

Statement of Finland by HE Liisa Talonpoika at EC-M-45 on 25th of September 2014

Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues,
Finland fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union and would like to thank Mr Director-General for his informative briefing.

- As the OPCW-UN Joint Mission is soon ending its task, we would like to commend the OPCW and Special Coordinator Kaag for the exceptional work under challenging conditions. It has been a remarkable success, however as Director General's briefing today highlights, we must remain vigilant.
- Firstly, we would like to recognize the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission's determination to show and build on the facts of the reported use of toxic chemicals.
- We are deeply concerned about the findings of the second report of OPCW Fact Finding Mission.
- As the FFM report states, testimonies constitute a compelling confirmation of systematic and repeated use of toxic chemical for hostile purposes in the Syrian Arab Republic. This includes reports of the use of helicopters.
- Any use of chemical weapons is deplorable and those guilty for these crimes must be held responsible.
- We give our full support to Director General's intention to continue Fact-Finding Mission's work. Continuation is important indeed in the light of latest accounts of incidents, with the last one occurring as late as in the end of August.
- As has been stressed before, the safety and security of the Mission personnel must remain a priority.

- There are also other questions why we need to be vigilant; destruction of production facilities and the declarations. We want to stress that Syria needs to fulfil its UN commitments as well as to comply with the CWC (Chemical Weapons Convention) treaty.

Thank you Mr Chairman