

(Check against Delivery)

**Statement by Minister-Counsellor Chull-joo Park
Alternate Representative of the Republic of Korea to the OPCW
at the 76th Session of the Executive Council of the OPCW
The Hague, 8-11 July 2014**

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me first join other delegations in congratulating you, Ambassador Alvaro Moerzinger, on your presiding the 76th Session of the Executive Council. I would also like to extend my appreciation to Director-General, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü for his comprehensive and informative opening statement.

Mr. Chairperson,

First of all, my delegation welcomes final completion of the removal of all designated chemicals for destruction outside the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic on 23 June, in spite of 6 months delay from the original target date.

My delegation would like to praise the relentless endeavor of the OPCW-UN Joint Mission and the international community toward the realization of the full elimination of Syrian chemical weapons program.

However, despite the completion of the removal of the designated chemicals from the Syrian Arab Republic, there are still outstanding issues.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to express concern that progress of destruction for the 12 Chemical Weapons Production Facilities (CWPFs) has not been made at all, while taking note of the original target date for destruction 15 March 2014.

In this regard, the Korean delegation is of the view that the physical destruction of the 12 chemical weapons production facilities in the Syrian Arab Republic should be fulfilled without further delay.

Mr. Chairperson,

Full elimination of Syrian chemical weapons program will be completed, only when the accuracy and consistency of the declaration is guaranteed. Some serious concerns which were raised during the Secretariat's briefing by the Declaration Assessment Team at the 42nd EC session were not yet fully explained.

In light of this, my delegation takes equally important the issue of reviewing the declaration and expects full cooperation from the Syrian Government in order to achieve the international confidence that Syrian Arab Republic has met its obligations fully.

My delegation fully supports the initiative launched by DG to review the Syrian declaration and strongly believes that additional measures should be taken by the Secretariat to continue addressing concerns raised.

Mr. Chairperson,

In the last EC meeting, the Council noted the "Summary Report of the work of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria." The report concludes that gathered information lends credence to the view that toxic chemicals, most likely pulmonary irritating agents such as chlorine, have been used in a systematic manner in a number of attacks.

The Korean government reiterates again that the use of chemical weapons by anyone would be reprehensible and can not be justified under any circumstances. In this regard, my delegation strongly encourages the DG to take appropriate measures to continue Fact-Finding Mission in order to establish facts.

Mr. Chairperson,

In order to accomplish complete elimination of all Syrian chemical weapons, the Council should give its utmost effort to resolve remaining issues. My delegation is of the view that emphasis on the resolution of the remaining issues should be included in the coming Council discussion until they are cleared.

In closing, I would like to request that this statement be treated as an official document of the 76th Session of the Executive Council.

I thank you. /End/