



OPCW

Executive Council

Seventy-Third Session
16 – 19 July 2013

EC-73/NAT.28
18 July 2013
ENGLISH and FRENCH only

SWITZERLAND

**STATEMENT BY MR PHILIPPE BRANDT
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SWITZERLAND TO THE OPCW
AT THE SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
WITH REGARD TO ITEM 13 ON THE AGENDA ENTITLED
“ORGANISATION OF FOLLOW-UP TO THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE”**

Mr Chairman,

I should like at this point once again to thank all the delegations that offered their support for Switzerland's initiative on incapacitating toxic chemicals during the Third Review Conference. Despite the absence of a reference thereto in the final document of the Conference, the intense discussions in this regard demonstrated that this subject found great resonance among States Parties and that discussion within the Organisation appears to be necessary and fully justified. The numerous statements made during the Seventy-Second and Seventy-Third Sessions of the Executive Council expressing regret that it was not possible to reach an agreement on a consensual paragraph last April represent another clear sign in this respect.

For this reason, Switzerland, together with the interested parties, is determined to continue its efforts without delay to ensure that an open and informed discussion can commence at last under the auspices of the OPCW. Unfortunately, it seems that it is still not possible for a debate to be held within the framework of the Executive Council, given the evident differences of opinion that persist with regard to the scope of the problem caused by incapacitating agents.

Consequently, for the time being those delegations most affected will continue the discussions within a purely informal framework with a view to considering what could be done, over time, to create more transparency in this area. We can no longer tolerate the silence and incertitude which have for too long surrounded these issues and which will eventually damage the Convention. The time for that has passed.

Allow me once more to recall, on this topic, that Switzerland restricts the use of toxic chemicals for law enforcement purposes exclusively to riot control agents. In other words, incapacitating agents have no place in the Swiss legal system.

Finally, I should like this statement to be distributed as an official document of this Session of the Executive Council.

Thank you for your attention.

--- 0 ---

