



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Thirty-Ninth Meeting  
21 and 25 February 2014

EC-M-39/NAT.7  
21 February 2014  
ENGLISH only

**AUSTRIA**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR WERNER DRUML  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRIA TO THE OPCW AT THE  
THIRTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairman,

At the outset, Austria would like to commend the Director-General, the Technical Secretariat and the OPCW-UN Joint Mission for their outstanding work. In the past six months they have, with important international support from States Parties and the European Union, played very professionally their part to implement the important decisions by the United Nations Security Council and this body.

The statement by the European Union and its 28 Member States concerning the ongoing delays rightly expresses the deep and growing concern about the slow pace of the removal process of chemical weapons materials from the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Austria would like to join the great number of States Parties in calling upon the Syrian Arab Republic to comply with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2118 (2013) as well as all the relevant OPCW Executive Council decisions, so that the destruction deadlines can be met.

We welcome the efforts made by the Technical Secretariat's Operational Planning Group to expedite the removal process, which under current circumstances is not only absolutely necessary, but also technically and logistically possible. The Director-General gave us this morning an important update on the current situation, on the steps to be taken and the feasibility to assure that the destruction deadlines are being met. And as was underlined by the Chair of the Security Council on 6 February 2014, the Syrian Arab Republic has—thanks to substantial international support—sufficient material and equipment necessary to ensure the expeditious removal of chemical weapons material within the agreed timelines.

We also share the concern expressed as to the physical destruction of production facilities, which is also subject to a compulsory target date.

The implementation of the mentioned resolutions, which have been initiated by the Russian Federation and the United States of America, is not only necessary, but still feasible. We do expect that substantial progress will be made before the beginning of the forthcoming regular Executive Council.



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I request that this statement be treated as an official document of this session.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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