



OPCW

Executive Council

Seventy-Ninth Session

7 – 9 July 2015

EC-79/NAT.11

7 July 2015

ENGLISH only

NEW ZEALAND

**STATEMENT BY MS MARISA MACPHERSON, DEPUTY PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF NEW ZEALAND TO THE OPCW AT THE
SEVENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

As this is the first Executive Council session under your chairmanship, allow me to congratulate you on your appointment and assure you of New Zealand's full cooperation.

New Zealand is reassured that the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic remains a significant focus of the work of this Executive Council. New Zealand has ongoing concerns and considers it imperative that the Executive Council continues to monitor the situation on a regular basis.

New Zealand calls on all involved in the destruction of the Syrian Arab Republic's chemical weapons production facilities to do everything they can to ensure the process is completed as soon as possible.

New Zealand fully supports the work of the OPCW's Fact-Finding Mission regarding the ongoing credible allegations of chemical weapons use in the Syrian Arab Republic. The international response must match the seriousness of these allegations and those responsible must be held to account.

New Zealand also commends the work of the Declaration Assessments Team and urges the Syrian Government to cooperate fully to address the outstanding issues that have been identified.

New Zealand continues to support the call for consultations on the weaponisation of central nervous system-acting chemicals in law enforcement. We share the concerns raised in relation to the health and safety risk of such chemicals, and the possibility of deliberate misuse. In preparation for such consultations New Zealand is working towards the development of its national position on this issue.

New Zealand would like to express its appreciation for the work undertaken by the Technical Secretariat on the future direction of the OPCW. This is an important topic and we look forward to discussing it further with colleagues in the months to come.



I ask that this statement be recorded as an official document of this meeting, and published on the OPCW's external server and public website.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

--- 0 ---