



OPCW

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TURKEY

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY
AT THE FORTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

I would like to thank Mr Director-General Ambassador Üzümcü and Mr Nihad Alihodzic for their updates today.

As the Executive Council convenes once again to discuss the elimination of chemical weapons in Syria, new reports of use of chlorine by the regime forces against Syrian civilians keep emerging.

These reports clearly suggest that toxic chemicals are constantly and systemically used as a weapon in Syria.

As Turkey has highlighted on previous occasions, the credibility and relevance of the Chemical Weapons Convention is at stake.

The Assad regime is still acting with impunity in Syria by continuous use of chlorine as a weapon against civilians. Moreover, major outstanding questions concerning the regime's declarations amplify our concerns about the possibility of even graver employment of chemical weapons against civilians in this country.

We wonder how long the Executive Council will tolerate this kind of state of affairs.

Needless to say, the work of the Fact-Finding Mission must continue. And importantly, the use of toxic chlorines in this day and age must not be allowed any longer.

Unspeakable and heart-breaking suffering that the Syrian civilians are enduring is real. The implications of inaction in view of unaccountable use of chemicals are considerable.

In this regard, Turkey once again calls upon the Executive Council to act against violations of the Chemical Weapons Convention by the Assad regime.

This is not only paramount to protect the integrity of chemical disarmament regime, but also a moral obligation for all the States Parties who commit themselves to a world free from chemical weapons.



In response to unfortunate remarks concerning Turkey, I would like to highlight that it is quite pathetic that the Assad regime's representative, obviously under so much pressure, who also happens to underline that the work of the OPCW should not be politicised, is desperately doing so.

I would like to state that this kind of attitude will not prevent them, someday, from being held accountable of war crimes and crimes against humanity that the Assad regime is committing on a daily basis in Syria.

I would like to request that this statement be treated as an official document of this session of the Council and be posted on the external server and the website.

Thank you.

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