



OPCW

Executive Council

Forty-Ninth Meeting
7 May 2015

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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

CHILE

**STATEMENT BY COUNSELLOR JORGE CARVAJAL
PERMANENT ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF CHILE TO THE OPCW AT THE
FORTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

As this is the last meeting of the Executive Council at which you will serve as Chairperson, I would like to join the other delegations in voicing gratitude for the diplomatic talent with which you and your team have presided over this Council during a particularly complex time. At this stage we covered issues such as chemical disarmament in the Syrian Arab Republic, which required your abilities, vision, and leadership.

We also welcome the Director-General's report on the progress made in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme, the result of the invaluable support of the States Parties, the intense work of the Technical Secretariat, and the cooperation of the Syrian Government.

We welcome the latest progress in the destruction of the underground chemical weapons production facilities and the preparation for the destruction of hangars in the Syrian Arab Republic. We are encouraged by the news that the Government of Jordan has authorised the dispatch of explosives that will make it possible to initiate the proper destruction of the facilities and we are confident that the process will be completed as quickly as possible in the accessible facilities. We value the considerable efforts that the Technical Secretariat has made to ensure that these activities move forward at an accelerated pace.

With regard to the fourth status report submitted by the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT), whose work we value, we have noted that in spite of the time that has passed and the extensive consultations that have taken place, there are some key issues that remain unresolved. We again call on the Syrian Arab Republic to continue collaborating on this matter, the fundamental way to remove all doubt that at the end of the day, its chemical weapons programme will have been completely eliminated. In this same sense, we eagerly await its supplementary declaration.

We have regretted, and we reiterate again today in this forum, the continued allegations of the use of toxic chemicals for hostile purposes in the Syrian Arab Republic, including those presented by the Syrian Government, the reason for which we have returned to demonstrate our support for the continued work of the Fact-Finding Mission in order to investigate every credible allegation in an objective and impartial manner. We urge all parties to cooperate



effectively with these investigations. In this context, and in the spirit of cooperation that is the basis of this Organisation, we await the prompt consent of the Syrian Arab Republic with the dispatch of a Mission team to investigate the allegations made by its Government this past December. At the same time, we support the decision of the Director-General to collect information and fully monitor other, more recent incidents such as the allegations involving the province of Idlib.

Just as we have voiced before, Chile vehemently condemns and finds the use of toxic chemicals as weapons by anyone and under any circumstances unacceptable, as well as a violation of international law.

We would be most grateful, Mr Chairperson, if this declaration could please be considered an official document of this meeting and published on the OPCW website.

Thank you.

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