



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

STATEMENT BY H.E. VESELA MRĐEN KORAĆ, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA TO THE OPCW AT THE 45 SPECIAL SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Mr. Chairperson, Director-General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Croatia fully aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative on behalf of the European Union.

Following the Second Report of the OPCW Fact Finding Mission in Syria and considering Croatia's commitment, within its capacity and capability, to continue to provide full support to the multilateral activities and programmes of the OPCW aiming to achieve a world free of chemical weapons, Croatian delegation would like to give following national statement.

Croatian Delegation would like to express deep concern over the key findings of the Fact Finding Mission, which, with a high degree of confidence concluded that chlorine, either pure or in mixture, is the toxic chemical used, systematically and repeatedly, as a weapon during attacks on villages in northern Syria.

As any use of chemical weapons constitutes the most serious breach of the Chemical Weapons Convention and brings into question the credibility of the Convention as well as Organization, Croatian Delegation expresses its support to the efforts and plans of the Director General to continue with the investigation of the Fact Finding Mission, especially since new allegations about additional attacks in late August are being made. At the same time Croatia calls upon the Syrian Arab Republic to extend its full cooperation to the OPCW Fact Finding Mission and to ensure that it completes its work safely and effectively.

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to ask that this document is circulated as an official document of this meeting.

Thank you.