



OPCW

Executive Council

Forty-Fifth Meeting
26 September 2014

EC-M-45/NAT.14
26 September 2014
ENGLISH only

LITHUANIA

**STATEMENT BY MR ERNESTAS GRABAŽIS
ALTERNATE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LITHUANIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE FORTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mrs Chairperson,

We fully align ourselves with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

A couple of weeks ago, on 10 September 2014, we learned from the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission report that there is “compelling confirmation that a toxic chemical was used as a weapon, systemically and repeatedly” in Syrian villages. Furthermore, the report leaves no doubt that the barrel bombs containing chlorine were dropped by helicopters. This caused deaths and severe injuries to hundreds.

Everyone in this room recognises these chemical attacks as an obvious breach of the universal norms and principles of international public law and, needless to remind, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the OPCW Executive Council decision of 27 September 2013, and United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013).

There is no room for justification or reservations. It is just not enough to express our grave and deep concern. Here in this room it is high time and the place to name the perpetrator.

We are very disappointed that anyone in this room would have doubts as to whether these killer helicopters belonged to the Syrian regime. We do not have any.

Today during the Council’s meeting, we have heard the desperate attempts of the perpetrator to accuse its victims of taking sides and their partiality. Apparently, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic is looking for objectivity among the deceased, those killed by its own barbaric actions. Such a poor assessment of the Fact-Finding Mission report by this particular State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention is totally unacceptable.

We urge the Executive Council to exercise its explicit powers to deter and prevent the Syrian Arab Republic's use of chemical weapons and hold the Syrian Arab Republic fully accountable to its commitments under the Chemical Weapons Convention and the requirements of United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013). We thank and strongly support the Director-General's commitment to go on with the Fact-Finding Mission investigation on these continued inhumane assaults



Thank you, Mrs Chairperson.

We would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this meeting of the Executive Council and published on the OPCW external server and public website.

--- 0 ---