



OPCW

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BRAZIL

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR PIRAGIBE S. TARRAGÔ
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BRAZIL TO THE OPCW
AT THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 14 (ANY OTHER BUSINESS)**

Mr Chairman,

As we again go over the issue of the provisional findings of the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) on the possible use of chlorine gas in the Syrian Arab Republic, and while the mission has not completed its task, my delegation feels compelled to reiterate our views on this matter. The Syrian programme agreed last year, we have to recognise the progress made in the dismantling of the chemical weapons stockpiles in such a short time span. All the scheduled chemicals have been successfully removed from the Syrian Arab Republic's territory, and are nearing total destruction.

We commend the countries that have made contributions, or provided assistance in-kind, which have been key to the success of the programme. With their support and, under the unfailing coordination of the OPCW-UN Joint Mission, we have proved that multilateral institutions are the best tool to achieve our aims.

Mr Chairman,

Brazil believes that the Fact-Finding Mission has a highly important task to achieve. The team dispatched to the sites under investigation is unique and should be considered the primary source of information on the developments it is mandated to research in the Syrian Arab Republic. The mission is instructed to perform in the name of our collective vigilance. It is expected to rely on the proper means to ascertain in an objective and scientific manner, facts of alleged violations of the Chemical Weapons Convention, by all possible parties or actors. It should continue to conduct its work until it is able to show final and conclusive results.

The Council should also take concerted action to resolve the challenges before us. In this sense, States Parties should work bona fide to enable the FFM to complete its task. The Syrian authorities should contribute to the success of the mission, by providing all political, material and technical support for the good development of the mission.

I request this statement is treated as an official document of this session.

Thank you.

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