



OPCW

Executive Council

Forty-First Meeting
22 May 2014

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ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR ALIREZA JAHANGIRI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
TO THE OPCW AT THE FORTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, H.E. Ambassador Álvaro Marcelo Moerzinger of Uruguay on assuming the chairmanship of the Executive Council and also congratulating the Vice-Chairs and new elected members of the Council. We look forward to working closely with you in ensuring that the Council is able to carry out its functions under your chairmanship. We are confident that you will be able to steer the deliberations of this meeting of the Council to a successful conclusion and I assure you of the full cooperation of my delegation.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Ambassador Olexander Horin of Ukraine for his great efforts during his chairmanship under such difficult circumstances.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to Director-General Üzümcü for his briefing provided to the Council on the progress made for the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons, which obviously showed us where we are standing now, and what significant progress was achieved on the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons, and the important role that the Syrian Arab Republic played in this unprecedented process.

With regard to the Fact-Finding Mission team already dispatched to Damascus, the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes the positive and timely cooperation of the Syrian Arab Republic with the Director-General, and is of the view that the team should carry out its mandate impartially, independently and technically according to its precise mandate. We are looking forward to receiving the team's findings. Any political pressure to impact the team's activities and conclusions is not acceptable and shall be entirely prevented. Cooperation of all parties and countries, which have contact with and influence on the armed terrorist groups, is essential in this matter and also for the removal of the remaining chemicals in Site 2 aimed at starting destruction operations in host States Parties as soon as possible.

On destruction of twelve chemical production facilities, given the importance of technical aspects of the matter, we support technical discussions, as was mentioned in the briefing of the Director-General, between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Technical Secretariat and believe that this issue should be dealt with according to the provisions of the Convention and



the Verification Annex which preserves the right of the concerned State Party to determine the method of destruction of these facilities based on its own technical assessments and evaluations.

We firmly believe that politics shall not prevent us from commending the determination, transparency, and what has been already done by the Syrian Arab Republic under a very difficult security situation and challenging conditions.

We also believe endangering the whole process - especially while just a few steps remain to be taken - through politicising the technical issues and seeking political agenda, will be blamed by the international community and in the end all of us will be the big losers of this unforgivable diversion.

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

Thank you.

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