



**United Nations Office  
for Disarmament Affairs**

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**Briefing to the Security Council on the Implementation of  
Security Council resolution 2118 (2013)**

As delivered



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Mr. President,  
Distinguished Members of the Security Council,

I thank Council members for the opportunity to brief you once again on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) on the elimination of the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Before I begin my part of the briefing, I wish to state the United Nation's concern regarding the deteriorating security situation in Syria and reiterate the appeal by UN Special Envoy for Syria, Mr. Geir Pedersen, in this Council just two days ago for de-escalation and calm, and for all parties to respect their obligations under international law to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure.

Since the last consideration of this matter by the Council, and consistent with established practice, the Office for Disarmament Affairs has been in regular contact with its counterparts in the OPCW Technical Secretariat on activities related to resolution 2118.

Mr. President,

Since the Council's previous meeting on this matter, the OPCW Declaration Assessment Team (or DAT) has continued its efforts to clarify all outstanding issues regarding the initial declaration and subsequent declarations submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic.

Following the delays reported at the Council's previous meeting on the matter, the twenty-eighth round of consultations between the DAT and the Syrian National Authority took place between 10 and 18 September 2024. I am informed that

during this round of consultations, the DAT conducted technical meetings with experts from the Syrian National Authority, during which the status of outstanding issue was discussed. As of the date of this report, the DAT continues to analyse the information gathered during the twenty-eighth round of consultations from the documents submitted by the Syrian National Authority, interviews, and explanations provided by Syrian experts.

The DAT has also continued to follow-up with the Syrian National Authority with regard to the results of the analysis of the samples collected in May 2024, in order for the DAT to proceed with its assessment of the relevant outstanding issues.

Through a note verbale dated 11 November 2024, the Syrian National Authority provided explanations of the results of the analysis of these samples. The DAT is currently assessing the information provided and will report on the outcome of this assessment in due time.

I have also been informed that, through a note verbale dated 1 November 2024, the DAT requested the Syrian National Authority to identify, at the earliest, among the more than 1,000 pages of information submitted during the twenty-eighth round of consultations, those elements relevant to the explanations it had provided, to progress in resolving outstanding issues. As of the date of this report, the OPCW Technical Secretariat had not received the Syrian National Authority's response to this request.

Mr. President,

Therefore, as previously reported, the DAT has raised and reported a total of 26 outstanding issues with regard to the Syrian Arab Republic's declaration, of which 19 remain unresolved. These include two recently opened outstanding issues

related to potentially undeclared full-scale development and production of chemical weapons at two declared chemical weapons-related facilities, which were previously declared as having never been in operation.

The OPCW Technical Secretariat reports that, at this stage, the substance of the 19 outstanding issues remains a ‘serious concern’ as it involves large quantities of chemical warfare agents and munitions that were reportedly destroyed or otherwise consumed prior to the Syrian Arab Republic’s accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention, the fate of which cannot be fully verified by the OPCW. It also involves potentially large quantities of chemical warfare agents, the production of which has not been declared by the Syrian Arab Republic to the OPCW Technical Secretariat.

I reiterate that this is extremely worrying.

Mr. President,

I have been informed that the eleventh round of inspections of the Barzah and Jamrayah facilities of the Scientific Studies and Research Centre (or SSRC) took place from 12 to 20 November 2024, after a postponement from September due to security reasons. The OPCW Technical Secretariat will report on the outcome of these inspections in due course and is planning for the twelfth round of inspections to take place before the end of 2024.

As of the date of this month’s report, the OPCW Technical Secretariat has not received any new information that might resolve the issues related to the presence of a Schedule 2 chemical in the sample collected during the November 2018 inspection, and to the origin and usage of a chemical of dual-use nature observed

by the inspection team during the September 2022 inspection at the SSRC Barzah facilities. The OPCW Technical Secretariat will further engage on these issues with the Syrian National Authority during the next round of SSRC inspections.

As reported previously, the OPCW Technical Secretariat has also requested information regarding the unauthorised movement of the two cylinders related to the chemical weapon incident that took place in Douma on 7 April 2018, which were allegedly destroyed in an attack on a chemical weapons production facility. I have been informed that, as of the date of this report, the Technical Secretariat has not received a response to this request.

Mr. President,

The OPCW Technical Secretariat remains fully committed to implementing its mandate aimed at verifying the fulfilment of the Syrian Arab Republic's declaration obligations under the Convention, decisions by OPCW policy-making organs, and Security Council resolutions.

However, as has been previously emphasized, full cooperation by the Syrian Arab Republic with the OPCW Technical Secretariat is essential to closing all outstanding issues. Considering the identified gaps, inconsistencies, and discrepancies that remain unresolved, at this time the OPCW Technical Secretariat assesses that the declaration submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic still cannot be considered accurate and complete in accordance with the Chemical Weapons Convention. I call upon the Syrian Arab Republic to cooperate with the OPCW Technical Secretariat and respond with urgency to all of the Technical Secretariat's requests.

Mr. President,

I have been advised that the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission (or FFM) continues to study all available information related to allegations of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic and will issue further reports in due course.

The Investigation and Identification Team (or IIT) also continues its investigations into incidents in which the Fact-Finding Mission has determined that chemical weapons were used or likely used in the Syrian Arab Republic and will issue further reports in due course.

Mr. President,

Distinguished Members of the Security Council,

Last week, the world observed the Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare. In his message to mark the occasion and to pay tribute to all those who have been killed or injured by such horrific weapons, the Secretary-General called upon the global community to reaffirm their commitment to the Chemical Weapons Convention, end impunity, and live up to the Pact of the Future's pledge for a world free of such weapons. I urge the members of this Council to unite and show leadership in demonstrating that any use of chemical weapons is unacceptable.

The United Nations will continue to do our part to support all efforts to uphold the norm against the use of chemical weapons – anywhere, at any time.

I thank you very much for your attention.