



**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. MARTIN KIMANI**

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS**

**DURING**

**THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON THE USE OF  
CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN SYRIA**

**TUESDAY, 5 JANUARY 2021 (10:00)**

**Mr President,**

1. Allow me to thank Ms Izumi Nakamitsu (High Representative for Disarmament Affairs) and the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (the OPCW) for their comprehensive briefings.
2. I affirm Kenya's support for the mandate of the OPCW and its responsibility for the full implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We condemn any use of chemical weapons, for any purpose and under any circumstances.
3. So serious and important is projecting this principle for the sake of global security, all allegations of the use of chemical weapons require thorough and transparent investigation. The results should be objective, and seen to be objective, by all reasonable parties. They should be able to withstand the rigorous scrutiny that will be the basis for their gaining widespread credibility.
4. We take note that the Syrian Arab Republic has continued to cooperate with the OPCW as evidenced by submission of their 85th report to the OPCW.
5. On the 19 identified gaps, inconsistencies, and discrepancies that remain unresolved, Syria should continue to work with the OPCW to come to a solution and conclusion to the investigations.
6. Colleagues, from the ravages of terrorism to the politicisation of counter terrorism by multiple actors, and the multiple claims of chemical weapons use, Syria is both a victim and a symbol of a global order under immense strain from unilateralism, power politics, and war without limit.
7. As entrenched as the positions of the major parties to the conflict have been, Kenya believes it is still possible for this Council to pull together. The basis of renewing our appetite for collaboration is that it is in the interest of all members, permanent and elected, to show the world that the Security Council can still deliver in the most difficult circumstances.
8. Such a fulfillment of its core mandate would, in Kenya's judgement, lead to the Council's support for a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned dialogue that incorporates all actors committed to security and opposed to terrorist violence as a means to promote political aims.
9. We stand with the people of Syria in this aspiration for an inclusive dialogue focused primarily on their needs, their lives, and their longer-term peace.

**I thank you, Mr. President.**