



OPCW

Executive Council

Forty-Fifth Meeting
26 September 2014

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ENGLISH and FRENCH only

SWITZERLAND

**STATEMENT BY MR PHILIPPE BRANDT
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SWITZERLAND TO THE OPCW
AT THE FORTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 3 "SECOND REPORT OF THE OPCW FACT-FINDING
MISSION IN SYRIA CONTAINING ITS KEY FINDINGS
(S/1212/2014, DATED 10 SEPTEMBER 2014)"**

Mr Chairperson,

The Swiss delegation has taken note of the second report of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission. Switzerland wishes to express its deep concern about the findings contained therein, that is the compelling confirmation that a toxic chemical was used – in this case chlorine – systematically and repeatedly in the Syrian Arab Republic.

This constitutes a flagrant and totally unacceptable violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) as well as International Humanitarian Law. Furthermore, new allegations regarding the use of chemical weapons under similar circumstances have emerged in the last few weeks. It is essential to prevent further abuse and to guarantee that these serious crimes do not go unpunished.

Consequently, Switzerland encourages the Director-General to make every effort to ascertain that the Fact-Finding Mission continues its work fully investigating the attacks committed on the Syrian Arab Republic's territory. Moreover, documentation of these obnoxious acts will be required to bring those responsible to justice, if necessary before the International Criminal Court. We urge the Syrian authorities to fully comply with each and every provision of the Convention and to strictly implement them on its territory. Finally, we call upon the Executive Council to assume their responsibilities and to adopt all necessary measures to avoid recurrence of such atrocities.

To conclude, I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this Executive Council meeting.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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