



## **OPCW Executive Council Meeting 44 26 September 2014**

### **Statement by New Zealand**

Thank you Mr Chairman.

New Zealand was concerned to read the contents of the second report of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria. As we have heard, the report concluded that there is "compelling confirmation" that chlorine was "used as a weapon, systematically and repeatedly", in the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic earlier this year.

This confirmation of renewed use of chemicals weapons in Syria is of serious concern.

The evidence also strongly suggests that, in contravention of the Chemical Weapons Convention and United Nations Security Council Resolution 2118, responsibility for the attacks lies with the government of the Syrian Arab Republic.

New Zealand is deeply disturbed by this news. We join others in condemning these actions. The Fact-Finding Mission should continue its important work to investigate the facts surrounding these incidents.

We urge all members of the Executive Council to take action in order to ensure that this kind of atrocity does not happen again and that those responsible are held to account.

Thank you Mr Chairman.