



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

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**TURKEY**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MR SADIK ARSLAN  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TO THE OPCW  
AT THE FORTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

At the outset, allow me to extend our thanks to all of you and to the Director-General for convening this meeting today.

I also wish to thank the United States of America and other supporting States Parties who requested to hold a special session on this particular matter.

Given the grim conclusion of the second report of the Fact-Finding Mission, we deem convening of the Council extremely necessary and crucial.

Furthermore, I would like to express our gratitude to the members of the Fact-Finding Mission for their meticulous work which shed light on atrocities being committed in Syria.

Turkey believes that the Mission should continue its work to investigate recent reports concerning use of chemical weapons in Syria.

We align ourselves with the EU Statement made by the distinguished representative of Italy today.

As we have all gravely noted, in its second report, the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission verified “with a high degree of confidence” that chlorine is used “systemically and repeatedly” in Syria.

Moreover, in line with the findings of the report, it was also clear that barrel bombs containing chlorine were dropped from helicopters, a military means only owned by the regime forces.

Other key-findings of the second report suggest, beyond any reasonable doubt, that the Assad regime used chemicals as a weapon.

In the press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of 14 September 2014, Turkey strongly condemned the use of chlorine in Syria in light of the second report.



It is obvious that the regime's brutality against the Syrian people has gained a new dimension with the recent findings of the Mission.

Our Government also highlighted the fact that the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria has confirmed this crime in its own report.

Obviously, this act proves to be yet another clear breach of both the Chemical Weapons Convention and the United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013).

Turkey believes that we, the States Parties, cannot and shall not remain indifferent to these constant violations of the Convention by one of its member.

Use of chemical weapons by a country, let alone a member of the OPCW, is unacceptable. There should be consequences and any party who uses chemical weapons should be held accountable accordingly.

Therefore, Turkey believes it is high time for the Council to act in the face of this serious crime against humanity.

This is not only crucial for international peace and security, but also for the relevance and credibility of this very Organisation.

Most importantly, inaction in the face of these grave crimes will do injustice to the victims who were gassed to death, or severely suffered, because of the use of chemical weapons including chlorine.

On the other hand, we categorically deny the allegations made by the representative of the Syrian regime about a respectable Turkish company. This is yet another bizarre and hopeless attempt to distract the work of the Council from the atrocities the regime commits against the Syrian people.

Turkey strongly opposes the attempts to question the independence and partiality of the Fact-Finding Mission that have had States Parties' full support.

I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session of the Executive Council and be posted on the external server as well as the website.

Thank you Mr Chairman.

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