



OPCW

Executive Council

Thirty-Eighth Meeting
30 January 2014

EC-M-38/NAT.7
30 January 2014
ENGLISH only

IRELAND

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MARY WHELAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
IRELAND AT THE THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered by Greece on behalf of the European Union.

I would like to thank the Director-General for his statement on the present situation with regard to Syrian Chemical Weapons. Since September last the international community has shown resolve in addressing the problems posed by the presence of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic. The role of the OPCW, both through its Technical Secretariat and through its intergovernmental structures, has shown that multilateralism can work. The international community has not been found wanting in providing exceptional and significant support to the Syrian Arab Republic.

The international community has also demonstrated its commitment to the people of the Syrian Arab Republic and to global peace and security by the urgency with which it has addressed this issue. Very significant resources have been quickly mobilised to support the Syrian Arab Republic to meet its obligations. Greece, speaking on behalf of the European Union, has referred to the contribution made by the European Union in terms of equipment, personnel and financial resources. On a national basis Ireland has contributed EUR 200,000 to the trust funds for the Syrian Arab Republic.

However, we are concerned that the momentum built up last autumn could be lost. The deadline for the complete removal of all Priority 1 chemicals of 31 December was missed. There has been, albeit limited, progress made in the four weeks since. It is in this context that we must be concerned that the date of 5 February, set for the removal of all Priority 2 chemicals from the Syrian Arab Republic, could also be missed.

In recent weeks we have seen the statements from United Nations Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon and the Director-General of the OPCW, calling for progress in the shipment of the chemical agents to the port of Latakia. In his report the Director-General notes that “they both agreed that it was necessary for the removal process to pick up pace.” It has been clearly stated that all of the necessary resources and equipment are in place in the Syrian Arab Republic to start moving the chemical agents.

My delegation joins others in calling upon the Syrian authorities to begin regular and sustained transfers of chemical agents to the port of Latakia so they can be removed from the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic and destroyed. The deadlines set down by this Council must be respected without further delay. The international community has clearly shown its



commitment to assisting the Syrian Arab Republic in destroying its chemical weapon stockpiles. It now falls to the Syrian authorities to meet their obligations and to fully respect the decisions taken by the Executive Council.

I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session of the Executive Council.

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