



OPCW

Executive Council

Fifty-Fifth Meeting
5 July 2017

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SLOVAKIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ROMAN BUŽEK
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC TO THE OPCW AT
THE FIFTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

Slovakia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Estonia Ambassador Jahilo on behalf of the European Union. Slovakia is deeply worried by the repeated use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic and strongly condemns it. Slovakia reiterates that chemical weapons must not be used by anybody, anywhere and under any circumstances. Any use of chemical weapons constitutes a serious violation of international law.

It is the utmost obligation of this Organisation and the entire international community to thoroughly investigate any use of chemical weapons and hold those responsible to account. Slovakia fully supports and highly commends the professional and impartial work of the Fact-Finding Mission staff as well as the skilled leadership of the OPCW Director-General Ambassador Üzümcü. Slovakia calls upon the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism to expeditiously investigate the matter in order to hold those responsible for these abhorrent attacks to account.

Slovakia supports and joins the declaration put forward by the Permanent Representations of Germany and France and appeals to the countries to contribute to the fulfilment of its goals.

I request this statement be circulated as an official document of the meeting.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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