



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

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**Statement**

By

**Ms. Diani Jimesha Prince  
Counsellor**

**Syria (Chemical Weapons)**

United Nations Security Council

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New York

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Thank you, Mr. President and I also thank Director-General Arias and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Nakamitsu, for their briefings.

I would like to begin by commending the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for successfully hosting part one of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of States Parties (CSP-25) despite the impediments created by the COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to part two of the CSP-25 in April 2021 or as soon as the situation allows.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reiterates its support for the mandate of the OPCW. Our commitment to ensuring that applied science is only used for peace, progress and the prosperity of all humanity never waivers. As the implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Organization plays a tremendous role in realizing our shared goal of a world free of chemical weapons. We, therefore, continue to underscore that it is fundamentally important that the work of the Organization and its various facets and subsidiary bodies is impartial, independent and free from politicization. Anything less contributes to the erosion of the multilateral system.

Although the pandemic has further delayed progress on this dossier, we recognize the efforts made by both the OPCW and the Syrian Arab Republic to continue the critical work in as far as it is possible to do so. We take note of the seventh round of inspections conducted between 8 and 13 November and we look forward to receiving the report. We further take note of the reports on the work of the Declaration Assessment Team.

It remains imperative that all gaps and inconsistencies be clarified, and it is our hope that continued constructive and inclusive dialogue between the parties will assist in making meaningful progress in this regard. This is the only path to build trust, foster cooperation and to ensure the full implementation of Resolution 2118.

The Security Council should not overlook the 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 matter due attention to make an assessment and to safeguard civilians.

Mr. President,

In closing, we reiterate our well-known, long-standing, principled position that the use of chemical weapons anywhere, by anyone and under any circumstances constitutes an abominable violation of international law. The development, stockpiling, transfer or use of chemical weapons must be prevented and the norm against this reprehensible form of warfare must be preserved. Impunity for their use must not be encouraged through inaction and perpetrators of chemical weapons atrocities must be held accountable. Failure to do so will only embolden future actors.

Thank you.