



OPCW

Executive Council

Ninety-Fourth Session
7 – 9 July 2020

EC-94/NAT.38
7 July 2020
ENGLISH only

TURKEY

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ŞABAN DIŞLI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TO THE OPCW
AT THE NINETY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Turkey aligns herself with the EU Statement, made by H.E. Gudrun Lingner, Permanent Representative of Germany to the OPCW.

I would like to present the following remarks in my national capacity.

At the outset, I would like to thank H.E. Ambassador Andrea Perugini of Italy for his able and constructive leadership of the Council during his tenure.

I congratulate the new Chairperson, H.E. Ambassador Agustin Vasquez Gomez of El Salvador on his appointment and wish him success in his endeavours. Mr Chairperson, you can rest assured of Turkey's support for the success of this and future sessions.

Turkey's commitment to the Convention remains unwavering. In this respect, I have the pleasure to inform the Council that Turkey has incorporated the Technical Changes to Schedule 1 of the Annex on Chemicals into national legislation, as required by the decisions C-24/DEC.4 and C-24/DEC.5, effective from 7 June 2020.

Turkey has on many occasions underlined the importance of accountability and fighting impunity regarding the perpetrators of chemical weapons use.

In this context, Turkey once again condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the use of chemical weapons in Ltamenah, on three different occasions, in March 2017, by the air force of the Syrian regime, as established by the first report of the OPCW Investigation and Identification Team.

Turkey fully supports and appreciates the work of the OPCW and its Syria missions in establishing the facts on the allegations of chemical weapons use and the perpetrators. Any further attempt by the Syrian regime to challenge the facts through fabricated allegations and distortions are futile.



Perpetrators of those attacks must be held accountable. In this regard, Turkey reiterates its support for the Partnership Against Impunity for the Use of Chemical Weapons.

It is the common duty of all States Parties to uphold the integrity of the Convention and the global ban against the use of chemical weapons in response to the grave violations of the Convention.

Turkey believes the Council must act accordingly and address the persistent violations of the fundamental obligations under the Convention by the Syrian regime.

I kindly request that this statement be considered as an official document and be posted on the OPCW external server and public website.

- - - 0 - - -