



OPCW Executive Council Meeting 46
19 November 2014

Statement by New Zealand

Thank you Mr Chairman.

This is my first Executive Council meeting since presenting my credentials to the Director-General on 16 October. I am honoured to be representing New Zealand at the OPCW, including as a member of the Executive Council. ^{And} I look forward to working with you all to achieve our shared objective of a world free of chemical weapons.

Today I would like to say a few words about the main business before the Council today – the situation in Syria.

There have been a number of positive developments over the last year ^{with} the removal of the declared chemical weapons stockpile from Syria, the destruction of Category 1 chemical weapons, and the near complete destruction of Category 2 chemical weapons. The operation has been a truly international endeavour. And New Zealand would like to express its appreciation to all State Parties that have contributed, as well as the Director-General, the Technical Secretariat, the Special Coordinator and the OPCW-UN Joint Mission staff.

However, there is still much to be done. ^{Serious} Concerns remain over the completeness of Syria's declarations and continued allegations of the use of chemical weapons - concerns that New Zealand shares. In addition, the planned destruction of Syria's Chemical Weapons Production Facilities has been significantly delayed. It is therefore imperative that the Executive Council continues to monitor the situation closely, ^{and that those responsible are held to account.}

Thank you Mr Chairman.

^{Success}
→ I would also like to join others in wishing Ambassador Midon success in his important tasks and