



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Forty-Ninth Meeting  
7 May 2015

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7 May 2015  
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**POLAND**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR JAN BORKOWSKI  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF POLAND TO THE OPCW  
AT THE FORTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson, Director-General, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

Since this is the last meeting of the Executive Council under the able chairmanship of H.E. Dr Alvaro Marcelo Moerzinger, Ambassador of Uruguay, I would like to express the appreciation of Poland for the way he has guided the Council over the last year. Mr Chairperson your experience, as well as your composure, were key in making progress on many issues, including those where a political decision was needed. At the same time Poland welcomes the incoming chairmanship of the Council, H.E. Francesco Azzarello, Ambassador of Italy.

Poland fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Ambassador of Latvia on behalf of the European Union. Although this is the last meeting of the Council with Poland as its member during the 2013-2015 tenure I had not intended to make a statement. Unfortunately, I have been inclined to change my decision because of the truly shocking and highly disturbing allegations about the continued use of chlorine as a weapon in the Syrian Arab Republic. Since March 2015 the Idlib province in the north of Syria has witnessed a few such attacks with the last ones occurring only days ago. This takes place as we mark the centenary of the massive use of chlorine as a chemical weapon during the First World War. Against this background I would like to once again stress the position of Poland that the use of chemical weapons undermines the international system and the international norm prohibiting the use of chemical weapons. It also challenges the credibility of the Convention and the OPCW. Therefore Poland reaffirms its support for the Director-General to continue the investigation carried out by the Fact-Finding Mission. We deem it necessary to examine also the latest allegations pointing at the possible use of toxic chemicals in Syria. This subject should be kept on the agenda of the Executive Council until all circumstances are clarified and perpetrators of the attacks identified and brought to justice. We stress that the safety of the FFM personnel should remain the highest priority during their activities in Syria.

I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this meeting.

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