Forty-Fifth Meeting
26 September 2014

EC-M-45/NAT.20
26 September 2014
ENGLISH only

ALGERIA

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ALGERIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE FORTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Thank you Mr Chairman,

My delegation would first like to welcome you back at this Forty-Fifth Session of the Executive Council.

My delegation takes note of the second report of the Fact-Finding Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic.

We would like to thank the team of the Technical Secretariat which is dealing with this issue, for the work they are doing in a difficult environment.

We take this opportunity to recall that Algeria condemns any use of chemical weapons by anyone under any circumstances.

Regarding the report, we are of the view that we should allow the Fact-Finding Mission more time to fulfil its task and to shed light on the alleged use of toxic chemicals in the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Mission has the delicate task to assemble tangible evidence regarding the alleged use of chlorine in some locations in the Syrian Arab Republic.

We encourage the Fact-Finding Mission to continue its work according to its mandate and within the framework of the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Syrian authorities have already expressed their willingness to cooperate with the Mission and we invite them to continue to do so.

Mr Chairman,

On the issue of the Syrian Arab Republic we should keep in mind the extraordinary work we have achieved these last months. All the declared chemical weapons have been transferred outside the country and their destruction is progressing very quickly.

This whole operation is to the credit of OPCW and its Member States.

Now we are facing a new challenge: the alleged use of toxic chemicals in the Syrian Arab Republic. We should deal with these allegations very seriously and in a responsible manner with all the means provided to us by the Chemical Weapons Convention, and in keeping with the technical character of the OPCW.

Thank you.

- - - o - - -