

Agenda 6(c): Elimination of the Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme

Thank you Mr. Chair,

I take the floor to convey our sincere appreciation for the efforts of DG and the TS to support the Syrian authorities to resolve the outstanding issues and for the progress made. We commend the efforts of the delegation of Qatar to progress this important matter and to represent the Syrian Arab Republic in OPCW.

Mr. Chair, India remains firmly opposed to the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere and under any circumstances. Syria has been an unprecedented case for this organization. We have an opportunity now to close this dossier in cooperation with the Syrian authorities. As we appreciate the complexities and therefore the need for exceptional approach to address this matter, the value of consultations and consensus-building process cannot be underestimated especially in crucial decision-making and policy formulation. Also, the role and authority of EC and CSP in authorizing action by the organization requires no further emphasizing.

In this background, our delegation supports the destruction of chemical weapons remnants or related material and equipment upon identification and verification in cooperation with the Syrian authorities. The draft decision on Syria should not however become a basis for automatic budget reallocation in future.

A positive, forward-looking approach with clear, focused and time-bound goals, which does not create new precedence in terms of policy making processes or structures for the organization, can go a long way in furthering the ongoing work in Syria and early closure of Syria dossier as also be in line with the principles and provision of the Convention.

Thank you Mr. Chair.
