

New Zealand statement at EC-M-41, 22 May 2014

Thank you Mr Chairman. As this is the first time we have taken the floor during this term of the Executive Council, we wish you well in your important task and assure you of the New Zealand delegation's full support as we work towards a world free of chemical weapons.

New Zealand wishes to support previous speakers in encouraging Syria to meet its obligations.

In particular, we urge the Syrian Arab Republic to find a way to remove the declared chemicals that remain at Site 2 to the port at Latakia. Achieving the removal of the last of the declared chemicals from Syrian territory would be a significant milestone in the timetable for the overall removal and destruction process. Ongoing delays in this process pose significant security risks for Syria's chemical stockpile and put at serious risk the destruction deadline of 30 June.

We are frustrated by the lack of movement on the destruction of Syria's Chemical Weapons Production Facilities. We want to see decisions taken and progress made, particularly on destruction of the seven hangars, and resolution of the remaining technical issues regarding the destruction of facilities in tunnels.

Thank you Mr Chairman.