



OPCW

Executive Council

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PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR CHEN XU AT THE
FORTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairman,

The Chinese delegation wishes to thank the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat for their detailed briefings on the issues relating to the Syrian chemical weapons. This delegation welcomes the adoption on 20 January by the Parliament of the Union of Myanmar of the bill on the ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Mr Chairman,

Over the past more than a year, major progress has been made in resolving the issue of the Syrian chemical weapons, and the core task of eliminating those weapons has been accomplished. All these have been inseparable from the cooperation and joint efforts from all the parties involved, including the OPCW and the Syrian government. China supports the OPCW in its effort to advance the relevant follow-up work in regard to the destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons production facilities.

China has always opposed the use of chemical weapons by anybody under any circumstances. China is gravely concerned over the attacks carried out with chlorine in Syria, as confirmed by the reports of the FFM. China condemns the use of chemical weapons under any circumstances. The Chinese delegation has noted that despite highly difficult conditions, the FFM has performed its work and submitted its reports. At the same time, my delegation has also noticed that there have been differing interpretations among all sides of the reports of the FFM, and that many States Parties have pointed to the defects found in the execution, evidence-collection, coverage and findings of the investigation. Those views merit attention as well.

The Chinese delegation was deeply shocked by and is highly concerned over the use of chemical weapons in Syria and Iraq by terrorist groups, as was recently reported by the media. The OPCW should pay high attention to this development. The Syrian government submitted to the Secretariat recently some new information regarding the alleged chemical attacks in Syria. The Chinese delegation commends the Director-General in making his decision to send the FFM to conduct investigation as soon as possible on that basis.

It is China's view that in addressing the issue of the Syrian chemical weapons properly, the OPCW should comply with the Convention and carry out its work in an active, steady and



sound manner. It is hoped that under its current chairmanship, the Executive Council will preserve its tradition of working on the basis of consensus, and that the parties concerned will try and meet one another half way and seek consensus. The Chinese delegation will continue to participate constructively in the work in this respect.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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