



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Seventieth Session  
25 – 28 September 2012

EC-70/NAT.16  
25 September 2012  
ENGLISH only

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**U.S. VIEWS REGARDING INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS INVOLVING A STATE NOT PARTY TO THE CONVENTION**

Madam Chair,

The United States welcomes the recent completion of arrangements for implementing the agreement for cooperation between the OPCW and the United Nations. This will enable the Director-General to respond immediately to any request from the United Nations to assist in the investigation of alleged use of chemical weapons involving a State not Party to the Convention.

I want to put on record that the United States rejects the suggestion made by another delegation a few moments ago that the Director-General is not allowed to take action to respond to such a request until the Executive Council has discussed the matter. In fact, Paragraph 27 of Part XI of the Verification Annex requires the OPCW to put its resources at the disposal of the UN Secretary-General in such circumstances. This cooperation on the part of the OPCW is mandatory and clearly a rapid response would be essential if chemical weapons use were suspected.

I request that this statement be treated as an official document of this Council session.

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