



OPCW

Executive Council

Fortieth Meeting
28 March, 11 April and 29 April 2014

EC-M-40/NAT.
29 April 2014
ENGLISH only

TURKEY

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

Let me first express my gratitude to Director-General Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü for his extensive briefing today.

Despite the progress made in the removal of the chemical weapons outside the country, Syria has not fulfilled its obligation with regard to the complete removal of its stockpile within previously set deadlines.

We deem this as a clear breach of the Executive Council decisions.

Furthermore, I also would like to underscore the fact that Turkey shares the serious concerns on the reports that the Assad regime is still employing chemicals as a weapon in the ongoing civil war inside the country.

Obviously, these incidents do not constitute exceptional cases. Indications point out that chemicals have been used several times in several places systemically and extensively in the course of this month.

We believe that the international community and the OPCW cannot remain indifferent to these reports.

In this regard, we very much welcome and support the Director-General's appeal to Syria to dispatch a fact-finding mission to this country with a view to investigating these incidents. We urge Syria to cooperate fully with the team of the Technical Secretariat to conduct a thorough investigation in Syria.

Our mission will very much appreciate it if the States Parties could be informed on the results of the fact-finding mission in a timely manner.

I would like to request that this statement be circulated 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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