



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Thirty-Eighth Meeting  
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**STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AT ITS THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING  
ON 30 JANUARY 2014**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I welcome you to the Thirty-Eighth Meeting of the Executive Council.

Three days ago, on 27 January, a second movement of Syrian chemicals was completed. Nine containers with priority chemicals were transported to the port of Latakia and loaded onto two vessels from Denmark and Norway, respectively. The consignment was inspected at the port. Earlier, at the storage sites, verification was carried out through the use of sealed and monitored audiovisual equipment installed at the sites. So far, slightly over four percent of the total quantities of the identified chemicals have been removed from the Syrian Arab Republic.

While the two shipments this month represent a start, the need for the process to pick up pace is obvious. This is the conclusion reached in my fourth monthly report to the Executive Council (EC-M-38/DG.1, dated 23 January 2014). The report mostly details the progress made in support of the plan to remove chemicals from the Syrian Arab Republic for destruction outside its territory. These preparations are at an advanced stage.

We are, however, a month beyond the target date for the removal of priority chemicals. In less than a week, the date set for the removal of all other chemicals will also elapse. Ways and means must be found to establish continuity and predictability of shipments, to assure States Parties that the programme while delayed is not deferred.

With this in view, I addressed a letter to the Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister and Head of the National Authority on 14 January, explaining the adverse impact that continuing delays could have on the successful completion of the mission and requesting a time frame for this purpose.

The removal and destruction of Syrian chemical weapons is a multinational endeavour. It is complex, and various elements of the plan need to be executed in harmony and in a given order. States Parties have made substantial commitments of resources, both material and financial, based on specific target dates as identified in the Council's decision EC-M-34/DEC.1 of 15 November 2013.



The lack of a schedule or a time frame for the completion of the process could disrupt the coordinated effort of international support, without which this mission cannot be accomplished. The escalating costs of maintaining maritime transport vessels in the region are becoming a burden for the contributing States Parties. Similarly, maintaining the naval security assets of other States Parties and the M/V Cape Ray, the vessel equipped and provided by the United States to perform hydrolysis operations, entails major financial commitments.

I have previously mentioned, in the context of our commercial bidding endeavour, the possible legal and financial consequences that could result from failure to keep reasonably within the given timelines.

The tender process is well under way. Technical teams are today concluding visits to some of the commercial companies. After completion of the evaluation process, the outcome of this exercise will be announced in the first part of February.

On 16 January, I addressed the Joint Foreign and Defence Committees of the Italian Parliament. At this sitting, the Government announced the port in Italy where the transloading of chemicals will take place. In order to finalise the arrangements—including verification activities—at the port of Gioia Tauro, Italy will host a meeting at the port on 5 February. This preparatory meeting will be attended by representatives of the Technical Secretariat.

In a conversation on 18 January, the United Nations Secretary-General and I agreed that it is necessary for the removal process to be expedited.

On its part, the Syrian Arab Republic has emphasised that it considers the security of the materials in transport to be of paramount importance. In his written response to my letter of 14 January, the Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister has reaffirmed a commitment to completing the removal of chemicals from the Syrian Arab Republic as soon as possible. He has drawn attention to the security situation inside the Syrian Arab Republic, describing it as difficult and complex. He has also pointed out that the Syrian Arab Republic has brought to the attention of the Joint Mission certain specific threats.

The Deputy Minister has informed me that the Syrian Arab Republic is working on a tentative schedule for completing the transportation of chemicals and has expressed the hope that States Parties will show understanding for the current situation.

In my conversations and discussions with senior officials from the Syrian Arab Republic, I have underlined the fact that, while all the complex logistics and procurement efforts of the operation took longer than expected, the materials and equipment necessary and sufficient for the packaging and transport of chemicals have since been delivered. This should enable the formulation of plans with the indication of a time frame in which the removal operation can be completed. It remains my hope that a schedule for completing the transportation of chemicals, as mentioned by the Deputy Minister, will soon be forthcoming.

As a result of informal consultations, in which delegations participated actively and constructively, the text of the Model Agreement specifying the arrangements governing on-site inspections at commercial facilities (EC-M-37/S/1, dated 7 January 2014) is ready and before the Council, together with a draft decision endorsing it (EC-M-38/DEC/CRP.2, dated

29 January 2014). The bilateral agreements that are based on this decision will also be submitted for the Council's approval.

On 16 and 17 January, the Secretariat hosted discussions relating to the destruction of 12 chemical weapons production facilities in the Syrian Arab Republic that are to be destroyed by 15 March 2014. These discussions will be resumed at the Headquarters in early February.

The balance in the Special Trust Fund for the Destruction of Syrian Chemical Weapons now stands at EUR 14.5 million. This is the result of contributions from 16 States Parties, which are: the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The amount includes contributions that were originally made to the first OPCW Trust Fund for Syria and which have, at the request of the donors, subsequently been transferred, in part or in whole, to the Special Trust Fund for Destruction.

Further contributions have been pledged as follows: about EUR 11,000 by Chile, EUR 2 million by Italy, approximately EUR 350,000 by the Republic of Korea, approximately EUR 1.3 million by Australia, EUR 12 million by the European Union, EUR 736,000 by India, about EUR 11,000 by Indonesia, and, subject to parliamentary approval, approximately EUR 4.9 million by Japan. The Government of Canada has also pledged a contribution of CAD 10 million.

I wish to thank all States Parties for making these—as well as the in-kind—contributions to the mission, including the crucial support of those engaged in the maritime effort.

I thank you for your attention.

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