



OPCW

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QATAR

**STATEMENT BY H.E. KHALID FAHAD AL KHATER
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF QATAR TO THE OPCW AT THE
SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I wish to express my sincere thanks to His Excellency Ambassador Olexander Horin and extend to him my congratulations on holding the chairmanship of the previous sessions of the Executive Council and the current one. We express our great confidence in his ability to steer the work of this session towards the desired outcome. I should not fail to commend the great role played by His Excellency the Director-General of the Organisation and his staff in the Technical Secretariat in promoting the role of this Organisation.

The State of Qatar remains committed to ensuring the international peace and security and is constantly seeking to support all disarmament efforts in the world. This is clearly reflected in the accession by the State of Qatar to several major international conventions in the area of disarmament and ratification thereof, most notably the Chemical Weapons Convention ("the Convention"). We reiterate our full commitment to implementing all provisions and requirements of the Convention.

At the national level, the State of Qatar established in 2004 the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons to provide advice for the relevant government authorities on issues related to the prohibition of all kinds of weapons, contribute to the realisation of the objectives enshrined in the relevant international conventions to which the State of Qatar has acceded and develop and implement programmes necessary for raising awareness and promoting education among the public about disarmament of chemical weapons and weapons of mass destruction and their humanitarian, economic and environmental impact.

Furthermore, the State of Qatar hosted several conferences and symposia on disarmament issues and established in 2012 the Doha Regional Centre for training on conventions related to disarmament of weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons. The Doha Centre is the first of its kind in the Middle East and Asia.

In this context, several workshops and training courses were held during past years. We mention as examples the training course held on 2 and 3 February 2014 for customs authorities in the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the workshop on annual



declaration held in support of the implementation of Article VI of the Convention for the national authorities in the Asian States Parties.

The State of Qatar spares no effort to support all activities related to the implementation of Article VII of the Convention, including its commitment to submitting its annual declarations before the specified deadline.

I should not fail to commend the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons for its efforts regarding the issue of the Syrian chemical weapons and for its support for the disposal activities of this arsenal.

The delegation of my country reiterates its deep concern over the continued delay by the Syrian Arab Republic in the implementation of its obligations. The Syrian Arab Republic should comply with all the decisions of the Executive Council and the Security Council in this respect. We agree with the Permanent Representative of Germany to the OPCW on the importance of holding a special session of the Executive Council at the end of March to keep abreast of the latest development.

The State of Qatar calls upon the States that have not yet joined the Convention to do so in order to achieve the objective to which we all aspire, namely the universality of the Convention. We look forward to the day when the possessor States complete disposal of their chemical weapons, thereby achieving all the objectives of the Convention.

We request that this statement be considered as one of the official documents of the Seventy-Fifth Session of the Council.

Thank you Mr Chairperson.

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