



OPCW

Executive Council

Fifty-Seventh Meeting
4 April 2018

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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

PANAMA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR WILLYS DELVALLE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA TO THE OPCW
AT THE FIFTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

Recognition of the importance of this august Executive Council has brought the delegation of Panama to this meeting. The Republic of Panama has retained its firm belief in the necessary respect for international law, and, as regards the Chemical Weapons Convention, stresses the latter's objective as a priority for the maintenance of international peace and security.

In this context, full respect for, and compliance with, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the procedures stemming from it, as adopted by all its members. Panama recognises the work being done by the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), as a key collaborator in the service of humanity, and the noble purposes of the Convention, and has listened with close attention to the information which the Director-General has shared with us today.

During the last Executive Council we took note of the information and updates of the delegation of the United Kingdom on the Salisbury incident, and we are grateful for the continuous reports given to us.

Thus, as on other occasions, Panama, as a member of this Executive Council, appreciates the necessary measures being taken by the Organisation in response to the various incidents linked to chemical weapons, with full respect to the Convention and the scope of its mandates, including the technical assistance requested by the United Kingdom in accordance with the information shared by the Director-General today. Panama urges the two parties to engage in a constructive dialogue.

The Republic of Panama has been consistent in the past, and repeats its active condemnation of the use of chemical weapons, in any place and by any person, since such use is clearly and explicitly prohibited by the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Many thanks.

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