



OPCW

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TURKEY

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY
AT THE FORTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

I would like to thank the Director-General, Ambassador Mr Ahmet Üzümcü, for his extensive update today.

Let me once again express our appreciation to the Director-General and his dedicated team for their efforts towards the elimination of chemical weapons in Syria.

Undoubtedly, OPCW's Fact-Finding Mission plays a key role in shedding a broad light on the regime's continuous violations.

In this respect, the third report, clearly confirms the use of toxic chemicals against the civilians by the regime forces.

We appreciate the detailed explanations made in the last report.

These explanations not only display the meticulous methodology and professionalism employed by the Technical Secretariat to establish compelling truth regarding use of chemical weapons in Syria, they also indicate the fact that the regime's ultimate responsibility in toxic chemical attacks against civilians is beyond any reasonable doubt.

We believe, in view of these clear breaches of the Convention as well as the United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), the Executive Council shall not make any mistake that might jeopardise the credibility of the Chemical Weapons Convention regime.

Unfortunately, the draft decision on the reports of the Fact-Finding Mission does injustice to the victims of chemical weapons attacks by the Syrian regime.

The Syrian regime has been responsible for numerous chemical attacks on its own citizens. If the Executive Council fails to attribute the responsibility of these attacks to the regime, we would undermine the credibility and relevance of this Organisation in the future.

The briefing by the Declaration Assessment Team today in fact once again confirmed our deep concerns on the accuracy of the Syrian declarations of its chemical weapons programme.



While we appreciate the Team's efforts to address gaps, discrepancies and inconsistencies in Syria's chemical weapons declarations, we hope to see some concrete results on this exercise in the coming period.

The Team's efforts are also of critical importance due to the fact that Syria should never have the capability to use or produce chemical weapons in the future.

In this vein, the destruction of 12 chemical weapons production facilities must be completed without further delay.

As a last note, allow me to highlight that Turkey joins the others who object the use of the Trust Fund to pay the verification costs of the Syrian chemical weapons programme which is clearly incumbent upon the "possessor State".

Last but not least, with reference to the Director-General's update, we welcome Myanmar's decision to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention. It goes without saying that the Technical Secretariat's active engagement with the Myanmar authorities was key to achieving this outcome. I would like to commend the Director-General in this respect.

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

Thank you.

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