



OPCW

Executive Council

Fifty-First Meeting
24 February 2016

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ENGLISH only

BRAZIL

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

Mr Chairperson,

I would like to thank you and the Director-General for conveying this meeting on the situation in Libya.

It is a matter of concern that the Libyan authorities indicated that they are not in a position to complete the destruction of Category 2 chemical weapons as previously agreed, and that stocks of the said substances are still present in its territory, under the threat of attack by armed groups.

Brazil expresses concern with the security situation in Libya, and especially with the imminent threat of non-State actors taking control of those stocks. Reports that the so-called Islamic State is only several dozens of miles away from a facility storing 700 tonnes of chemical weapons precursors are particularly worrisome.

Given the urgency of the case, we believe that the Executive Council should take extraordinary action within its mandate to prevent a further deterioration of the situation of the chemicals still in Libyan territory. We can support a decision enabling the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat to identify and evaluate all relevant factors to operations to accomplish the destruction of the remaining Libyan chemical weapons. Based on such evaluation, we believe that the Executive Council would be in a position to decide, in its Eighty-First Session, on the best option to be followed in this case.

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