



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Fortieth Meeting  
28 March, 11 and 29 April 2014

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ENGLISH only

**IRAN**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN  
TO THE OPCW AT THE  
FORTIETH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

I would like to welcome you back, Ambassador Olexandr Horin of Ukraine, as the Chairperson of the Executive Council and express my delegation's confidence in your able leadership to steer this meeting of the Council to a successful conclusion.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Director-General Üzümcü for his informative briefing provided to the Council on the latest developments and progress made on elimination and destruction of Syrian chemical weapons.

Due to updated information provided by the distinguished Director-General, the pace of removal operations was significant in recent days so progress that has been achieved on the removal of chemicals out of the Syrian Arab Republic has been brought to a crucial stage. Now the chemicals are available to be destroyed in a timely manner under verification of the OPCW in order to meet the deadline of 30 June. We are pretty close to the final step of this unprecedented process.

All of us are on the verge of taking another step forward for realisation of a world free of chemical weapons. As a principal policy, the Islamic Republic of Iran firmly believes in the total elimination of all categories of weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons. According to provisions of the Convention the ultimate goal should be the elimination of all existing chemical weapons stockpiles.

We are of the view that the Syrian Arab Republic while under a very difficult security situation, has fully committed to meet its obligations through cooperation, goodwill and transparency with a view to implementing the decisions of the Executive Council and provisions of the Convention. My delegation once again takes this opportunity to welcome progress that has been achieved and appreciates the constructive and positive approach taken by the Syrian Arab Republic in this process in particular with regard to recent developments in the Syrian Arab Republic which was mentioned by the Director-General in his statement today.

The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its previous position, with respect to destruction of the twelve Syrian chemical weapons production facilities, that it is the right of each State Party to determine the method of destruction for these facilities. Given the technical work done by



the Syrian Arab Republic and the Technical Secretariat, as was mentioned in the Director-General's Statement on 28 March, we have to trust the technical conclusion provided jointly by the Technical Secretariat and Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr Chairperson,

In conclusion, I would like to request that this statement to be issued as an official document of the Fortieth Meeting of the Executive Council.

Thank you

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