

**Statement made by the Ambassador of India at the EC-48 Meeting on
21 January 2015**

Mr. Chairman,

- First of all, I should like to express my delegation's serious concern at the findings of the Fact Finding Mission which concluded with a high degree of confidence that chlorine had been used as a weapon in three villages in Syria.
- We condemn it in the strongest possible terms.
- As we have said in the past, Mr. Chairman, use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, at any time is unacceptable and that whosoever is responsible for the use of chemical weapons should be held accountable. And we say this again.
- Mr. Chairman, we have taken note of the fact that the Third Report of the Fact Finding Mission is not based on any new mission as such but is a more detailed account of the work undertaken by the Fact Finding Mission in the second phase of its work conducted in August-September 2014.
- Further, Mr. Chairman, we have also noted that the report does not attribute blame, as it was not part of its mandate and that differing views have been expressed by States about what the three reports actually amount to and that there are questions relating to methodology.
- We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Director General for his very useful report.
- We are happy that significant progress has been made with respect to the destruction and verification of the 12 Chemical Weapons Production Facilities, the expectation that all 12 Chemical Weapons Production Facilities will be destroyed by end-June 2015, and that the Syrian authorities have continued to extend the necessary cooperation.
- Also, Mr. Chairman, the information provided that destruction activities are nearing completion and the remaining Category 2 chemicals will be destroyed very soon is gratifying.
- We are also happy with the cooperation between the Secretariat and the Syrian authorities on outstanding issues regarding the Syrian declaration. We hope very much that this cooperation will continue.
- We would like to commend the Technical Secretariat for the role it has played and is playing in the entire matter of elimination and destruction of Syria's chemical weapons and Chemical Weapons Production Facilities and also in filling the gaps in Syrian Declaration.
- In the end, Mr. Chairman, we would like to extend our support to the continuation of the work of the Fact Finding Mission to examine all credible allegations of use of chemical weapons, including that provided by the Syrian Arab Republic.