



Republic of Cuba

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MRS. SORAYA ALVAREZ NÚÑEZ,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA TO THE OPCW AT
THE 54th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL
WEAPONS.
THE HAGUE, 13 APRIL 2017.**

Mrs. Chairwoman,
Mr. Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,

All the States Parties have witnessed the speedy process and unprecedented efforts by which the Arab Republic of Syria acceded to the Chemical Weapons Convention despite its complex internal situation.

In multiple occasions, we have underlined the politicization of pending technical issues regarding the situation in Syria, which poses an obstacle to the search of permanent solutions acceptable to all.

Cuba firmly rejects the use of chemical weapons by any actor and in any circumstance. Any use of those inhumane weapons shall be properly investigated.

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the international organization created to implement the Chemical Weapons Convention shall investigate in an impartial, objective, transparent and depoliticized manner the recent actions where chemical weapons were used against civilians in Syria.

The unilateral strike with cruise missiles carried out by the United States against the Shayrat Air-Base, in the province of Homs, Arab Republic of Syria, using the alleged use of chemical weapons by the government of Syria as a pretext, is a grave violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the International Law and an outrage

against a sovereign State, which worsens the conflict in the country and the region and delays the achievement of a negotiated solution.

Mrs. Chairwoman,

The Convention clearly states the procedures to follow in the case of an alleged use of chemical weapons. These procedures were ignored on April 6. No State Party has been excused from complying with its obligations nor have they been granted the right to take unilateral decisions on who are responsible for the actions in the province of Idlib, until a recommendation is made by the OPCW.

Every time our Organization is ignored, it is undermined. This cannot be the way. It is everyone's responsibility to preserve and strengthen the OPCW.

We will continue to support a negotiated political solution for the Arab Republic of Syria, based on a strict respect for their sovereignty, self-determination, independence and territorial integrity.

Thank you very much.