



## Conseil de sécurité

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### **Lettre datée du 27 septembre 2018, adressée à la Présidente du Conseil de sécurité par le Secrétaire général**

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire tenir ci-joint en annexe le soixantième rapport mensuel du Directeur général de l'Organisation pour l'interdiction des armes chimiques (OIAC), présenté en application du paragraphe 12 de la résolution [2118 \(2013\)](#) du Conseil de sécurité (voir annexe). Le présent rapport couvre la période allant du 24 août au 23 septembre 2018.

Comme indiqué précédemment au Conseil de sécurité, le Secrétariat technique de l'OIAC s'est employé à analyser les réponses à la liste de questions non exhaustive jointe à une lettre du Directeur général datée du 10 avril 2018 portant sur les points en suspens relatifs à la déclaration d'armes chimiques de la République arabe syrienne, qui étaient reprises dans une note verbale datée du 10 juillet 2018, adressée par la République arabe syrienne. À cet égard, j'ai noté que l'analyse était désormais achevée et que, en outre, la plupart des informations fournies par la République arabe syrienne avaient été communiquées au Secrétariat technique de l'OIAC.

Je me félicite de la volonté exprimée par le Secrétariat technique de l'OIAC de poursuivre sa collaboration avec les autorités de la République arabe syrienne afin de faire la lumière sur toutes les lacunes, incohérences et contradictions apparaissant dans la déclaration initiale et les communications ultérieures de cette dernière. Je ne peux que renouveler mes appels lancés à la République arabe syrienne pour qu'elle coopère avec l'OIAC et, partant, qu'elle donne les garanties nécessaires à la communauté internationale en ce qui concerne l'élimination de son programme d'armes chimiques.

Le 6 juillet 2018, la Mission d'établissement des faits de l'OIAC en République arabe syrienne a publié un rapport d'activité sur l'utilisation présumée de produits chimiques toxiques comme arme à Douma, le 7 avril. Le 7 août, le Secrétariat a reçu de la République arabe syrienne une note verbale comportant des observations sur ledit rapport. Je note que la Mission d'établissement des faits continue de recueillir et d'analyser des informations à cet égard et j'attends avec intérêt la publication, en temps opportun, du rapport final. Je constate également que la Mission poursuit ses efforts afin de traduire et d'analyser les informations reçues de la République arabe syrienne s'agissant de quatre autres faits présumés.

Comme suite à la décision prise par la Conférence des États Parties à la Convention sur l'interdiction de la mise au point, de la fabrication, du stockage et de l'emploi des armes chimiques et sur leur destruction à sa quatrième session extraordinaire, le 27 juin 2018, le Directeur général présentera un rapport d'activité



sur l'application de ladite décision au Conseil exécutif à l'occasion de sa quatre-vingt-neuvième session, qui se tiendra du 9 au 12 octobre 2018.

Comme je l'ai déjà dit par le passé, rien ne saurait justifier l'emploi d'armes chimiques. À cet égard, je relève avec une grande inquiétude les déclarations faites récemment, y compris au Conseil de sécurité, selon lesquelles des armes chimiques pourraient de nouveau être utilisées à Edleb. Je tiens à réaffirmer que, sans compter qu'elle provoquerait dans l'immédiat des souffrances humaines inacceptables, une telle attaque pourrait conduire à déstabiliser davantage la situation en République arabe syrienne. J'appelle à l'unité du Conseil de sécurité, comme je l'ai fait à maintes reprises, afin de veiller à ce que ceux qui utilisent ou ont utilisé des armes chimiques répondent de leurs actes.

(Signé) António **Guterres**

**Annexe**

[Original : anglais, arabe, chinois, espagnol, français et russe]

I have the honour to transmit to you my report entitled “Progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme”, prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of the decision EC-M-33/DEC.1 of the Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and Security Council resolution [2118 \(2013\)](#), both dated 27 September 2013, for transmission to the Council (see enclosure). My report covers the period from 24 August to 23 September 2018, as well as the reporting requirements in Executive Council decision EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013.

*(Signed)* Fernando **Arias**

## Pièce jointe

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

### Note by the Director-General

#### Progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme

##### Background

1. In accordance with subparagraph 2(f) of the decision by the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) at its Thirty-Third Meeting (EC-M-33/DEC.1, dated 27 September 2013), the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) is to report to the Council on a monthly basis regarding the implementation of that decision. In accordance with paragraph 12 of United Nations Security Council resolution [2118 \(2013\)](#), the report by the Secretariat is also to be submitted to the Security Council through the Secretary-General.

2. The Council, at its Thirty-Fourth Meeting, adopted a decision entitled “Detailed Requirements for the Destruction of Syrian Chemical Weapons and Syrian Chemical Weapons Production Facilities” (EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013). In paragraph 22 of that decision, the Council decided that the Secretariat should report on its implementation “in conjunction with its reporting required by subparagraph 2 (f) of Council decision EC-M-33/DEC.1”.

3. The Council, at its Forty-Eighth Meeting, adopted a decision entitled “Reports of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria” (EC-M-48/DEC.1, dated 4 February 2015) noting the Director-General’s intent to include reports of the OPCW Fact Finding Mission in Syria (FFM), along with information on the Council’s discussion thereof, as part of the monthly reporting pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution [2118 \(2013\)](#). Similarly, the Council, at its Eighty-First Session, adopted a decision entitled “Report by the Director-General Regarding the Declaration and Related Submissions by the Syrian Arab Republic” (EC-81/DEC.4, dated 23 March 2016), noting the Director-General’s intent to provide information on the implementation of that decision.

4. The Council, at its Eighty-Third Session, adopted a decision entitled “OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism Reports on Chemical Weapons Use in the Syrian Arab Republic” (EC-83/DEC.5, dated 11 November 2016). In subparagraph 12(a) of that decision, the Council decided that the Director-General shall “regularly inform the Council on the implementation of this decision and incorporate information regarding the implementation of this decision into his monthly reporting to the United Nations Security Council, through the United Nations Secretary-General, regarding EC-M-33/DEC.1”.

5. This, the sixtieth monthly report, is therefore submitted in accordance with the aforementioned Council decisions and includes information relevant to the period from 24 August 2018 to 23 September 2018.

*Progress achieved by the Syrian Arab Republic in meeting the requirements of Executive Council decisions EC-M-33/DEC.1 and EC-M-34/DEC.1*

6. Progress by the Syrian Arab Republic is as follows:

(a) As stated in previous reports, the Secretariat has verified the destruction of all 27 chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) declared by the Syrian Arab Republic.

(b) On 17 September 2018, the Syrian Arab Republic submitted to the Council its fifty eighth monthly report (EC-89/P/NAT.3, dated 17 September 2018) regarding activities on its territory related to the destruction of its CWPFs, as required by paragraph 19 of EC M 34/DEC.1.

*Progress in the elimination of Syrian chemical weapons by States Parties hosting destruction activities*

7. As stated in previous reports, all of the chemicals declared by the Syrian Arab Republic that were removed from its territory in 2014 have been destroyed.

*Activities carried out by the Secretariat with respect to Executive Council decisions EC-81/DEC.4 and EC-83/DEC.5*

8. During the reporting period, the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) continued its efforts to clarify all outstanding issues regarding the initial declaration of the Syrian Arab Republic in accordance with paragraph 3 of Council decision EC-81/DEC.4 and paragraph 6 of Council decision EC-83/DEC.5.

9. As stated in the previous report (EC-89/DG.1, dated 24 July 2018), on 10 July the Secretariat received a note verbale from the Syrian Arab Republic with responses to the questions attached to the Director-General's letter to the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Syrian Arab Republic, Dr Faisal Mekdad, dated 10 April 2018. These questions pertain to the chemical weapons-related activities conducted at the Scientific Studies and Research Centre (SSRC). An analysis of the information provided in the aforementioned letter has been completed. It was noted that most of the information provided through the letter dated 10 July 2018 had already been conveyed to the Secretariat. The Secretariat will continue its engagement with the Syrian authorities with a view to clarifying all gaps, inconsistencies, and discrepancies noted in its initial declaration and further submissions.

10. In accordance with paragraph 10 of Council decision EC-83/DEC.5, the Secretariat is in the process of planning the inspections at the sites identified by the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism in its third and fourth reports. The Secretariat also continues to monitor the security situation through the United Nations Department of Safety and Security to identify permissive security conditions for those inspections.

11. Pursuant to paragraph 11 of Council decision EC-83/DEC.5, the Secretariat is in the process of planning the next inspections to be conducted at the Barzah and Jamrayah facilities of the SSRC.

*Other activities carried out by the Secretariat with respect to the Syrian Arab Republic*

12. The United Nations Office for Project Services continues to provide support to the OPCW mission in the Syrian Arab Republic in accordance with the Tripartite Agreement.

13. As at the cut-off date of this report, one OPCW staff member was deployed as part of the OPCW mission in the Syrian Arab Republic.

*Supplementary resources*

14. As previously reported, the Trust Fund for Syria Missions was established in November 2015 to support the OPCW FFM and other remaining activities, such as those of the DAT. As at the cut-off date of this report, total contributions to this fund stood at EUR 17.2 million. Contribution agreements had been concluded with Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Germany, Monaco, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea,

Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and the European Union.

#### **Activities carried out with respect to the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria**

15. Guided by Council decisions EC-M-48/DEC.1 and EC-M-50/DEC.1 (dated 23 November 2015), as well as by United Nations Security Council resolution [2209 \(2015\)](#), the FFM continues to study all available information relating to the allegations of use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic.

16. On 6 July, the Secretariat issued a Note entitled “Interim Report of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria Regarding the Incident of Alleged Use of Toxic Chemicals as a Weapon in Douma, Syrian Arab Republic, on 7 April 2018” ([S/1645/2018](#), dated 6 July 2018 and Corr.1, dated 10 July 2018). On 7 August, the Secretariat received a note verbale from the Syrian Arab Republic that provided comments on the interim report. The FFM continues to collect and analyse information with regard to the alleged use of toxic chemicals as a weapon in Douma and will provide a final report on its findings in due course.

17. In July, the FFM requested and was provided with a number of documents by the National Authority of the Syrian Arab Republic pertaining to four reported incidents currently under investigation: two incidents in Kharbit Masasnah on 7 July 2017 and 4 August 2017, respectively, one incident in Al-Salamiyah on 9 August 2017, and another in Souran on 8 November 2017. The FFM is currently translating and analysing the information contained in these documents.

#### **Activities related to the use of chemical weapons in Syria carried out by the Secretariat with respect to decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 of the Conference of the States Parties at its Fourth Special Session**

18. The Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) at its Fourth Special Session adopted a decision entitled “Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use” (C-SS-4/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2018) which, inter alia, addressed the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic. In paragraph 8 of the decision, the Conference encouraged the Director General to continue to provide regular updates on the FFM’s operations, taking into account the need to protect the security and safety of Secretariat personnel.

19. In paragraph 10 of the decision, the Conference decided that the Secretariat shall put in place arrangements to identify the perpetrators of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic by identifying and reporting on all information potentially relevant to the origin of those chemical weapons in those instances in which the FFM in Syria determines or has determined that use or likely use occurred, and cases for which the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism has not issued a report. The Conference further decided, in paragraph 12, that the Secretariat shall preserve and provide information to the investigation mechanism established by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution [71/248](#) (2016), as well as to any relevant investigatory entities established under the auspices of the United Nations.

20. Pursuant to paragraph 24 of the decision, a progress report on the implementation of C-SS-4/DEC.3 will be issued to the Council at its Eighty-Ninth Session.

#### **Conclusion**

21. The main focus of the future activities of the OPCW mission in the Syrian Arab Republic will be on the activities of the FFM; the implementation of Council decisions EC-83/DEC.5 and EC-81/DEC.4, including declaration-related issues; annual inspections of the underground structures already verified as destroyed; and implementation of Conference decision C-SS-4/DEC.3.