

**Statement of the Republic of Iraq**  
**Ambassador Dr. Saad Al-Ali, permanent representative of Iraq to the OPCW**  
**Before the Executive Council,**  
**Seventy-sixth session,**  
**8 to 11 July 2014**  
**The Hague**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Your Excellency Director-General,  
Excellences,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, on behalf of my delegation, allow me to congratulate you, Mr. Chairperson, Ambassador Alvaro Marcelo Moerzinger Of Uruguay, for presiding over the work of the Executive council at its seventy-sixth session, for the first time in its normal session. We are confident that your expertise and wisdom will contribute to the success of the work of our council. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation. I would also like to congratulate and welcome the ladies and gentlemen, the vice chairpersons who shares with us this session for the first time in this role, and I welcome the Director-General of the OPCW, H.E. Ahmed Üzümcü, and the deputy Director General, H.E Grace Asirwatham. I also wish to express my appreciation to Ambassador Alexander Horine of Ukraine for the efforts he made during his chairpersonship of the council.

May I also take this opportunity to convey my delegation's deep appreciation to the distinguished Ambassador of South Africa, Ambassador Peter Gossen, for his outstanding efforts during the wonderful representation of his country, and for his proactive and positive participation in reaching consensus on important and delicate decisions, and for the services which he presented to the organization, thanks to his political wisdom and technical experience. He really left his mark here in this organization. I wish him luck and success in his future duties.

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation endorses and associates itself with the statement delivered by the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Alireza Jahangiri on behalf of the Non-Aligned Countries and China. We emphasize the importance of the implementation of Article X in assistance and protection against chemical weapons, which should include terrorist attacks that could be waged by terrorists with chemical weapons or toxic chemicals.

It was scheduled that during this session my delegation would review the final version of the destruction plan for Al-Muthana bunkers no. (13 and 41), in order to get rid of the chemical remnants. It was also scheduled that the actual commencement of the destruction operations should take place at the end of this year, but unfortunately, what we feared for has happened, which is the expansion of terrorism. Brutal groups are sweeping through Iraq. They are killing innocent civilians, raping women, destroying religious sites and places of worship, in an indescribable way, and I think that everyone is informed on the ugliness and horror of these crimes.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2014, ISIS, a terrorist organization, which is a split branch of Al-Qaeda, in collaboration with other groups and armed factions, all of whom are hostile to the new democratic Iraq, and which (the organizations and/or individuals) are placed on international terrorism lists, have launched an assault on Mosul, and marched South towards Salah al-Din province because unfortunately the army and police lost control of the situation.

Sadly the Al-Muthana project facility shared the same fate. On Wednesday night 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2014, armed terrorist groups entered the aforementioned project site. The project management spotted at dawn on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2014, through the camera surveillance system, the looting of some of the project equipment and applications, before the terrorists disabled the surveillance system.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Iraqi security and military forces have absorbed the shock, and they are moving to regain control of those sites of Al-Muthana project. We hope to resume the destruction operations as soon as the territory of the facility is back under control and secured by the armed forces. Until that time comes, of which I wish it will be soon, I hope that the member states will understand the inability of Iraq to fulfill its obligations at present time, which does not originate from a lack of willingness, in the destruction of its chemical program remnants.

The government of the Republic of Iraq appreciates the backing stances of friendly countries around the world in support of Iraq, and assures that this confrontation is the battle of state against terrorism, in order to defend the democratic institutions, and to prevent the return of dictatorship.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairperson, I kindly request that this statement be considered as an official document of the current session, and to be published on the OPCW website.

Thank you.