



Statement by  
H.E. Sheikh Mohammed Belal, Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to  
the Netherlands and Permanent Representative to the Organization for the Prohibition  
of Chemical Weapons at the Fifty-Fourth Meeting of the Executive Council

The Hague, Netherlands, 13 April 2017

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Madam Chairperson  
Ambassador Odette Melono,  
Director-General  
Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me first to express our sincere thanks to Madam Chairperson for convening this meeting.

The delegation of Bangladesh wishes to thank the Director-General for providing us an update with the actions taken by the Technical Secretariat since the alleged chemical weapons attack in the morning of 4 April 2017 in the Khan Shaykhun area of southern Idlib in the Syrian Arab Republic.

We are deeply saddened and shocked by the reports of the alleged use of chemical weapons in the Idlib Province of Syrian Arab Republic causing deaths and injuries of innocent civilians including children and women. Bangladesh denounces the chemical attack in Syrian Arab Republic as a violation of international humanitarian law.

No matter how often it is told, my delegation wishes to reiterate it as many times as it is required. The use of chemical weapons anytime, anywhere and under any circumstances is a violation of the Convention and therefore of the international law. As a Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention, Bangladesh, therefore, strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals as a weapon anywhere by anyone and under any circumstances.

Bangladesh expresses the immediate need for resumption of peace talks among the parties of the conflict under the auspices of the UN in Geneva. Bangladesh appeals to both the United States and the Russian Federation, as the co-leads of the International Syria Support Group (ISSG), to work together to end the protracted conflict in Syria. In this context, Bangladesh calls for a peaceful resolution of the Syrian conflict reflecting the aspirations of the people of Syria upholding its national sovereignty, independence, national unity and integrity.

Before I conclude, let us commit once again to achieve our common goal of a world free of chemical weapons.

I ask that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session of the Executive Council.

I thank you, Madam Chairperson.

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