



OPCW

Executive Council

Fiftieth Meeting
23 November 2015

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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

CHILE

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CHILE AT THE
FIFTIETH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

We welcome the opening statement by the Director-General and the presentations by the leaders of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria, which was established by the Director-General in order to determine the circumstances related to the allegations of the use of toxic chemicals in the Syrian Arab Republic for purposes prohibited by the Convention.

We cannot help but voice our grave concern about the fact that one of the investigations confirmed with maximum certainty that at least two people were exposed to sulfur gas and that it is very probable that the effects of this agent caused the death of an infant—all this in spite of the obligations imposed by the Convention, the decisions of this Council—including the decision adopted this past 4 February—and resolutions 2118 (2013) and 2209 (2015) of the Security Council. In the other investigation, the team in charge found that the events under investigation could have involved the use—as a weapon—of one or more toxic chemicals. We have also noted that the reports on the incidents alleged by the Syrian Arab Republic are provisional.

As we face the repetition of these types of events in contradiction of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the norms of international law, Chile reiterates its vehement condemnation of the use of chemical weapons by anyone under any circumstance, and reaffirms its conviction that those responsible for the use of chemical weapons must be held accountable for their actions. Consistent with this position of principle, our country, as a non-permanent member of the Security Council, supported resolution 2235 (2015), via which the Joint Investigative Mechanism of the OPCW and the United Nations was established.

We once again reiterate our support for the efforts of the Director-General and the professional work done by the investigation teams, including in challenging conditions. We will continue to support the continued work of the Fact-Finding Mission in order to investigate all credible allegations of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic in due course.

In the face of the severity of the facts that have been revealed and which we cannot tolerate, and in light of the credibility of the Organisation, we firmly believe that the Council cannot ignore this matter and must determine how to act accordingly. In this context, the draft decision that has been submitted conveys the considerations and conclusions that we share



and we believe it constitutes a sufficient basis for taking a consensus-based decision on this matter.

Finally, we also note the decision of the Director-General of the OPCW to submit this information to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and we voice our support for the collaboration that the Fact-Finding Mission must provide to the Joint Investigative Mechanism of the OPCW and the United Nations via resolution 2235 (2015).

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