



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Seventy-Fifth Session  
4 – 7 March 2014

EC-75/NAT.27  
4 March 2014  
ENGLISH and SPANISH only

**SPAIN**

**NATIONAL STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN AT THE  
SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairman,

Spain fully supports the statement made by Greece, speaking on behalf of the European Union.

Spain is grateful for the Director-General's report, as well as for the information from the Special Coordinator of the OPCW-UN Joint Mission on the status of the situation, which were presented to the Executive Council this morning. We feel that the work of the Joint Mission is extremely valuable, not only because of its professionalism and expertise, but also because of the risks which the mission constantly faces in contributing to international peace and security.

However, I should not like to miss this opportunity, during the statements which are shaping the general debate, to mention certain aspects which Spain considers crucial in relation to the Syrian chemical disarmament plan:

- (i) Spain shares the deep concern expressed by the majority of delegations at the delays in removing the chemical weapons from Syrian territory.
- (ii) We are aware of the complexity of the operation and of the drama that the Syrian people are going through. The lives of thousands of civilians are at stake in a conflict which has already caused around 140,000 fatalities.
- (iii) Nevertheless, we should like to join other States Parties of the OPCW in asking the Syrian Arab Republic to speed up the transfers of chemical agents to the port of Latakia so that the shipments can be completed in a systematic, substantial manner. It is a matter of principle. We must act in accordance with the disarmament mission which faces this Organisation. As the Secretary-General of the United Nations says in his letter of 27 February to the President of the Security Council, to which he attached the fifth monthly report of the Director-General of the OPCW, the delays are not insurmountable. Our goal must continue to be 30 June 2014, the date which we have all agreed for the destruction of the Syrian chemical arsenal.
- (iv) Furthermore, Spain considers that, pursuant to the Chemical Weapons Convention and to the decisions of the Executive Council, the Syrian Arab Republic must destroy, physically and irreversibly, the 12 chemical production facilities.



- (v) It is up to the Executive Council to monitor closely the implementation of this plan on the basis of the Director General's reports and the weekly briefings of the Joint Mission.

On 27 September 2013, when the Executive Council adopted the decision on the Syrian Chemical disarmament plan, the eyes of the world were on the OPCW. The international community is following the status of this disarmament plan very closely, as the plan makes this Organisation one of the most valuable in the struggle against weapons of mass destruction.

I should be obliged if this national statement could be considered an official document of the Seventy-Fifth Session of the Executive Council.

- - - 0 - - -