



OPCW

Executive Council

Forty-Fifth Meeting
26 September 2014

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ARABIC and ENGLISH only

QATAR

**STATEMENT BY H.E. KHALID BIN FAHAD AL-KHATER
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF QATAR TO THE OPCW AT THE
FORTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Your Excellency Mr Chairperson,
Your Excellency Mr Director-General,
Distinguished members of delegation,

I should like to extend to H.E. the Director-General and to the Technical Secretariat my profuse thanks for their efforts to keep the States Parties informed regularly of the status of the Syrian chemical demilitarisation and the destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons programme. Likewise, I should like to express my appreciation for the Fact-Finding Mission investigating the facts concerning the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic for its work and efforts made under exceptional and dangerous circumstances.

My delegation wishes also to express its deep concern with respect to the findings contained in the Fact-Finding Mission report, concerning the systematic and repeated attacks with chemical weapons against Syrian villages under the control of the Syrian opposition, and confirming that these attacks caused fatalities and serious casualties.

We endorse the findings contained in the report of the Fact-Finding Mission, confirming the presence of helicopters at the time when chemical weapon bombs were being dropped on Syrian villages. These are capabilities possessed by the Syrian Government, not by the Syrian opposition.

The Executive Council has made commendable efforts and done its utmost to provide the Syrian Arab Republic with the technical support and assistance in implementing its obligations to demilitarise and destroy its chemical weapons programme. The international community has also made unprecedented efforts in providing the Syrian Arab Republic with material and logistical support as well as technical expertise to assist it in complying with the Executive Council decisions and the United Nations Security Council resolutions, including by giving it one opportunity after another to correct the situation within a specified time. But the last report of the Fact-Finding Mission confirms that the Syrian Arab Republic is not complying with the said decisions and resolutions and remains unremitting in its use of chemical weapons.

Therefore, the delegation of my country stresses the importance for the Fact-Finding Mission to intensify its work in order to complete its efforts within a period of time that need not be very long.



The use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic is a very serious and blatant violation of all international treaties and of the Chemical Weapons Convention, as clearly confirmed by the findings of the Fact-Finding Mission, which demonstrates that the Syrian regime is complying neither with the Convention, nor with the decisions of the Executive Council and United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013). Therefore, the delegation of my country solemnly appeals to this august Executive Council to take all necessary and possible measures to prevent and deter any use of chemical weapons against the Syrian people, to hold the Syrian Government fully accountable for such use, and to take action with a view to referring the case - including the report of the Fact-Finding Mission and the findings contained therein - directly to the General Assembly and the United Nations Security Council, pursuant to the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 36, of the Convention, in order to protect the Syrian people from the repeated use of chemical weapons.

We wish that this statement be adopted as an official document of this meeting and posted on the OPCW website.

I thank you.

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