



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Fortieth Meeting  
28 March and 11 April 2014

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28 March 2014  
ENGLISH only

**TURKEY**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR SADIK ARSLAN  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TO THE OPCW  
AT THE FORTIETH-MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

1. The allegations by the Syrian regime concerning Turkey's support to the opposition groups in the recent conflict that took place in Latakia/Kesab in early March are unfounded and not true.
2. Turkey also rejects the claims that it is allowing its territories to be used for the supply of arms to the opposition groups in Syria.
3. Turkey is highly affected by the conflict in Syria. Currently, more than 800,000 Syrians escaping the regime's attacks have taken refuge in Turkey.
4. There have been various violations of our land borders and airspace, most recently on 23 March.
5. Dozens of Turkish people living in the border area with Syria lost their lives as a result of these violations.
6. We have been reciprocating these violations in line with the rules of engagement of the Turkish Defence Forces.
7. The civil war in Syria has been going on for three years. We dismiss the claims that the operation of elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons is being stalled due to the internal conflict as if it has started recently.
8. We are also concerned over the possibility that these weapons could be obtained by the other groups.
9. That is why Turkey has been supporting the process of the elimination of the chemical weapons since its inception.
10. We are of the view that these weapons should be removed outside the country and destroyed eventually in line with the timelines set by the decisions of the OPCW Executive Council as well as the relevant United Nations Security Council resolution without further delay.



11. Turkey appeals to those countries that are in contact with the Syrian regime to urge the regime to complete the operation of the elimination of the chemical weapons in Syria in an expeditious manner.
12. I would like to request that this statement be treated as an official document of this session of the Executive Council.

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