



OPCW

Executive Council

Thirty-Third Meeting
27 September and 3 October 2013

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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

CHILE

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JUAN MARTABIT
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHILE
AT THE THIRTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Just as Chile celebrated the timely framework agreement that was reached in Geneva on 14 September this year by the Secretary of State of the United States of America and the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, so we join in the approval of the decision on the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons, adopted by consensus in the early hours of last Saturday by this Executive Council, along with the resolution that was approved unanimously by the Security Council last weekend. We did this in the knowledge that it was necessary to make the most of the opportunity offered to diplomacy to help to end a serious crisis which has already gone on long enough, but also because we feel strongly that this Organisation is duty bound to take action in this case, thus fulfilling its vocation and its mandate.

The decision taken by the Council illustrates the potential of the provisions of the Convention to eradicate chemical weapons worldwide, even under extraordinary circumstances, thus helping to validate the very existence of this Organisation.

The decision by consensus of the Executive Council of the OPCW and the unanimous approval of Resolution 2118 of the Security Council have also helped to reinforce the irreplaceable role of multilateralism and international legal instruments in the peaceful resolution of conflict.

We realise that the magnitude of the task and the agreed deadlines in the context of the circumstances experienced by the Syrian Arab Republic represent a tremendous challenge for this Organisation, which, led by the Director-General, therefore deserves our full support and great vision, within the framework of the Convention, in order to accomplish the task.

I should like to take this opportunity to recognise the extraordinary work carried out by the team of inspectors from this Organisation in investigating the allegations of use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic as part of the United Nations mission, a job which they put their lives at risk in order to do.

We should like to express our heartfelt wishes for the success of the team, which is now on Syrian territory in order to start to implement the recent decision of the Executive Council. We support the measures taken by the Director-General and the staff of the Organisation to ensure that the mission can achieve this endeavour.



We are confident that, under the Director-General's leadership, the cooperation between the OPCW and the United Nations, essential for putting the decisions adopted lately by both organisations into practice, will develop smoothly and within the framework of their own constituent instruments and fields of jurisdiction.

On our part, we shall do everything in our power, in cooperation with the international community, to help the Syrian people to be able to emerge from the tragedy that they are currently experiencing.

We also welcome the accession of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Convention and hope that this will give renewed impetus to the universality of this instrument, which we consider vital and strongly encourage, and that this will move us forward in our common objective to achieve a world free of chemical weapons, the use of which our country has repeatedly condemned.

Finally, we call upon all the parties concerned to join in these efforts and to meet their commitments in good faith.

I should be obliged if this statement were distributed as an official document of this meeting of the Executive Council.

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