank him for the precise update provided.

The Secretary-General's recent visit to Syria marks an important milestone. His presence and his engagements on the ground signal the beginning of a new chapter in Syria's relationship with the United Nations and, more broadly, for the country's future. We hope that progress on the political transition will create the conditions for the definitive resolution of Syria's chemical file.

Mr. President,

The recent decision of the OPCW Executive Council to reinstate Syria's rights and privileges under the Chemical Weapons Convention marks an important milestone and a recognition of the substantive progress achieved by Syria in this regard.

Greece reiterates its unwavering commitment to the Chemical Weapons Convention and to the global norm of the absolute prohibition of the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, at any time and under any circumstances. Such use constitutes a grave violation of international law and may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Greece supports Syria's efforts to resolve all outstanding issues related to the Assad's regime chemical weapons programme and we continue to engage with the competent Syrian authorities, including through the provision of assistance and capacity-building.

We are encouraged by certain positive developments since our last meeting in June as the new Syrian government marks 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. Outstanding issues remain however, and we call for their earliest possible resolution.

First, we welcome the Syrian authorities' submission of further amendments to Syria's initial declaration, including information on one additional chemical weapons production facility, a newly discovered chemical used in the production of nerve agents, two chemical weapons storage facilities and empty chemical munitions.

We are furthermore encouraged by the conclusion of the necessary agreements and approvals, between Syria and the OPCW, which will enable the destruction of the declared chemical weapons, under the Secretariat verification. We encourage the OPCW Technical Secretariat and the Syrian authorities to sustain their close engagement and follow-up on these discoveries.

Second, we note of the recent deployment of OPCW teams to Syria, to conduct an initial inspection verifying the amendment to Syria's initial declaration on one of the newly declared storage chemical weapons facilities, as well as an inspection to verify the destruction of Category 3 chemical weapons. We look forward to the reports of these inspections.

Third, we remain concerned that 19 outstanding issues relating to Syria's initial declaration are still unresolved, particularly given that, according to the OPCW Technical Secretariat's assessment, they include potentially large quantities of undeclared and/or unverified chemical warfare agents and chemical munitions.

We encourage the Syrian authorities to sustain constructive cooperation with the OPCW, to resolve all outstanding issues and accelerate field visits to suspected sites and deconstruction operations.

To conclude, Greece reaffirms its full support for the sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of Syria, and a fully inclusive, Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political transition, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2254.

We also renew our call for unity within the Council in upholding Resolution 2118 (2013) and the international norm against any use of chemical weapons.

I thank you.