



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Thirty-Third Meeting  
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ENGLISH and FRENCH only

**SWITZERLAND**

**STATEMENT BY MR PHILIPPE BRANDT  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SWITZERLAND TO THE OPCW  
AT THE THIRTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

We would first of all like to congratulate the Director-General and his team for the excellent services provided in such a difficult context.

Switzerland, which strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, is aware of the fact that we are witnessing a historical moment in regard to the anticipated dismantling of a gigantic chemical arsenal. This is an extraordinary situation, which calls for extraordinary measures.

In this context, it is crucial that the OPCW has all the necessary resources to implement this operation. Switzerland stands ready to make an active contribution and will pay without delay a voluntary contribution amounting to one million Swiss francs to the Trust Fund for the Syrian Arab Republic; it will also consider all other requests for assistance submitted by the OPCW. We encourage all States Parties to do the same, according to their capabilities.

The adherence of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Chemical Weapons Convention is an important step forward towards the universality of this instrument and confirms the relevance of the OPCW. It is essential that the Convention be fully implemented and that the plan for the destruction of the Syrian arsenal takes place in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

The only possible solution to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic is a political solution. The most heinous crimes cannot remain unpunished. Switzerland reiterates the absolute necessity of sparing no effort to ensure that a new conference be held in Geneva, in order to reach a solution that will put an end to the Syrian tragedy.

Finally, I would like to request that this statement be issued as an official document of the Thirty-Third Meeting of the Executive Council.

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