



OPCW

Executive Council

Forty-Fifth Meeting
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POLAND

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR JAN BORKOWSKI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF POLAND TO THE OPCW
AT THE FORTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson, Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Poland fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

We will soon mark the centenary of a massive use of toxic chemicals as chemical weapons. Despite their complete prohibition these horrible weapons are still killing, injuring and terrorising people, as was confirmed by the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) in the Syrian Arab Republic.

The use of chemical weapons undermines the international system and the international norm prohibiting the use of chemical weapons. It also raises questions about the credibility of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the OPCW, especially in the context of the successful elimination of all declared Syrian chemical weapon stockpiles.

The FFM also confirmed the existence of new victims of chemical weapons. As an international community we have the responsibility to act and consider all means of extending necessary aid to the injured people using the tools at our disposal.

Therefore, the OPCW as a global watchdog of chemical weapons prohibition should condemn the use of chemical weapons without conditions. That is why Poland supported the view that the Executive Council has to address this issue at its earliest opportunity.

Poland reaffirms its support for the Director-General to continue the investigation carried out by the Fact-Finding Mission. We deem it necessary to examine also latest allegations pointing out the possible use of toxic chemicals in the Syrian Arab Republic. This subject should be kept on the agenda of future meetings of the Executive Council until all cases are clarified.

The OPCW should actively deal with all the cases when toxic chemicals are used for prohibited purposes and enhance chemical security. It is of the utmost importance to expedite the implementation of conclusions of the Third Review Conference to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons and enhance the role of the OPCW as a global agency to reduce the chemical threat.



I would like to use this opportunity to briefly touch upon the subject of the international assistance for the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons production facilities. In response to the request by the Technical Secretariat it is my pleasure to announce that the Government of Poland decided to allow the use of Polish contribution to the Syria Trust Fund for the Destruction of Chemical Weapons for the purpose of financing the destruction of the declared chemical weapons production facilities in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr Chairperson,

I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session.

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