

TURKEY

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ŞABAN DIŞLI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, I would like to extend my congratulations to Ambassador Jose Antonio Zabalgaitia Trejo of Mexico, on his election as the Chairperson of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of States Parties. Mr Chairperson, you have our full support for the successful conclusion of this meeting.

I would also like to thank the Director-General Ambassador Fernando Arias for his comprehensive report and commend the professionalism of the OPCW Secretariat in fulfilling the mandate of the Organization and managing to organize this meeting under the COVID-19 conditions.

Turkey aligns herself with the EU Statement, made by H.E. Gudrun Lingner, Permanent Representative of Germany to the OPCW.

Turkey fully supports the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in its efforts for a world free of chemical weapons.

The Organisation should be provided the necessary resources to continue its effective implementation of the tasks under the Convention. In this context, Turkey supports the draft programme and budget as proposed by the Director-General and recommended by the 95th session of the Executive Council for adoption by the Conference.

Turkey highly appreciates the active role played by the OPCW in the destruction of chemical weapons, preventing their re-emergence as well as promoting international cooperation for the development of chemical industry.

The transformation of the OPCW laboratory into a Centre for Chemistry and Technology will be a remarkable progress in the Organisation's capacity to perform its core tasks in verification, inspection and capacity-building. The ChemTech Centre will be a valuable resource for the OPCW and its members. We are looking forward to the timely and smooth completion of the Centre.

Any use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anyone, under any circumstances is unacceptable. There should be no impunity for the use of chemical weapons. This is the only way to prevent the recurrence of such attacks.

In this context, Turkey once again condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the use of chemical weapons in Ltamenah, on three different occasions, in March 2017, by the air forces of the Syrian regime, as established by the first report of the OPCW Investigation and Identification Team.

Turkey co-sponsored the decision (EC-94/DEC.2) on addressing the possession and use of chemical weapons by Syria, which set clear and verifiable parameters for action that the Syrian regime was required to take within 90 days to return to full compliance with the Convention.

The report of the Director-General established that the Syrian regime failed to fulfil its obligations under EC-94/DEC.2. The Conference must act accordingly and address the non-compliance of the

Syrian regime. Accordingly, Turkey co-sponsored the draft Decision “Addressing the Possession and use of Chemical Weapons by the Syrian Arab republic”.

Last but not least, the Turkish Court of Accounts and its President have all the credentials for the task of OPCW External Auditor. Besides, the TCA proposes to perform this essential task with the lowest cost. It is also noteworthy that it will be the first time that the TCA assumes this task if appointed by this august body. Turkey hopes that the new External Auditor could be appointed by consensus.

I kindly request that this statement be issued as an official document of this session of the Conference and be placed on the OPCW External Server and the public website.

Thank you.