



Statement by
Ambassador Piragibe S. Tarragô,
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the OPCW,
at the 44th Meeting of the Executive Council
The Hague, 28 August 2014

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to assure you of the cooperation of my delegation for a successful meeting on the Syrian programme and thank the Director-General for his comprehensive report.

After months deliberating in this Council about the dismantlement of the Syria's chemical weapons, the OPCW has achieved the completion of the removal of the stockpiles of chemical weapons and is on the verge of attaining their destruction. We are now coming to the point where we will have to decide on the next steps to ensure that the Syrian Arab Republic keeps itself into full conformity with the rules of the Chemical Weapons Convention. In our view, it means to address the particular issue of the destruction of the production facilities.

We should congratulate ourselves for having adopted a landmark Decision for the demolition of the twelve Chemical Weapons Production Facilities. In particular, we should pay tribute to the efforts deployed by the delegations of the Syrian Arab Republic, the Russian Federation, the United States, the Director-General and his dedicated staff. In the case of the tunnels, we are satisfied with the approach followed; firstly by determining their extension, and then setting up guidelines and conditions to monitor the closed-down areas.

These *ad hoc* instruments and diversified attributions may have been appropriate in their time, but since the removal of Syria's chemical weapons has been completed, there is little or no need for such large and complex apparatus. In fact, it is time to phase it out.

I would start by suggesting the broadening of the reporting span. The fortnight briefings coupled with the monthly reports, for example, have grown redundant. They overwhelm both the Secretariat and State Parties alike. In reducing the number of briefings and reports we would make a more efficient use of the resources of this Organization.

The frequency of our meetings also deserves further consideration. More often than not, we have gathered in a decision-making format, even when no decision is expected, or when we could only receive an oral report, for the sake of transparency. Of course, Council members should continue to have the opportunity to monitor the remaining activities in the Syrian programme. But, as we have made considerable progress, perhaps we could make wiser use of our limited time and reduce the number of dedicated meetings to the subject. We believe that we can continue to monitor the programme in a more focused manner, and hold Syria accountable for its implementation without the monthly meetings we have thus far had.

I would ask that this statement be included in the official records of this meeting.

Thank you.