



Fifty-Fifth Meeting
5 July 2017

EC-M-55/NAT.17
5 July 2017
ENGLISH only

PORTUGAL

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF PORTUGAL
AT THE FIFTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Thank you, Mr Chairperson,

I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election and I wish you every success in your new duties. Please count on our full cooperation.

We also wish to thank H.E. Ambassador Odette Melono, of Cameroon, for her excellent work as Chairperson of this Council.

Portugal fully aligns itself with the statement made by H.E. the Ambassador of Estonia on behalf of the EU.

Portugal supports and commends the work done by the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) in Syria regarding the establishment of the events that took place in Khan Shaykhun on 4 April 2017, as well as the leadership, once again, shown by the Director-General in this instance.

The report issued by the FFM on 29 June concludes, beyond any doubt, that approximately 100 people died and at least 200 others suffered acute exposure to sarin or a sarin-like substance and that this substance was used as a weapon.

Portugal strongly condemns this barbaric attack and encourages the Joint Investigative Mechanism to thoroughly investigate it, so that the perpetrators are identified and brought to justice.

We reiterate our firm condemnation of any use of chemical weapons, by anyone, under any circumstances.

We recall the urgent need for Syria 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 website.

Thank you very much.

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