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PRESS RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE : STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MALAYSIA ON THE SITUATION IN SYRIA

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MALAYSIA ON THE SITUATION IN SYRIA

Malaysia condemns in the strongest possible terms the use of chemical weapons, by anyone, under any circumstances. The use of these weapons is abhorrent and an unacceptable violation of international law. Those responsible must be held to account.

Regrettably, in the Syrian context, this has not been possible due to the failure of the United Nations Security Council to agree on a dedicated mechanism for effective accountability for the use of chemical weapons in that country. Malaysia joins the United Nations (U.N.) Secretary General in expressing our disappointment at this failure. Malaysia is deeply concerned that the use of chemical weapons and the air strikes represent an escalation of the conflict in Syria, with dire consequences for the civilian population there, as well as region-wide ramifications.

Malaysia is also deeply concerned over the joint air strikes by the United States, France and the United Kingdom on 14 April 2018. Malaysia has always believed that in dealing with matters of peace and security, all parties must act in a manner consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Both provide for the U.N. Security Council's prime responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

In this regard, Malaysia believes that no military solution can bring an end to the conflict in Syria. We therefore urge all parties involved to find a political solution through dialogue and negotiations. To achieve this, all parties must first demonstrate restraint and avoid any actions that could escalate the conflict further, thus worsening the suffering of the Syrian people.

The U.N. Security Council must rise above acrimony and rancour and instead unite to exercise their responsibility to end the bloodshed as well as to bring about peace and security to that beleaguered country. The international community as a whole must take urgent steps to address the continuing humanitarian crisis that had traumatised the people of Syria. Malaysia stands ready to play its role.

**PUTRAJAYA
15 April 2018**

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