



**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 | <http://svg-un.org>

Statement

By

**Ms. Diani Jimesha Prince
Counsellor**

Syria (Chemical Weapons)

United Nations Security Council

3 February 2021

New York

Please check against delivery

Thank you, Madam President. We congratulate the United Kingdom on assuming the presidency for this month. You can be assured of our full support. I thank High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Nakamitsu, for her briefing.

As the implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), plays a critical role in safeguarding international peace and security. The importance of the Organisation's efforts aimed at eliminating and preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons, as well as the promotion of the peaceful uses of chemistry, can never be overstated. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines therefore remains fully supportive of the OPCW's mandate.

Successful implementation of both the Convention and Security Council Resolution 2118 requires sustained international cooperation. However, this becomes severely strained where trust deficits exist. As such, the OPCW must continuously strive to ensure that its internal structure and all activities are characterized by integrity, transparency and non-politicization. Further, States Parties to the Convention should engage constructively and pursue consensus-based decisions to thwart polarization and divisiveness. In all discussions political quarrels ought to be set aside and the collective vision of achieving a world free of chemical weapons must remain at the forefront.

Although there has been slow movement on this file, we recognise the continued cooperation of the Syrian Arab Republic with the OPCW Technical Secretariat, despite the impediments presented by the global pandemic. It is our hope that this collaboration will assist in making meaningful progress and assist in swiftly resolving all identified gaps and inconsistencies in the original declaration. We commend the OPCW for maintaining its readiness for deployments as soon as conditions allow and for continuing its important work remotely in as far as it is possible to do so. In this vein, we look forward to receiving all outstanding reports related to this dossier.

There is no question that the use of chemical weapons anywhere, by anyone and under any circumstances violates international law. Allegations of the use of chemical weapons must therefore never be dismissed. They must always be thoroughly and promptly investigated, and

findings must be able to withstand rigorous scrutiny to ensure accountability and prevent impunity. The norm against this reprehensible form of warfare must be preserved.

It is only through committed partnership can we prevent the development, stockpiling, transfer or use of chemical weapons. The international community must find common ground to fulfil this enormous responsibility.

Thank you.