



OPCW

Executive Council

Seventy-Eighth Session
17 – 19 March 2015

EC-78/NAT.38
19 March 2015
ENGLISH only

SOUTH AFRICA

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP
DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR VUSI BRUCE KOLOANE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE OPCW
AT THE SEVENTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DECLARATION ASSESSMENT TEAM**

Mr Chairperson,

Without reopening the agenda item on the activities of the Declaration Assessment Team, the African Group would like to make reference to some comments made during yesterday's part of the session of the Executive Council which seemed to link processes and developments during the debate with on-going discussions in informal consultations on international cooperation.

We urge States Parties to avoid linking matters of different areas of implementation of the Convention. We believe issues arising under the Declaration Assessment Team and international cooperation should never be linked.

Given the fact that some African States Parties requested that the agenda item on international cooperation (Article XI: Briefings by the Facilitator and the Technical Secretariat) be deferred for the next regular session of the Executive Council in July 2015, we would want to clarify and re-emphasise that the simple reasons why this request was made are:

1. Firstly, that there are no deserving developments to be reported and be considered by this Executive Council;
2. Secondly, that there are on-going informal consultations amongst States Parties on this issue;
3. Thirdly, that we want to avoid over deliberating an issue when developments do not point to an urgent need.

We would also like to remind the Council that Article XI belongs to, and benefits all States Parties.

And finally Mr Chairperson, we would like to urge States Parties to maintain the technical nature of the Executive Council meetings.



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We would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session.

I thank you.

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