



OPCW

Executive Council

Forty-Sixth Meeting
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BRAZIL

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR PIRAGIBE S. TARRAGÔ
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BRAZIL TO THE OPCW
AT THE FORTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairman,

First our thanks to you for having convened this meeting. Also our thanks to the Director-General for the detailed information provided to us. Likewise, I wish to congratulate the Director-General on the appointment of Ambassador José Artur Denot Medeiros as Special Adviser on Syria. We can be sure that Ambassador Medeiros will give a personal contribution to the Director-General in carrying out the Syrian programme. I am pleased to see a former colleague and an old friend make available his services to the OPCW and wish him all the success in his new functions.

Much of the dismantling of the Syrian chemical weapons programme has been achieved in an almost record time. But we still have some decisions to take, which we hope, can be done through dialogue and cooperation. It is important that we take into account all the perspectives, with a sense of direction, in a manner amenable to reach agreements that ultimately engage all States Parties

We have walked in steady footsteps to achieve the final shipment from the Syrian Arab Republic, and have shaped a dismantlement programme, which now gives us hope that the Syrian chemical disarmament will be irreversible both at the technical and the political viewpoint. The permanent and direct channel of dialogue with the Syrian authorities, maintained by the Executive Council, has been essential to the good development of the programme. With the adherence of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the adoption of its dismantling programme, we have raised the awareness of the need for the total elimination of chemical weapons in a region where the universalisation of the Convention still encounters formidable obstacles.

There are a number of tasks to be finalised in the Syrian programme. Among them, are the destruction of twelve chemical weapons production facilities and the destruction of the two weapons declared as abandoned. We also need to analyse the new information brought from the revision of the initial declaration. We must do so in a constructive way, so as to build confidence.

Also, in the next few months, we expect the Technical Secretariat can make scientific progress in the investigation of alleged use of chlorine in the Syrian Arab Republic and



provide the clarifications requested by many in this Council. We attach great importance to the outcome of the Fact-Finding Mission, as, given its novelty, it may set a precedent for possible similar operations in the future, which hopefully will not be needed.

Mr Chairman,

With the progress in the Syrian dismantlement programme, we should ponder on whether we should space our meetings according to the emergence of new facts or elements that require our attention.

The success of the most pressing issues of the programme sprang from our joint efforts to engage and negotiate. My delegation hopes that the Executive Council members and the Syrian Arab Republic continue to work together for the ultimate elimination of the chemical threat in that country, an achievement that will be a symbol of cooperation in disarmament and non-proliferation to the benefit of a peaceful, united, stable and prosperous Syrian Arab Republic.

I would ask that this statement be included in the official records of this meeting.

Thank you.

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