



FACT SHEET

OPCW – UN JOINT INVESTIGATIVE MECHANISM

Security Council resolutions 2235 (2015) and 2319 (2016)

The Security Council adopted resolution 2235 (2015) on 7 August 2015, condemning “any use of any toxic chemical, such as chlorine, as a weapon in the Syrian Arab Republic”, and expressing determination to identify and hold accountable those responsible for such acts. In this resolution the Security Council established the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) – United Nations (UN) Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) to “identify to the greatest extent feasible” those responsible. The Security Council renewed the JIM’s mandate in resolution 2319 (2016) on 17 November 2016, for a further period of one year.

Composition

The leadership of the JIM was comprised of an independent three-member panel supported by a core staff of professionals. The JIM was headed by an Assistant Secretary-General with overall responsibility, and two Deputies at the D-2 level, responsible for the political and investigation components, respectively. On 27 April 2017, the Secretary-General announced the appointment of Edmond Mulet (Guatemala) as the Head of the JIM. The Leadership Panel was supported by a team of 23 experienced staff with relevant skills and expertise, based in offices in New York, The Hague and Damascus.

Mandate

The JIM’s mandate, as per resolution 2235 (2015) and renewed by resolution 2319 (2016), was “to identify to the greatest extent feasible individuals, entities, groups or governments who were perpetrators, organizers, sponsors or otherwise involved in the use of chemicals as weapons, including chlorine or any other toxic chemical, in the Syrian Arab Republic where the OPCW fact-finding mission determines or has determined that a specific incident in the Syrian Arab Republic involved or likely involved the use of chemicals as weapons...”.

Under resolution 2319 (2016), the JIM was, *inter alia*, encouraged where relevant, to consult appropriate United Nations counter-terrorism and non-proliferation bodies, in particular the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da’esh), and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, in order to exchange information on non-State actor perpetration, organization, sponsorship, or other involvement in use of chemicals as weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic.

The JIM was also invited to engage relevant regional States in pursuit of its mandate, including in order to identify to the greatest extent feasible any individuals, entities or groups associated with ISIL or the Al-Nusrah Front. Relevant Regional States were also encouraged to provide, as appropriate, to the JIM information on non-State actors' access to chemical weapons and their components or efforts by non-State actors to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use chemical weapons and their means of delivery that occur under their jurisdiction.

The JIM submitted four reports to the Security Council during the course of 2016. Its fifth report, the first under resolution 2319 (2016), was submitted on 13 February 2017 and its sixth report was submitted on 28 June 2017. The JIM submitted its seventh and final report on 26 October 2017 in which its Leadership Panel identified ISIL as responsible for the use of sulfur mustard at Umm Hawsh on 15-16 September 2016 and the Syrian Arab Republic as responsible for the use of sarin at Khan Shaykhun on 4 April 2017.

Despite several proposals, the Security Council could not agree upon an extension of the JIM's mandate. Consequently, the JIM ceased functioning on 17 November 2017.

Funding

The JIM was a special political mission funded by the UN General Assembly through the regular budget. This funding covered only the salaries of the Leadership Panel and the staff of the JIM. In addition, the JIM established a Voluntary Trust Fund in September 2015 to cover its material and technical needs.

Head of the JIM

On 1 May 2017, Mr. Edmond Mulet assumed his position as the Head of the independent three-member Leadership Panel of the JIM.

Mr. Mulet most recently served as Chef de Cabinet to the former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon from 2015 to 2016. He was Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations from 2007 to 2010 and again in 2011 through 2015. He also served as Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) between 2006 and 2007 and 2010 and 2011. Prior to that, he was Guatemala's Ambassador to the European Union and the United States. He was a member of Guatemala's National Congress for 12 years, including one term as its President.



In addition to his public service, he worked for many years as a journalist and as a legal counsellor in public institutions and in the private sector. Born in 1951, Mr. Mulet was educated in Guatemala, Canada, United States and Switzerland.