



OPCW

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TURKEY

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

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, I would like to extend my congratulations to Ambassador José Antonio Zabalgaitia Trejo of Mexico on his election as the Chairperson of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the 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 Organisation and managing to organise this meeting under the conditions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Turkey aligns itself with the EU statement, made by H.E. Ambassador Marjolijn Van Deelen, Special Envoy for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation.

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 Ninety-Fifth 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 the chemical industry.

The transformation of the OPCW Laboratory into a Centre for Chemistry and Technology (“ChemTech Centre”) will be 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 Force 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 (TCA) and its President have all the credentials for the task of the 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 public website.

Thank you.

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