

**Statement by H.E. Neilas Tankevičius,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Lithuania to the OPCW
at the 68th meeting of the Executive Council of the OPCW**

Mr. Chairperson,

Lithuania aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. I would like to add a few words in my national capacity.

Lithuania remains firmly committed to peace, security, and the full implementation of principles and norms of international law in and with respect to Syria. We reiterate the importance of respecting Syria's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity.

Since Lithuania has and will continue to strongly emphasize the importance of attribution and accountability in the context of any violation of international law in general and the Chemical Weapons Convention in particular, Lithuanian delegation wishes to express strong support to Syrian and international efforts towards accountability for all the atrocities, committed by or during the Assad regime, as well as their use of chemical weapons.

We commend Director General of the OPCW and the Technical Secretariat for all the work done so far to ensure swift implementation of the next steps to fully eliminate Syria's chemical weapons program, and we will continue to do so, until this goal has been achieved.

This is, indeed, a historic moment and a historic opportunity for the Syrian people and for the international community at large to help Syrians reunify, stabilize, restore justice and ensure accountability, as they try to rebuild their country.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.