



OPCW

Executive Council

Forty-Second Meeting
17 June 2014

EC-M-42/NAT.3
17 June 2014
ENGLISH only

NEW ZEALAND

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF NEW ZEALAND TO THE OPCW
AT THE FORTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Thank you Mr Chairman. Thank you to the Director-General and the Special Coordinator of the OPCW-UN Joint Mission for the updates they have provided. New Zealand wishes to support previous speakers in encouraging the Syrian Arab Republic to meet its obligations. In taking the floor, I have the honour to speak also on behalf of Canada, which aligns itself with New Zealand's statement.

We continue to urge the Syrian Arab Republic to find a way to transport the declared chemicals that remain at Site 2 to the port at Latakia, so that all declared chemicals are removed from Syrian territory and the Joint Mission can deal with other pressing issues in the elimination of the Syrian Arab Republic's chemical weapons programme.

We continue to be frustrated by the lack of movement on the destruction of the Syrian Arab Republic's chemical weapons production facilities. We understand that proposed methodologies have been agreed for destruction of the seven hangars, and technical discussions have taken place to compile all available information regarding the destruction of facilities in tunnels. Have these discussions shown the Executive Council the way forward on this issue? We want to see decisions taken and progress made.

We look forward to hearing from the Technical Secretariat team that is working with the Syrians on gaps and discrepancies in the Arab Syrian Republic's declaration of its chemical weapons programme. It is essential that the Syrian Arab Republic provides the substantive evidence and documentation that is needed to respond to these concerns, in order to build confidence in the complete disclosure of the Syrian Arab Republic's chemical weapons programme in accordance with OPCW declaration requirements and United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013).

Finally, we welcome the summary report from the Fact-Finding Mission team investigating the alleged use of chlorine on its return from the Syrian Arab Republic, and the Director-General's decision for the Fact-Finding Mission to continue its work. Reports of renewed use of chemicals weapons are a very serious concern. We were also concerned by the serious security incident that befell the team on 27 May, and we welcome the Director-General's undertaking to conduct a review into this incident. We are very conscious that OPCW personnel remain in the Joint Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic. A lessons-learned exercise would also play an important part in ensuring that, to the extent possible, Technical



EC-M-42/NAT.3

page 2

Secretariat staff are not put in harm's way while carrying out their important tasks in eliminating the Syrian Arab Republic's chemical weapons programme.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

--- 0 ---