



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

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**TURKEY**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SADIK ARSLAN  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TO THE OPCW  
AT THE FORTIETH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Allow me first to thank Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü for his briefing today.

Briefly, I would like to register, once again, Turkey's deep concern and disappointment with the slow pace of the removal of the chemical weapons out of Syria.

On previous occasions, Turkey made it clear that the agreed timelines should be met without delay and without conditions.

It has been confirmed by the OPCW-UN Joint Mission that Syria has the necessary means and resources to complete the removal of the chemical weapons.

Having said that, despite all the efforts of the Joint Mission, yet another deadline, the 13 April deadline—the date by when Syria promises to have all the chemicals removed out of the country—will obviously be missed.

Probably, and unfortunately, this will also be the case for the 27 April deadline put forward by Syria *vis-à-vis* the chemicals stored in the inaccessible facilities.

We still expect the Syrian side to fulfil its obligations in an expeditious manner. These obligations include the physical destruction of 12 chemical weapons production facilities.

The stakes are high. Therefore, these obligations need to be met without further excuses and without further delays.

I would like to request that this statement be treated as an official document of this session of the Executive Council and be posted on the external server as well as the website.

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