



OPCW

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TURKEY

**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY
TO THE OPCW AT THE FORTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

I would like to thank Mr Director-General for his update today.

Given the conclusions of the second report of the Fact-Finding Mission, Turkey has made clear that the complete elimination of the chemical weapons in Syria should remain the foremost priority for this Organisation.

My delegation has expressed our deep concern with respect to several aspects of this process, namely the slow pace of progress in the destruction of 12 chemical weapons production facilities and serious gaps, discrepancies and inconsistencies in Syria's declaration.

The question marks on these matters still exist.

The use of chlorine gas as chemical weapon in Syria is not a hypothetical matter, but an established fact, documented by both the Fact-Finding Mission and the Independent International Commission of Inquiry.

The conclusions of both bodies underline the use of helicopters while the chemical weapons were employed.

Turkey believes that the Executive Council decision of 27 September 2013 and the United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) would be implemented only when regime's capacity is fully dismantled.

Unfortunately, toxic chemicals are still being employed "systematically" as a weapon of war in Syria against the Syrian civilian population even after the Fact-Finding Mission verified use of chemical weapons in its second report.

Due action must be taken to prevent further use of chemical weapons.

Lack of action, further delays and loopholes in the destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons programme gives the regime a free hand to further kill civilians, thus, undermine regional and international security.



In this regard, I believe the Council should continue to closely monitor the situation in Syria.

Therefore, the Council needs to be convened regularly at special sessions before its regular session in late March next year.

The work of the Fact-Finding Mission should continue.

We look forward to its third report which, we understand, will further inform the Council on the scale of use of chlorine in Syria.

I wish that the OPCW team will continue its work in Syria in a safe and secure manner.

Obviously, there is no room for complacency when it comes to the issue of elimination of chemical weapons in Syria. A premature sense of achievement will mislead the Council as well as the international community.

I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session of the Executive Council and be posted on the website and the external server.

Thank you.

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