



OPCW

Executive Council

Fifty-Fifth Meeting
5 July 2017

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BRAZIL

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR REGINA MARIA CORDEIRO DUNLOP,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BRAZIL TO THE OPCW AT THE FIFTY-FIFTH
MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairman,

At the outset, let me sincerely thank Ambassador Odette Melono for her wisdom in guiding this Council during the past year. Brazil welcomes you, Ambassador Sheikh Belal, as our new President, and asserts our disposition to contribute positively to your endeavours in leading this Council.

Brazil reiterates its concern regarding the use of chemical weapons in the province of Idlib, in Syria, which has now been confirmed by the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) in its report issued on the 29 June, as well as regarding the conclusions of the FFM on the incident of 16 September 2016 in Um-Housh, in Syria. Brazil stresses its repudiation of the use of chemical weapons anywhere, by anyone, under any circumstances. We reaffirm the importance of fully abiding by the Chemical Weapons Convention.

During the last session of the Executive Council on this matter, Brazil asked for a full and impartial investigation, with a view to the complete disclosure of the facts of last April in the Syrian Arab Republic. My delegation takes note of the conclusions of the report, while duly noting that the FFM could not establish with a great degree of confidence the means of deployment and dispersal of the chemical. Brazil is convinced that dispatching an inspection team to Khan Shayhun would have been an invaluable tool to achieve a complete investigation of the alleged chemical incident. We therefore regret that the security conditions for such an endeavour were not met.

Brazil looks forward to the next phase of the investigations, to be undertaken by the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM). While we wait for the result of these findings, we call on all States Parties to contribute to the stability of Syria by promoting effective political dialogue and fully observing international law. Thank you.

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