



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Forty-Ninth Meeting

7 May 2015

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ENGLISH and FRENCH only

**SWITZERLAND**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR URS BREITER  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SWITZERLAND TO THE OPCW  
AT THE FORTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairman,

I will be concise.

The new allegations of use of chemical weapons within the context of the Syrian conflict are extremely worrisome. If we meet here today it is precisely because this concern is shared by the Member States of the OPCW. The establishment of the facts is of paramount importance and represents one of the most essential responsibilities of this Organisation in the framework of the Syrian operations. The renewed allegations since the month of March of this year, in particular, must be investigated and the perpetrators of these terrible acts must be brought to justice.

The security of the OPCW personal is essential. We are convinced that this Organisation, while taking into account the difficult circumstances, will do everything in its power to establish the truth and guarantee the security of its employees on the ground. In the face of this challenge, adding to other pending questions, action has to be taken without delay and this in order to preserve the credibility of the OPCW.

As regards the elimination of Syrian chemical weapons, Switzerland takes good note of the information contained in the Director-General's report and welcomes the fact that the destruction of the chemical weapons facilities is on the right track. We would like once again to congratulate the Director-General as well as the OPCW and United Nations personnel involved in these operations for their efforts.

In order to clear up the doubts that still subsist, we reiterate our hope that the Syrian declaration issue will be as soon as possible and once for all clarified.

Mr Chairman, as your mandate is coming to an end, I would like to join the colleagues who emphasised your excellent leadership, your patience and your vision in the exercise of your function in a particularly difficult period.

At last, I would like to request this statement be circulated as an official document of this Forty-Ninth Meeting of the Executive Council.

Thank you.

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