

Statement by the Chairperson of the Executive Council following the Council Meeting on 27 March 2013

The Council was informed today by the Director-General that the Secretary-General of the United Nations has conveyed to him a request for the OPCW to support an investigation of alleged use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Director-General also informed the Council that he had found this request to be consistent with paragraph 27 of Part XI of the Verification Annex of the Chemical Weapons Convention and in accordance with Article II(2)(c) of the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which cover alleged use of chemical weapons involving a State not Party or in territory not controlled by a State Party, and that he had authorised the placement of OPCW resources at the disposal of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The Council expressed deep concern that chemical weapons may have been used in the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Council underlined that the use of chemical weapons by anyone under any circumstances would be reprehensible and completely contrary to the legal norms and standards of the international community.

The Council also expressed its unequivocal support of the investigation that has been initiated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations with the support of the OPCW.

The Council called upon all parties in the Syrian Arab Republic to extend their full cooperation to the investigation and to ensure that the investigation team is able to complete the investigation safely and effectively.