



OPCW

Executive Council

Forty-Eighth Meeting
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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

CHILE

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MARÍA TERESA INFANTE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHILE TO THE OPCW AT THE
FORTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

This latest meeting, which we welcome, allows us to become familiar with the Director-General's report on the progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme, and to take note of the proposal to continue the Fact-Finding Mission.

We note that the process to destroy the 12 chemical weapons production facilities has started, and there have been delays for reasons that we understand. We welcome the efforts that the Technical Secretariat has been making to ensure that these activities begin as soon as possible, and we expect that the process will continue to develop at the expedited pace that the matter and the implementation of the Convention merit.

As regards the third report of the Fact-Finding Mission, we would like to first voice our support for the work of its members and, additionally, for the Technical Secretariat as a whole, as it has had to work under exceptional circumstances and limitations beyond its control.

After reading the Mission's third report, we cannot help but reiterate our concerns about the findings of the investigation team concerning the events that took place in Talmenes, Al Tamanah, and Kafr Zeta, which reveal the use of toxic chemicals as weapons. These conclusions should be viewed in the context of the terms of reference and the legal framework that define the work of this Mission, as well as the factual circumstances in which it was made. We share the opinion of other States Parties stating that the alleged facts are to be condemned and constitute a violation of the Convention, international humanitarian law, and Security Council resolution 2118 (2013). In line with what has been established in that Security Council resolution, our country shares the opinion that those responsible for the attacks should be held accountable for said acts, under the current legal framework.

We support the continuation of the Fact-Finding Mission so that it may count on the support it needs, and we urge all parties to cooperate with the investigation of the alleged facts within the context for which it was created. We believe it is critical to have support of the Syrian Arab Republic and to have all of the parties submitting more information if such is available. In this regard, we welcome the proposal of the Director-General to carry out additional investigations within the framework of the Convention into the facts recently presented by the Syrian Arab Republic, and we are confident that agreements will be reached to move



forward with this task. In this sense, my country is interested in the draft decision submitted by two delegations, which contains constructive elements for progressing on this matter.

With regard to the second report of the Declaration Assessment Team, we welcome the progress achieved in the consultations it is holding with the Syrian authorities toward resolving what have been identified as gaps, inconsistencies, and discrepancies in this country's initial declaration. In doing so, we recognise the assistance that the Syrian Government has provided, including making available a group of selected individuals for interviews and agreeing to allow sample collection at some facilities. It is crucial that the Syrian Arab Republic continues to cooperate in order to overcome the issues that are still unresolved, and all questions that may arise with respect to the complete elimination of its chemical weapons programme. We look forward to receiving the documents that will constitute part of a supplementary declaration on the part of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr Chairperson, we kindly request that this statement be considered an official document of this meeting of the Executive Council and that it be published on the OPCW's website.

Thank you.

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