



OPCW

Executive Council

Forty-Second Meeting
17 June 2014

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CROATIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. VESELA MRĐEN KORAC
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE FORTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

Since this is the first time Croatia takes the floor since joining the Executive Council in May, let me start by welcoming you as the new Chairman of the Council. The Delegation of Croatia pledges its full support to you in your chairmanship of the Council at this important time in the history of the Organisation.

The Croatian delegation would like to express its support and appreciation to the OPCW-UN Joint Mission and its staff in their efforts for a complete destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons programme.

Croatia fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. In addition Croatia would like to highlight that we regret the delays by the Syrian Government in respecting mutually agreed deadlines for the complete destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons programme. This causes a chain of consequences with both financial and security implications.

We urge the Syrian Arab Republic to immediately take all possible actions in order to finish the job in the country, including the transport of the remaining chemical materials, and finding alternative ways if needed before the deadline in regard to the destruction of twelve chemical weapons production facilities. The Croatian delegation expresses its support to the efforts and plans of the Director-General and Technical Secretariat in starting with necessary preparation activities and looking forward to the respective decision to be adopted as soon as possible.

Croatia strongly condemns the attack on the OPCW inspectors on 27 May while carrying out their latest mission. The safety of the inspectors must remain an absolute priority in order to keep the credibility and effectiveness of the Fact-Finding Mission.

We look forward to new advancements in all of the above before the deadline of 30 June.

I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this meeting. Thank you.

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