

(Check against Delivery)

**Statement by Ambassador Key Cheol LEE
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the OPCW
at the 77th Session of the Executive Council of the OPCW
The Hague, 7-10 October 2014**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me first join other delegations in congratulating you, Ambassador Alvaro Moerzinger, on your presiding the 77th 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. Chairman,

First of all, my delegation welcomes the complete destruction of Category 1 chemical weapons and the near completion of the destruction of Category 2 chemical weapons in Syria which constitutes important developments towards the goal of complete dismantling of the Syrian chemical weapons program.

My delegation would like to praise the enormous endeavor of the Director General, the Technical Secretariat, the Special Coordinator and the OPCW-UN Joint Mission staff to realize the full elimination of Syrian chemical weapons program.

Mr. Chairman,

In its second report, the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission states with a compelling confirmation that a toxic chemical was systematically and repeatedly used as a weapon in three villages located in northern Syria. It also concludes with a high degree of confidence that chlorine, either pure or in mixture, is the toxic chemical in question.

My delegation is deeply concerned about the alleged use of chlorine as a chemical weapon and also takes particular note of the Mission's finding that "witnesses invariably connected the devices to helicopter flying overhead."

Again, my delegation strongly urges all relevant parties in the Syrian Arab Republic to provide the Mission with full cooperation. Any further chemical attack against the people of Syria should be deterred and those who are responsible for this should be held accountable. My delegation supports the continued work of the Mission to discover the whole truth of this situation and the intention of the Director General to have the Fact Finding Mission continue its work.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to declaration of the Syrian Arab Republic to the OPCW and the physical destruction of the 12 Chemical Weapons Production Facilities in Syria, my delegation is of the view that any discrepancy should be clarified by the Syrian Government and those facilities should be destroyed in the shortest time possible according to the Executive Council Decision adopted at the 43rd Special Meeting. Further cooperation from Syria is required to build international confidence that it has declared the whole of its chemical weapons program.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is convinced that achieving universal adherence to the Chemical Weapons Convention remains a key priority and appreciates efforts of the OPCW technical secretariat in this regard. Seizing this opportunity, the Republic of Korea urges all other countries that have not joined the Convention, including North Korea, to do so without delay and preconditions.

In closing, I would like to request that this statement be treated as an official document of the 77th Session of the Executive Council.

I thank you. /End/