

Conference on Disarmament

20 February 2019

English

Original: Arabic

Note verbale dated 5 February 2019 from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic addressed to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament, with a purpose of clarification of several points related to documents CD/2147 and CD/2148, issued as official documents of the Conference on Disarmament, and transmitting the Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic, dated 14 April 2018

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs in its capacity as secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament. With reference to the two notes verbales from France, dated 14 September 2018, concerning the use of chemical weapons and the tripartite American, French and British aggression against the Syrian Arab Republic, which were issued as official documents of the Conference on Disarmament under the symbols CD/2147 and CD/2148, the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic wishes to state the following:

The Permanent Mission of France submitted the notes verbales in the closing minutes before the end of the Conference's 2018 session and the secretariat failed to circulate them until such time as they had been officially published, five weeks after the Conference had concluded its work. This may be considered as an attempt to prevent the State targeted in the notes verbales from exercising its right of reply to the allegations contained therein and to prevent that reply being included in the Conference's annual report for 2018, thereby demonstrating bad faith, manipulation of the procedures regulating the Conference's work and a continuation of the dishonest disinformation campaign being directed against the Syrian Arab Republic within the Conference on Disarmament.

During the course of the official meetings of the Conference in its 2018 session, the Syrian Arab Republic had, in fact, already replied to the allegations contained in the two notes verbales from France. Those replies figure in the official records and documents of the Conference, among them the document issued under symbol CD/2145 in which the Permanent Mission responds to the baseless allegations regarding the Syrian presidency of the Conference on Disarmament and to the repeated violations of international law committed by the United States, France and the United Kingdom in the light of their military aggression against the Syrian Arab Republic and their support for terrorism within the country.

In response to the allegations and accusations contained in the notes verbales from France, the Permanent Mission is honoured to transmit herewith a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic on 14 April 2018 condemning the American, French and British aggression against the country, and a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic on 22 August 2018 responding to the statement by the United States of America, France and the United Kingdom regarding the alleged use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic.



The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Conference on Disarmament would be grateful to the Conference secretariat if it could circulate the present note verbale and its two attached statements to member States and observers of the Conference and issue it as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew assurances of its highest consideration to the Office for Disarmament Affairs in its capacity as secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament.

Statements

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A source within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants made the following statement:

The Syrian Arab Republic condemns in the strongest possible terms the unjust tripartite aggression against the country launched by the Americans, British and French. That attack constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, and it demonstrates once more the disdain in which the aggressor States hold the international legality to which they pay such dishonest and insincere lip service.

The attack by the arrogant and overbearing Western regimes comes as a result of the frustration they feel at the failure of their conspiracy against Syria and in response to the collapse of their puppet terrorist groups before the advance of the Syrian Arab Army. The fate of the puppet masters will be no better than that of the puppets, as all that awaits them is defeat, failure and disgrace.

The timing of this attack, which coincided with the arrival in Syria of the fact-finding team from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to look into the alleged chemical attack in Duma, was fundamentally aimed at impeding the work of the team, anticipating its outcomes and applying pressure to the investigators in order not to expose the lies and fabrications of the States concerned.

The Syrian Arab Republic asks the international community unreservedly to condemn this attack, which will serve only to ignite tensions in the world and to threaten overall global peace and security.

This unjust and barbaric attack – which was met with high morale on the part of the people who poured out into the streets and squares to condemn it – will in no way affect the determination and resolve of the Syrian people and of the intrepid Syrian armed forces to pursue the takfirist terrorist remnants and to defend their national sovereignty, uphold the integrity of their territory and people, and restore security and stability to all parts of the country.

Damascus 14 April 2018.

A source within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants made the following statement:

Western States, particularly the United States of America, France and the United Kingdom, have once again resorted to a campaign of menaces, dissemblance and misinformation clearly directed against the Syrian Arab Republic. This is part of those States' publically announced ongoing support for armed terrorist groups, above all the Nusrah Front and its affiliates. The latest campaign of aggressive threats, which includes the statement made by those three powers today, comes on the heels of the successes achieved across Syria by the Syrian Arab Army, its allies and its reserve forces. Those successes have unequivocally demonstrated the rout of the terrorist allies of the Western powers before the will of the Syrian people, who have gathered around their leaders and their army in a heroic effort to restore the unity of Syrian territory and to confirm their rejection of terrorism.

Time and again, Syria has stated that the use of chemical weapons is immoral and that it condemns such use in any place, under any circumstances and against any party. Syria has also repeatedly stated that it does not possess any chemical weapons, in line with its obligations towards the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), and OPCW has informed international agencies that Syria has effectively fulfilled its obligations in that regard.

It has become clear to global public opinion that Syria did not, in fact, use chemical weapons, even during its fiercest battles with armed terrorist groups, and that it was the terrorists themselves who used such weapons, with direct support from the West and from regional States such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. It has been shown that those States have continued to support terrorist groups, supply them with chemical weapons and encourage them to use such weapons in Ghouta, Khan al-Asal, the governorates of Idlib and Aleppo and elsewhere. Global public opinion will not be misled by such foolish statements, which are not worth the ink with which they are written. Moreover, Syria has recently informed the competent international agencies that armed terrorist groups are making preparations to use poison gas in various parts of the country, and the statement made by those powers is merely a prior expression of support for any chemical attack those terrorist groups may undertake in the next few days, in order then to use that as a pretext to attack Syria as happened with the brutal tripartite attack of 14 April 2018.

The Syrian State is anxious not to spill the blood of Syrian citizens and wishes to restore their security and the unity of their territory by regularizing armed combatants and achieving national reconciliation without war and destruction.

Syria strongly condemns both the form and the content of the statement made by those States because its fundamental purpose was to justify the terrorist groups in their use of chemical weapons, to prolong the war against Syria and to support the terrorist groups, which had collapsed and scattered in the face of the overwhelming victories of the Syrian Arab Army during recent weeks and months.

Damascus 22 August 2018.
