

Statement by H.E. Ambassador FERNANDO SIMAS MAGALHÃES,
Permanent Representative of the The Federative Republic of Brazil to the
OPCW at the 110th Session of the Executive Council under Agenda Item 6 (c),
“Elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme”

- On two occasions, Brazil has offered comments to the draft decision being considered by the Executive Council.
- Our comments were designed to preserve the integrity of the subject matter, while abiding by the provisions of the Convention, in particular Art. IV and Verification Annex Part IV (A).
- In this vein, we underscored the pressing importance to circumscribe the text to the mandate requested by the Technical Secretariat: the ability to deal with circumstances in which expedited on-site destructions are necessary in view of specific conditions dictated, inter alia, by safety considerations.
- We fail to see the need to incorporate language that departs from the objective of granting this mandate requested by the Technical Secretariat and have the potential to shift the focus towards other agendas.
- Brazil is encouraged to see the consistent signs of cooperation of the Syrian authorities with the work of the OPCW, and fully supports the way forward to bring the Syrian chemical dossier to a closure. However, we do not believe this decision is the appropriate place to introduce wording on the status of the suspension of Syria's rights and prerogatives. We are of the view that this subject has its own normative framework under which the members should address it, following the strict conditions it stipulates.
- We have examined with attention document EC-110/DG.20, regarding the budget implications of the expedite on-site destruction of chemical weapons in Syria. Brazil would like to state that we do not consider that the decision under consideration provides a blanket authorization for the creation of future expenditures, nor does it derogate the competence of the Executive Council in authorizing additional budgetary appropriations for the purposes described by the draft decision.
- In offering these observations, Brazil considers itself to be faithfully discharging its responsibilities as a member of the Executive Council, whose powers and functions include, among others, promoting the effective implementation of, and compliance with, the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

- We kindly ask that this statement is duly reflected in the report of EC-110, as well as on Catalyst and on the OPCW's public website.