



OPCW

Executive Council

Fifty-Fourth Meeting
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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

GUATEMALA

**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA TO THE OPCW
REGARDING THE VOTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA
AT THE FIFTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam Chairperson,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

On this occasion, I would like to provide an explanation of Guatemala's vote on the draft decision on "Addressing the Situation Around the Alleged Use of Chemical Weapons in the Khan Shaykhun Area of Southern Idlib in the Syrian Arab Republic)", on which the Council just voted.

In spite of the fact that Guatemala shares some of the concerns expressed by the co-authors of the draft decision regarding the lack of balanced geographical representation in the membership of the Fact-Finding Mission and while we welcome the substantive changes made to the draft decision by its co-authors—specifically the addition that would permit the investigation of the potential stockpiling of chemical weapons at the Shayrat airbase and not to establish a new group of experts different from the Fact-Finding Mission of the OPCW—Guatemala finds itself obliged to vote against the draft decision in an effort to support our existing mechanisms, which were established and accepted by the Member States of this Organisation.

It is worth clarifying that Guatemala does not see that the questions it raised yesterday were addressed regarding operative paragraph number 3 of this draft decision. We recall having enquired regarding the role and nature of said paragraph, with respect to the national experts and the maximum number thereof, but at no point did our delegation make any proposal.

Madam Chairperson, as we indicated in our initial statement at this Council, Guatemala wishes to request that the Director-General of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW use every possible capability to address all relevant efforts and urge the Fact-Finding Mission of the OPCW and the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism to carry out exhaustive, scientific, and impartial investigations in such a way as to ensure that this Council will be able to reach a consensus in the near future.

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