



OPCW

Executive Council

Seventy-Fifth Session
4 – 7 March 2014

EC-75/NAT.26
4 March 2014
ARABIC and ENGLISH only

IRAQ

**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE OPCW
AT THE SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,
Excellency, the OPCW Director-General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish, at the outset, to welcome Your Excellency, Ambassador Olexander Horin (Ukraine) and congratulate you on chairing the work of the Seventy-Fifth Session of the Executive Council. We are fully confident that your experience and wisdom will contribute to a successful outcome of this session of the Council. As this session is the last one under your chairmanship, I wish to express to you my deep appreciation for your efforts to solve many outstanding issues. I wish also to welcome the Vice-Chairpersons taking part in this session. I would also like to welcome the OPCW Director-General, Mr Ahmet Üzümcü and his deputy, Her Excellency Ambassador Grace Asirwatham. I assure you of the support of the delegation of my country for the statement made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China by His Excellency Kazem Gharib Abadi, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I take this opportunity to extend to him my thanks and appreciation for his distinguished efforts in the Organisation and I wish him every success in his future endeavours.

The Government of my country has always stressed its abhorrence for the use of chemical weapons by any party under any circumstances and underlined the importance of holding accountable the perpetrators of these crimes. It also calls for disposal of chemical weapons across the world, especially in the Middle East. The delegation of my country is determined to support efforts made by the Organisation to achieve the universality of the Convention and to make the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction through the complete and comprehensive destruction of chemical weapons in the region. This requires maintaining the international momentum and consensus.

Destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons was a landmark decision in the history of the Organisation. It proved to the whole world the possibility of reaching peaceful solutions. It is also considered a step forward in ridding the world of all weapons of mass destruction. We have already embraced the brave decision by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to accede to the Convention. While commending submission by the Syrian Arab Republic of its improved plan in which it reduced the time required to complete its disposal programme as soon as possible, we still hope that more can be done. We call upon the Government of the



Syrian Arab Republic and encourage it to make further efforts to respond to all international calls and appeals in this respect. We are fully confident that the Syrian chemical programme no longer exists and that the Syrian Government is serious about disposing of all remnants of this programme. Despite the extraordinary circumstances, particularly the security situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, we stress the importance of complying with the specified deadlines, especially as it impacts our country which has common borders with Syria.

I have the pleasure to inform you that the Government of Iraq—on the basis of its commitment to all the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and convinced of the importance of disposing of the former programme remnants—submitted on 15 November 2013, as pointed out by His Excellency the Director-General in his statement, the detailed information on the facility for destruction of the remnants of the chemical programme in bunkers 13 and 41. We still have to specify the dates for the visit by the initial inspection teams from the Technical Secretariat. We look forward to its conduct as early as possible. In the light of this visit, the destruction plan will be approved by the Executive Council. The team tasked with the destruction operation stands ready to start destruction as soon as the plan is approved.

The Government of my country wishes to express its gratitude for all the governments which provided assistance in the development of the plan and made available the requirements for the destruction activities. We mention in particular the United States of America, Germany, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Russian Federation, Switzerland and India.

The Government of my country has taken various measures related to the Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004). Indeed, it submitted on 28 May 2013 an updated report on the legislative procedures and operational steps to prevent materials and equipment related to weapons of mass destruction from falling in the hands of non-State actors. I mention in particular the regime for the control of dual-use substances and equipment which Iraq has started to implement since 2011.

In conclusion, I request that this statement be adopted as one of the official documents of the Seventy-Fifth Session of the Council.

I thank you.

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