



OPCW

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**STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL
TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AT ITS THIRTY-THIRD MEETING
ON 3 OCTOBER 2013**

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

Following the adoption of the Executive Council decision on the “Destruction of Syrian Chemical Weapons”, I had made a brief statement expressing our commitment to implementing this decision to the best of our ability. I also expressed the hope that the international community would fully support us in facilitating the conditions to conduct our mission in a safe manner. The United Nations Security Council endorsed the Council decision and enabled the creation of a framework for a Joint OPCW-UN Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Today, I have asked for the floor to provide you with an update on the activities that have since been undertaken to implement the Executive Council decision and UN Security Council Resolution 2118 (2013).

Our first team arrived in Damascus on 1 October and has commenced its work. The team has a three-pronged mission. Firstly: to enable a fuller and more precise disclosure to be made by the Syrian Arab Republic. Secondly: to conduct an assessment based on inspections at sites included in the disclosure in order to plan for destruction activities. And, thirdly: to assess and to carry out operations to render inoperable chemical weapons production facilities and those designed for mixing and filling.

The Syrian National Authority has identified a point of contact and detailed discussions have already been conducted regarding all three aspects of the current mission.

Based on initial estimates that the team will provide, I will authorise the dispatch of a second team in order to commence inspection work and other established tasks.

The United Nations, in Security Council Resolution 2118 (2013), requested the Secretary-General to formulate, in consultation with me, his recommendations regarding the role of the United Nations in this mission. We have already worked out a text for a Supplementary Arrangement that will govern our cooperation with the United Nations in the Syrian Arab Republic, which I have made available on the OPCW external server.

Discussions are also continuing on operational planning with the United Nations as a partner.



It is envisaged that the Joint OPCW-UN Mission will be headed by a Special Coordinator to be appointed by the Secretary-General after consultation with me. The Special Coordinator will report on overall progress in the implementation of the Executive Council decision and the Security Council resolution, both to me and the Secretary-General. Matters of an administrative nature will be reported directly to the Secretary-General. The Special Coordinator will have two deputies, one from the OPCW, the other from the United Nations. Decision-making on matters of a nature specific to verification activities and related provisions of the Council decision and the UN Security Council resolution will be conducted under my direct supervision and authority.

United Nations support in areas such as security, security assessments, logistics, and contacts with Syrian opposition groups will be critical to the success of this mission.

By the same token, it is essential that the international community play its part in ensuring that our teams can perform their duties in conditions of safety and security through their contacts with all parties concerned in the Syrian conflict.

Over the last few days, several States Parties have approached me with offers of financial assistance and in-kind contributions. I deeply appreciate these offers. We intend to submit to you proposals regarding the needs and the management of the trust fund that has already been established. We await our preliminary assessments from the field work that has just commenced and will be able to better quantify our needs in due course. The same applies to the question of acquiring the services of experts and other personnel from various States Parties.

I thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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