Check Against Delivery

Statement by
Ms. Tamar Rahamimoff-Honig
Director, Arms Control Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

EOV - CWC
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Mr. Chairperson,

Israel has supported once again resolution L.27.rev.1 entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and Their Destruction".

Israel's long standing support of this resolution is consonant with its signature of the CWC in 1993, its strong support of the goals and purposes of this significant treaty, the close dialogue Israel maintains with the OPCW as well as Israel being party to the 1925 Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare.

Mr. Chairperson,

Israel is concerned by the erosion of the absolute norm against the use of chemical weapons. Regrettably, on our border a new, more lenient, standard has evolved; One which includes Syria's accession to the CWC while retaining residual chemical weapons capabilities, including R&D, the continued use of chlorine as well as other chemicals as means of warfare by the Syrian regime, the development of tactical uses of chemical weapons and the spread of chemical weapons to additional actors and areas.

Under no circumstance can this abhorrent behavior be accepted as the "new normal". Therefore Israel welcomes the condemnation, in the strongest possible terms, of the ongoing and systematic use of chemical weapons in Syria in UNSC resolution 2209, adopted on the 6th of March 2015, the condemnation contained in resolution L.27.rev.1 before us, as well as by the Executive Council of the OPCW, in its 4th February 2015 decision. It is unfortunate that of the 41 members of the EC, one country, namely the Islamic Republic of Iran, chose to object to that resolution.
Mr. Chairperson,

Israel strongly endorses the message contained in the decision of the EC as well as in L.27.rev.1, that those individuals responsible for the use of chemical weapons should be held accountable. In this respect, we welcome the establishment of the Joint Investigation Mechanism (JIM) by UNSCR 2235 and see it as an important step in the attribution of responsibility to those accountable for the use of chemical weapons. Hopefully this will deter future use.

Mr. Chairperson,

It is essential that the international community continues to insist that all outstanding questions regarding the Syrian declarations are resolved and until such time keep the Syrian chemical file open. In this respect, it is of utmost importance that L.27.rev.1 underscores the substantial unresolved issues, including the gaps, inconsistencies, and discrepancies identified by the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW, and stresses the importance of fully verifying that the declaration and related submissions of Syria are accurate and complete.

Thank you