



OPCW

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NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**BRIEFING BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT ON THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
VISIT TO THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**

As requested during the Seventy-Fourth Session of the Executive Council, attached is the presentation provided by the Technical Secretariat on the technical assistance visit to the Syrian Arab Republic on the implementation of the decision EC-M-33/DEC.1, dated 27 September 2013.

Annex:

Technical Secretariat's Briefing on the Technical Assistance Visit to the Syrian Arab Republic



Annex

TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT'S BRIEFING ON THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE VISIT TO THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC




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PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS *Working together for a world free of chemical weapons*

74th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

**Technical Secretariat's Briefing on the
Technical Assistance Visit to the
Syrian Arab Republic**

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General Info

- The team departed from Rotterdam airport on 30 September and arrived in Damascus on 1 October
- Three main tasks:
 - Perform disclosure assessment visit
 - Develop a programme of activities
 - Perform destruction of critical items of CWPF equipment
- Verification team mainly focused on clarifying the Disclosure, assisting Syria with preparing further supplementary information, as required under paragraph 1 (a) of EC-M-33/DEC.1 dated 27 September 2013 and assisting with the development of the plan of activities


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Meetings

- 1 October (MFA): initial meeting with Syrian Government officials
 - Security and general situation update provided by Syria
- 2 October (MFA): meeting with Syrian Government officials led by the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Faisal Mekdad, the national political focal point with OPCW
 - OPCW engagement with Syria and outcomes:
 - Promoted understanding by Syria of its obligations
 - Operational needs in terms of information and technical expertise
 - Clarification of the Disclosure
 - Obtaining further supplementary information as per EC-M-33/DEC.1
 - Developing plans for site visits
- 2-4 October: daily meetings at technical level


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Further Supplementary Information

- Further information supplementing Disclosure submitted by Syria on 2 and 4 October, including:
 - Information on chemicals (para 1(a)(i) of EC-M-33/DEC.1)
 - The chemical name, military designator and quantity of each chemical in its CW stockpile, including precursors.
 - Information on munitions (para 1(a)(ii) of EC-M-33/DEC.1)
 - The specific type and quantity of munitions
 - All munitions declared as empty
 - Information on locations (para 1(a)(iii) of EC-M-33/DEC.1)
 - The location and geographic coordinates for all its CWs, CWSFs, CWPFs (including mixing and filling facilities) as well as for the R&D facilities


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Additional Information

- Syria provided additional information to the TS, including:
 - With regards to CWSFs:
 - Inventory of CWSFs (munitions, chemical agents and precursors)
 - Site diagrams including buildings and their current condition
 - Information regarding components of binary weapons
 - With regards to CWPF:
 - Site diagrams and process flow diagrams for certain CWPFs
 - Nature of activities conducted and current status of CWPF buildings and equipment, including mixing and facilities (both fixed and mobile)
 - With respect to other CW facilities
 - Nature of activities at R&D facilities
 - Information about the test and evaluation site
- Additional information obtained will be used to complete the Article III initial declaration required NLT 27 October 2013 as per para 1(b) of EC-M-33/DEC.1

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- In accordance with paragraph 44 of Article VIII of the Convention and as in the case of any other OPCW Mission, the staff of the Organisation assigned to missions in Syria will be citizens of States Parties. Work will continue with the Syrians and others on planning destruction of the CW within Syria, to meet the target dates of the EC decision. It goes without saying that elimination of chemical weapons in Syria cannot be conducted in a manner that is contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention and this includes any speculation of transfer of chemical weapons to States that are not Parties to the Convention.

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