



**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Iffat Imran Gardezi,  
Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the OPCW  
at the 55<sup>th</sup> Session of the OPCW Executive Council  
(5 July 2017).**

**Mr. Chair,  
Director General and Distinguished Delegates,**

I wish to thank the Director General and the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) for presenting their respective reports on the use of chemical weapons in Syria.

Pakistan is vehemently opposed to the use of chemical weapons anywhere, by any one under any circumstances. We have repeatedly condemned the use of chemical weapons including sarin gas or any other chemical agent in the Syrian Arab Republic and the resultant killings of and trauma for hundreds of innocent people.

We strongly reiterate that those responsible for such deplorable acts must be identified and held fully accountable. We also believe that initiation of a political process should start in Syria without any further delay.

**Mr. Chair,**

We have taken note of the reports on Om Housh and Khan Shaykhun. We appreciate the hard work of the FFM in preparing these reports. Any further evidence to substantiate their findings would also be welcome.

The report of the FFM proves the use of sarin in Syria. This confirmation is being viewed with grave concern by all of us. The use of sarin or any other chemical agent anywhere by anyone is not only reprehensible but is also in total contravention to the global treaties and international legal norms.

**Mr. Chair,**

We appreciate the role of the Director General and OPCW in elimination of chemical weapons over the last few decades and hope that all states parties to the Convention and other stakeholders would continue to work for complete elimination of chemical weapons. For this, bringing the Non-State-Actors involved in the use of chemical weapons, under the purview of the Convention, would be necessary.

My delegation would like to reiterate that consensus building and the resultant spirit of cooperation, which has been the hall mark of this Technical Organization, should be allowed to prevail in the decision making process of this body.

**Mr. Chair,**

Pakistan, as always, will remain a consistent partner in all endeavours aimed at making this world free of chemical weapons and their re-emergence in anyway, anywhere.

I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this meeting of the Executive Council and posted on its official website as well.

Thank you!

