



Fiftieth Meeting
23 November 2015

EC-M-50/NAT.1
23 November 2015
ENGLISH only

BRAZIL

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

Mr Chairperson,

I would like to thank the Director-General and his staff for preparing for today's meeting, about presentations of the three Fact-Finding Mission's (FFM) reports on alleged incidents in the Syrian Arab Republic.

There is no question that the OPCW has made considerable progress in addressing the question of the use of any form of chemical weapons in the Syrian civil war. However, given the volatility that is inherent to a civil strife, the situation remains very challenging. It seems that further inquiries might be needed in order to enable us to have a full picture of pending chemical incidents.

Having carefully read the three FFM's reports, my delegation is utterly concerned with the findings they convey. In addition to the likelihood of use in Idlib, the findings make us ponder on non-State actors having acquired or sought to acquire chemical weapons capabilities in the North of Syria. It cannot pass unnoticed that the samples collected from villagers of Marea confirmed that at least two people were exposed to sulfur mustard, after attacks attributed to the self-proclaimed Islamic State. Such attacks must be condemned in the strongest terms. They should be the subject of our most attentive consideration as they might also represent an ominous development in the Syrian conflict.

I also think most of us agree that the work carried out by the FFM and the Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) can reinforce each other. My delegation can support the transmittal to the UNSC of the FFM's reports, together with the views of the States Parties in this respect. It is our opinion that the three reports, together with the various perspectives expressed in this Council on any of them, can be a useful entry point for the JIM's activities. We believe the technical reports, and the debates held in this forum, could provide essential elements for the JIM and States Parties to review developments in Syria's dismantlement programme, and ensure that they move in the right direction.

Thank you.

--- 0 ---

