



OPCW

Executive Council

Thirty-Ninth Meeting
21 and 25 February 2014

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ENGLISH only

GERMANY

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR EBERHARD SCHANZE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GERMANY TO THE OPCW
AT THE THIRTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

Germany fully aligns itself with the statement made by Ambassador Angelatou on behalf of the European Union.

Furthermore, I would like to underline some aspects which are of specific importance to us and surely also to many other members of the Council:

1. Based on the decision of this Council on 27 September 2013 and United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) of the same date, a detailed plan for destruction of chemical weapons and chemical weapons production facilities has been worked out unanimously between the Council and the Syrian Arab Republic. It was detailed in special meetings on the Syrian Arab Republic in November and December 2013.
2. Initially, the Syrian Arab Republic cooperated with the OPCW in a very positive manner: the Syrian Arab Republic submitted its declarations on time, it enabled the inspections to be carried out and it rendered inoperable the chemical weapons production facilities.
3. However, it must be noted with regret that, since then, timelines set out in the Council decisions have not been met by the Syrian authorities:
 - (a) The timelines regarding the removal of chemical weapons and their precursors have not been met.
 - (b) By 15 December 2013 the first chemical weapons production facilities should have been destroyed, and the remaining ones by 15 March 2014. None of them has been physically destroyed so far. Furthermore, the Syrian Government still insists on only “inactivating” these facilities instead of physically destroying them. To be very clear: “inactivating” does not meet the requirements of the Convention.
4. The recent proposal of the Syrian Government to ship all chemical weapons material to the port of Latakia within 100 days from the end of February 2014 onwards would make it practically impossible to complete the destruction of the Syrian chemical



weapons by 30 June 2014, the deadline established by United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) and the Council decision of the same date.

5. The deadline of 30 June 2014 for completing destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons was jointly set by this Council and the United Nations Security Council. Anyone who wants to change it or let it slip, touches upon the United Nations Security Council decision which is binding for all member states, according to Article 25 of the Charter.
6. The deadline of 30 June 2014 for completing destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons can still be met. The OPCW-UN Joint Mission worked out a detailed plan that enables the Syrian Arab Republic to fulfil its obligations under both United Nations Security Council Resolution 2118 and the decisions of this Council. We call upon the Syrian Arab Republic to accept this plan, and to abide by it in order to demonstrate its full adherence to the relevant decisions.
7. As speedy destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons in conformity with the relevant decisions is in our joint interest as guardians of the Chemical Weapons Convention, this Council should unequivocally and fully endorse the plan presented by the OPCW-UN Joint Mission.
8. Against this background Germany underlines the requests made by the European Union statement.
9. I request that this statement be registered as an official document of the meeting.

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