



OPCW

Executive Council

Forty-Fifth Meeting
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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

PERU

**STATEMENT BY MR ALFREDO FORTES GARCIA
ALTERNATE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PERU TO THE OPCW AT THE
FORTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mme Chairman,

Before anything else, we should like to support what was said by the distinguished Ambassador of Argentina, in relation to having documents that have been translated into the official languages, most especially those documents which are of major importance, as is the report which we are considering today.

Firstly, I should like to express my thanks for the informative presentation made by the Director-General regarding the second report of the OPCW Fact-finding Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic.

In its second report, the Fact-finding Mission states that the 37 accounts gathered from the principal witnesses, as well as assorted documentation including medical reports and other relevant information, present a coherent, credible narrative of the facts.

Thus, the second report concludes that this constitutes convincing confirmation that a toxic chemical – chlorine – was used as a weapon, systematically and repeatedly, in the villages of Talmenes, Al Tamanah and Kafr Zita in the north of the Syrian Arab Republic.

My delegation is greatly concerned by the conclusion reached by the Fact-Finding Mission, which confirms the use of chemical weapons on Syrian territory. At the same time, we express our strongest condemnation of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, by any person and in any circumstances, as it has caused a great number of deaths and serious injuries.

My delegation is grateful for the work done by the Mission. It has been performed with great professionalism and, at times, in situations of great peril, for instance, the armed attack on the Mission convoy, which took place on 27 May last.

We support the results submitted by the Mission in its first two reports and, furthermore, believe it opportune and necessary that the efforts of the Mission continue with the investigation of the facts surrounding this and other alleged incidents involving chemical weapons. The Director-General advanced this idea in his introduction to the Mission's second report and in his own report on the progress made in eliminating the Syrian chemical weapons programme, which was issued on the 24 of this month.



Lastly, given the situation I have described and the gravity of the facts contained in the Mission's second report, my delegation considers it extremely important that we continue to consider this matter at the next regular session of the Executive Council, and within the framework established by the Chemical Weapons Convention.

I should be grateful if this statement be considered an official document of this meeting of the Council.

Many thanks.

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