



**Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
to the United Nations**

685 3rd Ave., Suite 1108, New York, NY 10017 • Tel: (212) 599-0950 • Fax: (212) 599-1020 •

[svgmission@gmail.com](mailto:svgmission@gmail.com) | <http://svg-un.org>

**Statement**

By

**H.E. Inga Rhonda King  
Permanent Representative**

**The Situation in the Middle East (Syria – Chemical Weapons)**

United Nations Security Council

5 November 2020

New York

Please check against delivery

I thank High Representative Nakamitsu for her briefing.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines begins by reiterating that the use of chemical weapons anywhere and by anyone constitutes an abominable violation of international law. Chemical weapons atrocities cannot be ignored, and impunity cannot be encouraged. Perpetrators must be held accountable.

Therefore, allegations of the use of chemical weapons should never be dismissed. Investigations must be conducted thoroughly and in accordance with best practices to ensure that all findings are capable of withstanding rigorous scrutiny.

We continue to support the critically important mandate of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and we continue to emphasize that the OPCW bears a tremendous responsibility and must therefore take measures to make certain that its facets and activities are impartial, independent and free from politicization.

We have taken note of the 9 July Executive Council decision and the report of 14 October regarding the implementation of that decision. We look forward to a substantive discussion on this issue at the Conference of States Parties.

We have also taken note of the recent report of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission, regarding the incident of alleged use of chemicals as a weapon in Saraqib on 1 August 2016. We are in the process of comprehensively studying this report.

The Council should not overlook the many notifications by the Syrian government that various armed groups operating in Syria are possibly preparing to use chemical weapons. We have an obligation to give this due attention to make an assessment and to safeguard civilians.

I thank you.