

Statement by Poland
at the 109th session of the Executive Council
Agenda item 6(c): Elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme

Mr. Chairperson,

Poland fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

We thank the Director General of the OPCW H. E. Amb. Fernando Arias for the latest update on the Technical Secretariat's engagement with the Syrian transitional authorities and the Representative of Syria for presenting the full picture of the challenges that the Syrian Arab Republic is facing right now. We commend the close collaboration of both sides aimed at restoring full cooperation and clarifying all outstanding issues regarding the remnants of the Assad regime's chemical weapons programme in Syria. It is of key importance to verify all suspicious sites, locate and destroy the remaining stocks of chemical weapons. Closing the Syrian chapter is essential to avoid proliferation and remove a concrete threat to international peace and security.

Poland welcomes the third deployment of the OPCW to Syria conducted in June, which followed two previous deployments in March and April. We support the ongoing efforts to establish a permanent OPCW presence in Syria and ensure the country's full compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention. In the same vain, Poland supports the decision by the Director-General to create the Office of Special Missions (OSM), which will incorporate tools and expertise of DAT, FFM and IIT under one umbrella. We expect that the creation of the OSM will provide the OPCW with a core team of experts able to work on cases of use or threat of use of chemical weapons in Syria and elsewhere.

Thank you.