



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Forty-Eighth Meeting  
21 and 23 January 2015

EC-M-48/NAT.8  
21 January 2015  
ENGLISH and SPANISH only

**URUGUAY**

**STATEMENT BY DR VERÓNICA CREGO  
ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF URUGUAY TO THE OPCW AT THE  
FORTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

My delegation wishes to extend its thanks for the presentation of the third report of the Fact-Finding Mission, which has confirmed the systematic and repeated use of chemical weapons in the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic against the civil population. My delegation expresses its profound regret that these distressing events continue to repeat themselves almost one hundred years after the first large-scale use of chemical weapons in Ieper, Belgium.

The use of this type of weapon is reprehensible and directly contradicts the standards and principles of international law, and especially the Chemical Weapons Convention—which is of a unique nature as it constitutes the first judicial, multilateral instrument to provide for the elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction—as well as United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013).

As a non-possessor State, and as a country that for the entirety of its existence has never acquired or produced such weapons to guarantee its survival as a State, Uruguay shares the legitimate concerns regarding the conclusions at which the Fact-Finding Mission has arrived and condemns—as it could not be otherwise—the use of chemical weapons.

This Council, as the guardian of the Convention, should remain vigilant when it comes to any instances in which this tool may be violated, and particularly in cases where the use of chemical weapons has been determined. In this sense, we believe it important to analyse all of the aspects of the various allegations referring to incidents that have taken place on Syrian territory.

My delegation appreciates the continued consultations between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Technical Secretariat relating to the former's initial declaration in order to clarify any potential discrepancies and determine the need to introduce additional amendments to remedy any possible errors or omissions in order to guarantee its precision and completeness.

At the same time, my delegation is carefully observing the process of the destruction of the 12 chemical weapons production facilities and expects that it will be completed by the established deadline of June 2015.



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I kindly request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Forty-Eighth Meeting of the Executive Council.

Thank you.

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