



Fifty-Fourth Meeting
13, 19, and 20 April 2017

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PORTUGAL

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ROSA BATORÉU
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PORTUGAL TO THE OPCW
AT THE FIFTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson and Director-General.

Portugal fully aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished Ambassador of Malta on behalf of the European Union.

Additionally, I would like to add a few comments in my national capacity.

Portugal strongly condemns the terrible attack on 4 April in the province of Idlib, which is one further piece of evidence of the extreme barbarity of the Syrian conflict. Portugal deems fundamental that the attack, using chemical agents that caused multiple victims, including children, is thoroughly investigated and its authors identified and held accountable.

The fundamental values of the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons have been gravely challenged yet again in the Syrian Arab Republic and need to be upheld and defended. Portugal therefore thanks the Chairperson of the Executive Council for having convened this meeting today.

Portugal also fully supports the investigations conducted by the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission, in its current configuration, and looks forward to its report. In this context, we also encourage the OPCW –United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism in the fulfillment of its task.

The recent events in the Syrian Arab Republic, and the volatile security situation in the region, recall the urgent need for that State Party to comply with its obligations and provide a full disclosure that solves the outstanding issues regarding its initial declaration.

I request that this statement be considered an official document of this session of the Executive Council and be posted on the OPCW's website.

Thank you very much.

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