



STATEMENT BY MS. VERÓNICA CREGO

**ALTERNATE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF URUGUAY TO THE OPCW
AT THE 45th. MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr. Chairman,

Uruguay wishes to acknowledge the work of the Fact Finding Mission initiated by the Director General on 29 April 2014 with the aim of establishing facts surrounding the allegations of attacks with chlorine gas in the Syrian Arab Republic. This delegation also wants to extend its gratitude to the Fact Finding Mission for presenting its second report.

Mr. Chairman,

Uruguay wishes to express its deep concern over the findings of the Mission, which states that chemical weapons were used in three locations in the North-East of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Uruguay wishes to reiterate its long-standing principled position towards the existence of weapons of mass destruction, which continues to pose a threat to international peace and security. The use of these weapons is reprehensible and completely contravenes the rules and principles of International Law and in particular the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The Convention, with its unique character of the first multilateral treaty that banned an entire category of weapons of mass destruction, helps to strengthen international peace and security and its full, universal and effective implementation further contributes to this purpose by excluding completely, for the good of all humanity, the possibility of use of chemical weapons .

The decisions adopted by consensus by this Council and the unanimous adoption of Resolution 2118 of the United Nations Security Council , have also come to reaffirm the central role of multilateralism and international legal instruments for the peaceful settlement of disputes.

That is why all States Parties to the Convention must fully and promptly comply with the obligations it imposes , refrain from acts contrary to it and support the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in its implementation activities .

I thank you Mr Chairman, and I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Forty-Fifth Meeting of the Executive Council.