



**United Nations Office
for Disarmament Affairs**

**BRIEFING TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2118
(2013)**

**Izumi Nakamitsu
High Representative for Disarmament Affairs**

As delivered



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New York**

Mr. President,
Distinguished Members of the Security Council,

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

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 counterparts in the OPCW Technical Secretariat on activities related to resolution 2118. In this regard, I met recently with the new OPCW Director-General, Ms. Sabrina Dallafior. I take this opportunity to reaffirm the continued close cooperation between our organizations under her leadership, and also express my appreciation for the strong partnership with former Director-General Arias and his team.

In addition, regular contact with the Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations has continued. I held a meeting most recently on 28 August 2026 with His Excellency Ambassador Olabi.

Since the Council's last meeting on this matter, the OPCW and the Syrian Arab Republic have continued to engage on how to eliminate any remnants of the chemical weapons programme developed by the previous government. Together, they have achieved significant progress.

Mr. President,
Distinguished Members of the Security Council,

As previously reported, following the change in authorities in Syria in December 2024, the OPCW Technical Secretariat and the new government of Syria have attempted to address the outstanding issues related to the initial declaration submitted by the previous Syrian authorities. As the OPCW Technical Secretariat has emphasized, the remaining outstanding issues are of serious concern, as they include potentially large quantities of undeclared and/or unverified chemical warfare agents and chemical munitions.

Since then, the OPCW Technical Secretariat has conducted several visits to locations of interest, carried out interviews, and collected numerous samples. These activities were conducted with the full cooperation of the Syrian government, which mobilised substantial resources to facilitate and support OPCW deployments.

Mr. President,

Nearly two years on, collective efforts are yielding tangible results to address remaining issues, declare any remaining chemical weapons and destroy them under verification of the OPCW Technical Secretariat; demonstrating the value of sustained constructive engagement between the OPCW and the Syrian government.

Mr. President,

Distinguished Members of the Security Council,

Following the OPCW deployment in May 2026 that led to the discovery of previously undeclared chemical weapons, the Syrian Arab Republic submitted amendments to its initial declaration in June 2026.

The Syrian Arab Republic declared one additional chemical weapons production facility (CWPF), a newly discovered chemical used in the production of nerve agents, and empty chemical munitions. It also declared two chemical weapons storage facilities (CWSFs) where the newly discovered materials were being stored.

In August 2026, a team from the OPCW Technical Secretariat deployed to Syria to conduct an initial inspection to verify the declaration amendment related to one of the newly declared chemical weapons storage facilities (CWSFs).

Mr. President,
Distinguished Members of the Security Council,

Further to these developments, the OPCW Executive Council approved, during its latest session in July 2026, two facility agreements for the storage locations in Al Qutayfah and Homs where the recently discovered chemical weapons were being stored.

The OPCW Executive Council also approved a detailed plan for verification of the destruction of Category 3 chemical weapons at the Al Qutayfah Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility.

With these recent advancements, the Syrian Arab Republic has the necessary agreements and approvals in place to commence destruction activities, under verification of the OPCW Technical Secretariat. As reported by the OPCW Director-General to the members of the OPCW Executive Council yesterday, these activities have started.

Mr. President,

In August 2026, the OPCW Technical Secretariat deployed a team to the Syrian Arab Republic to conduct an inspection to verify the destruction of Category 3 chemical weapons. During this deployment, an OPCW inspection team conducted Article IV Chemical Weapons Storage Facility and Destruction Facility verification activities. The OPCW verified that inventories matched recent declarations by the Syrian Arab Republic and verified the irreversible destruction of 42 aerial bombs.

Mr. President,
Distinguished Members of the Security Council,

This significant development means that for the first time since 2014, the OPCW has verified the destruction of chemical munitions from the Syrian Arab Republic. As reported by the OPCW Director-General, this is a result of the close collaboration between the Syrian government and the OPCW Technical Secretariat.

Mr. President,
Distinguished Members of the Security Council,

During its last session in July 2026, the OPCW Executive Council further recognised recent progress and decided to reinstate the rights and privileges of the Syrian Arab Republic under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The OPCW Executive Council also encouraged the Syrian Arab Republic to continue its positive cooperation with the OPCW Technical Secretariat and to further advance as expeditiously as possible the work towards the identification, declaration, and verified destruction of any remaining chemical weapons in its territory.

Mr. President,

Distinguished Members of the Security Council,

Last month we commemorated the victims of the 2013 Ghouta attacks. It was a stark reminder of the need to re-affirm that the use of chemical weapons anywhere by anyone, and under any circumstances, is intolerable. Impunity for their use is equally unacceptable. It is imperative that those who have used chemical weapons are identified and held accountable.

As I have previously emphasized, this is a critical opportunity for the disarmament and non-proliferation regime. We must continue to deliver tangible results and build on what we have achieved thus far, both for the victims and to preserve our collective security in the years to come.

I once again urge the members of this Council to unite and show leadership in providing the support that this unprecedented effort requires.

I also take this opportunity to reiterate the United Nations' support for the integrity, professionalism, impartiality, objectivity, and independence of the work of the OPCW.

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

I thank you very much for your attention.