



OPCW

Executive Council

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17 June 2014

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ENGLISH only

TURKEY

**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TO THE
OPCW AT THE FORTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

At the outset, allow me to thank both Director-General Mr Üzümcü and United Nations Special Coordinator Ms. Kaag for their extensive briefings today.

Turkey appreciates their leadership in carrying out the crucial task of eliminating the chemical weapons in Syria under exceptional and dangerous circumstances.

On this occasion, I also wish to highlight that Turkey strongly condemns the attack carried out against the Fact-Finding Mission on 27 May in Syria.

We believe the mission should have unhindered access to all sites of interest and should be provided with necessary security guarantees to complete their task in a safe and secure manner.

Shedding light on numerous incidents involving use of chemicals is of critical importance. In this context, we welcome the fact that the preliminary report of the mission was circulated yesterday. Turkey will further examine the findings outlined in the preliminary report. The initial findings of the report are worrisome.

Let me briefly reiterate Turkey's position on the current situation with regard to the process of elimination of chemical weapons in Syria.

In fact, Turkey has got the impression that the process has almost come to a halt as a result of Syria's unwillingness and indifference to fulfil its obligations, first and foremost, completing the transport of the remaining chemicals outside the country. We deem the current stalemate as a clear breach of the Council's decisions.

I once again would like to underscore the importance of physical destruction of the 12 chemical weapons production facilities in an irreversible fashion.

Finally, completeness and accuracy of the declarations made by Syria continue to be a source of serious concern for Turkey. Clearly, many other States Parties share the same worry. In this respect, we look forward to the OPCW Assessment Team's findings to address this matter.



EC-M-42/NAT.2

page 2

I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session of the Executive Council and be posted on the external server as well as the website.

Thank you.

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