



OPCW

Executive Council

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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

CHILE

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MARIA TERESA INFANTE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHILE TO THE OPCW AT
THE FORTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mme Chairperson,

We thank the Director-General for the second report of the Fact-finding Mission of 10 September, which dealt with the allegations of the use of chlorine as a chemical weapon, and for the information given at this meeting.

In the wake of the adhesion of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Convention, and the decisions taken by this Council on Syria's chemical disarmament, as well as United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), we had a binding framework which ought to have removed for ever the use and the possibility of use of chemical weapons, despite the circumstances affecting the said country. Along with other delegations, we welcomed the adhesion of the Syrian Arab Republic as a significant step towards chemical disarmament.

This second report of the Fact-finding Mission bears out the fears that a toxic chemical was used repeatedly and systematically in that country, at least in the villages of Talmenes, Al Tamanah and Kafr Zita. For us, this is a matter of deep concern. The use of toxic chemical agents as a weapon is contrary to the Chemical Weapons Convention and United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013).

The account of the witnesses alludes to the use of means of transportation against which the civilian population had no defence. This must be fully clarified.

We reiterate what we have said on other occasions: the use of chemical weapons, or of toxic chemicals as weapons, is prohibited in all circumstances, irrespective of who uses them.

We support the proposal of the Director-General that the Fact-Finding Mission should continue its work and go on investigating these and alleged new incidents.

Without prejudice to the work which this Organisation may continue to perform, it is the duty of each State Party to the Convention to make the maximum effort, as far as lies within its power, to ensure that any chemical weapons attack on its territory be investigated, and to allow understanding of its origins to be deepened, as well as preventing repetition of it, even by non-state actors.



We believe that, faced with the grave conclusions of the said report, the Council must continue discussing this matter at its next regular session, seeking ways to maximise the efficiency of the Convention.

We should not like to conclude this statement without expressing our recognition to the personnel of the Fact-Finding Mission for their dedication and perseverance in continuing to investigate these allegations, despite the reprehensible attack which they suffered last May.

I should be grateful if this statement could be considered an official document of this meeting of the Council, and published on the official website of the Organisation.

Many thanks.

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