



OPCW

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ENGLISH and FRENCH only

SWITZERLAND

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND
AT THE EIGHTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 7**

Madam Chairperson,

Various attempts have been made over the past years in order to demonstrate that the inclusion of a distinct and limited group of non-scheduled chemicals is relevant to the Chemical Weapons Convention. This inclusion into the OPCW Central Analytical Database (OCAD) would facilitate the analysis of certain scheduled chemicals. Unfortunately, some States Parties are fundamentally opposed to this.

As demonstrated by members of the OPCW Laboratory, the exclusion of this relevant data in the OCAD has clear disadvantages. The absence or presence of certain scheduled chemicals cannot be comprehensively confirmed by sampling and analysis on-site. The inspection team is potentially confronted with so-called “false positives”, which complicates the inspection process and increases the workload of National Authorities and the Technical Secretariat.

Due to the reluctance of some States Parties, the OPCW Laboratory has introduced a revised configuration mechanism for the OCAD which takes these concerns into account. Depending on the objectives of the mission, this “pick and choose” menu gives States Parties the possibility to select all additional data or only the current set of data from the OCAD.

For investigations of alleged use and for challenge inspections, it would also be essential that the inspection team can select the additional data related to riot control agents and abandoned chemical weapons.

Switzerland continuously provides major contributions to the OCAD. In reference to document EC-84/DG.13, dated 1 February 2017, a large number of data was submitted by the Spiez Laboratory. Switzerland considers that the OPCW should continue to develop this analytical database as a complete verification instrument for the analysis of chemical weapons.

The inclusion of data on non-scheduled chemicals into the revised OCAD is intended solely to facilitate the analysis with respect to the presence or absence of chemicals agents relevant to the Convention. For these reasons, we support the draft decision and hope that this approach will gather consensus during this Executive Council.

I thank you.

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