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Identical letters dated 20 October 2020 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey a communication dated 16 October 2020 that I received from the Director General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) transmitting his report entitled "Implementation of EC-94/DEC.2 on addressing the possession and use of chemical weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic" (see annex). Decision EC-94/DEC.2 was adopted on 9 July 2020 by the OPCW Executive Council at its ninety-fourth session, held in The Hague from 7 to 10 July 2020.

I would be grateful if you could bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the General Assembly and the members of the Security Council, pursuant to paragraph 12 of the aforementioned decision of the Executive Council.

(Signed) António Guterres





Annex

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

I have the honour to transmit to you my report entitled "Implementation of EC-94/DEC.2 on addressing the possession and use of chemical weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic" (see enclosure).

(Signed) Fernando Arias

Enclosure

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

Report by the Director-General

Implementation of EC-94/DEC.2 on addressing the possession and use of chemical weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic

1. At its Ninety-Fourth Session, the Executive Council (hereinafter "the Council") adopted a decision entitled "Addressing the Possession and Use of Chemical Weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic" (EC-94/DEC.2, dated 9 July 2020). In paragraph 6 of EC-94/DEC.2, the Council decided that the Director-General shall report to the Council and all States Parties, within 100 days of the decision, on whether the Syrian Arab Republic has completed all of the measures contained in paragraph 5 of the decision.

2. In paragraph 5 of EC-94/DEC.2, the Council decided to request, pursuant to paragraph 36 of Article VIII of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter "the Convention"), that the Syrian Arab Republic complete all of the following measures within 90 days of this decision:

(a) declare to the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") the facilities where the chemical weapons, including precursors, munitions, and devices, used in the 24, 25, and 30 March 2017 attacks¹ were developed, produced, stockpiled, and operationally stored for delivery;

(b) declare to the Secretariat all of the chemical weapons it currently possesses, including sarin, sarin precursors, and chlorine that is not intended for purposes not prohibited under the Convention, as well as chemical weapons production facilities and other related facilities; and

(c) resolve all of the outstanding issues regarding its initial declaration of its chemical weapons stockpile and programme.

3. On 20 July 2020, the Director-General sent a letter to the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Syrian Arab Republic, H.E. Dr Faisal Mekdad, to outline the obligations of the Syrian Arab Republic under EC-94/DEC.2 and to indicate the readiness of the Secretariat to assist the Syrian Arab Republic in the fulfilment of these obligations. As at the date of this report, the Secretariat has not received a reply to this letter.

4. With regard to subparagraph 5(a) of EC-94/DEC.2, within the 90 days set therein, the Syrian Arab Republic has not declared to the Secretariat any facilities where the chemical weapons, including precursors, munitions, and devices, used in the 24, 25, and 30 March 2017 attacks, were developed, produced, stockpiled, and operationally stored for delivery.

5. With regard to subparagraph 5(b) of EC-94/DEC.2, within the 90 days set therein, the Syrian Arab Republic has not declared to the Secretariat any chemical weapons it currently possesses, including sarin, sarin precursors, and chlorine that is not intended for purposes not prohibited under the Convention, nor any chemical weapons production facilities or other related facilities.

¹ "First Report by the OPCW Investigation and Identification Team Pursuant to Paragraph 10 of Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3, "Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use", Ltamenah (Syrian Arab Republic) 24, 25, and 30 March 2017" (S/1867/2020, dated 8 April 2020).

6. With regard to subparagraph 5(c) of EC-94/DEC.2, within the 90 days set therein, the Syrian Arab Republic has not resolved all of the outstanding issues regarding its initial declaration of its chemical weapons stockpile and programme.

7. The Secretariat will continue to implement all of its mandates with regard to the Syrian chemical weapons programme.

8. In accordance with paragraph 12 of EC-94/DEC.2, the Secretariat will transmit a copy of this report to the United Nations Security Council and United Nations General Assembly through the United Nations Secretary-General.