



OPCW

Executive Council

Forty-Fourth Meeting
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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-FOURTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

At the outset, I would like to extend my gratitude to the Director-General Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü and Mrs Kaag, the Special Coordinator of the OPCW-UN Joint Mission for their informative briefing to the Council on the progress made on different aspects of the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme.

We welcome the progress achieved on elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme and do believe that the achieved progress in this very important agenda of the Organisation emanated from determination and the full commitment of the Syrian Arab Republic, joint endeavours of the international community, professional efforts of the Director-General and the staff of the Technical Secretariat. In this regard, common understanding of the situation among delegations here in The Hague, played a crucial role. Continuation of this constructive approach would be a milestone for the remaining steps and lasting completion of the whole process.

After the successful removal of all chemicals from the Syrian Arab Republic, the destruction of these chemicals in commercial facilities is now ongoing and while noting the steps have been taken in that field, we are of the view that the destruction of these chemicals should be fully completed as soon as possible.

With regard to the issue on Syria, for a year or more, starting from the Thirty-Second Meeting of the Executive Council on March 2013, we held very extensive discussions, numerous meetings, sessions and informal consultations. Now we are at a stage that indicates that the main parts of the Syrian chemical weapons have been eliminated and relevant capability and infrastructure of a possessor State Party has been demolished. Therefore, it is high time to shift to ordinary mode on this issue and shift our focus and time to other important issues of our work; needless to say, to the importance of the elimination of the existing chemical weapons stockpiles and the ongoing efforts with other possessor States Parties which Syria, as a State Party to the Convention, shall be included in and dealt with in the same mode.

On the issue of continuous cooperation between the OPCW and United Nations after 30 September, while appreciating the impartial and dedicated efforts of Mrs Kaag, the Special Coordinator of the Joint Mission, we are of the view that the independent nature of



the Organisation and its professional and technical functions, shall be fully preserved in any kind of new cooperation with the United Nations. We are looking forward to be informed on contents and aspects of a new phase of this cooperation. We are of the view that the new arrangements in both aspects of technical and general fields shall be time-bound and very relevant to the issue of destruction of production facilities inside the Syrian Arab Republic.

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

Thank you.

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