



OPCW

Executive Council

Forty-Eighth Meeting
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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

ARGENTINA

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER NICOLÁS VIDAL
ALTERNATE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARGENTINA TO THE OPCW AT
THE FORTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairman,

I would like to thank the Director-General Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü and the other officials of the Technical Secretariat for their reports on the progress in the elimination of the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Among other positive factors found in the reports, we would like to highlight the start of the process of the destruction of the 12 chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) and that the Declaration Assessment Team has made its sixth visit to Damascus. Further, there is a seventh visit planned during which the Team will continue moving forward with actions aimed at clarifying all of the discrepancies in the initial declaration submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic. We are confident that its Government will continue to cooperate with the Declaration Assessment Team as required under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The actions that have been taken in the Syrian Arab Republic have brought to light the versatility, high capacity, and determination of the experts and officials of the Organisation in carrying out the tasks entrusted by the policy-making organs. The Fact-Finding Mission has proven to be a valuable tool that is both impartial and objective and which aims to determine the use of chemical weapons; indirectly, it sends a powerful message about the international community's determined stance against the possibility of the future use of said weapons.

We believe that we have all learned lessons from the Fact-Finding Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Organisation and its ability to carry out these types of missions are reinforced and we support its future work to investigate all allegations of the use of chemical weapons.

What now remains is to complete the process initiated at the start of 2014 with the investigation into the use of chemical weapons in the villages of Talmenes, Al Tamanah, and Kafr Zeta. We reiterate our condemnation of the use of chemical weapons by anyone, under any circumstances.

We state once more that the search for a consensus and the fact that the Executive Council tends to express itself in one voice following cooperation and dialogue is the best way to promote the Organisation's performance and to achieve its priority objectives as set out in the Chemical Weapons Convention.



In this context, we have before us a draft decision presented by two co-sponsors containing the most important elements synthesising what has been accomplished by the Fact-Finding Mission. We hope that this draft decision can rely on the consensus necessary for its adoption by the Executive Council.

The announcement on the imminent progress toward achieving the objective of the Convention's universality is encouraging.

Thank you very much.

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