First Committee
71st UN General Assembly

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

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

Explanation of vote after the vote


United Nations, New York
02 November 2016
Mr. Chairperson,

We fully align ourselves with the statement made by the US on behalf of 35 states, including Israel, and would like now to make a few comments in our national capacity.

Mr. Chairperson,

The findings of the JIM reports from August and October show a persistent and worrying pattern of use of chemical weapons by the Syrian regime. These are not isolated and unauthorized incidents but premeditated *modus operandi* on the part of this regime against its own population. The latest JIM report even includes specific findings as to the Syrian army units involved in these heinous crimes. Furthermore, the gaps, inconsistencies and discrepancies identified by the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW, regarding Syria’s declarations, give rise to growing concerns about the residual chemical capabilities of Syria, including R&D, which would allow Syria to rehabilitate its chemical weapons program.

Israel, for its part voted in favor of L.61.rev.1 in light of our long standing support of this resolution and the goals and purposes of the CWC which we signed in 1993. Israel maintains a close dialogue with the OPCW and is party to the 1925 Geneva Protocol.

I thank you.