



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Fiftieth Meeting  
23 November 2015

EC-M-50/NAT.10  
23 November 2015  
ENGLISH only

**POLAND**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR JAN BORKOWSKI  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF POLAND TO THE OPCW  
AT THE FIFTIETH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson, Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Poland fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

Poland is seriously concerned about findings contained in latest Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) reports. They point out the repeated use of a toxic chemical as a weapon in the Syrian Arab Republic and one of them even confirmed exposure to sulfur mustard. As Poland made clear on previous occasions, continued use of chemical weapons strikes at the very foundation on which the Chemical Weapons Convention was built and undermines the international system, including the norm prohibiting the use of chemical weapons. Therefore the OPCW, as a global watchdog of the chemical weapons prohibition, should condemn the use of chemical weapons without conditions. Poland expects that the Executive Council will adopt appropriate decisions to that effect and will send a clear signal to the international community.

Poland reaffirms its support for the Director-General to continue investigations carried out by the FFM. We deem it necessary to examine all allegations pointing out the possible use of toxic chemicals in the Syrian Arab Republic. This subject should be kept on the agenda of future meetings of the Executive Council until all cases are clarified. At the same time, Poland welcomes the unanimous adoption of the United Nations Security Council resolution 2235 (2015), which established the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM). Poland hopes that JIM will allow to identify perpetrators of chemical weapons use, and we call on all States Parties to the Convention to support the activities of the investigative mechanism.

The OPCW should actively deal with all the cases when toxic chemicals are used for prohibited purposes and enhance chemical security. It is of utmost importance to continue the implementation of the conclusions of the Third Review Conference to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons and enhance the role of the OPCW as a global agency to reduce the chemical threat.

Mr Chairperson, I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session.

--- 0 ---

