

Statement by Chile at Security Council Meeting on: The situation in the Middle East: Referral of the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court

22 May 2014
(Unofficial Transcript)

We deeply regret that the draft resolution we have just voted on (S/2014/348), which sought to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court for the investigation and subsequent punishment of those responsible, whoever they may be, could not be adopted. On many occasions Chile has joined those calling on the countries that enjoy the right of veto to refrain from using it in situations involving crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide or ethnic cleansing. We believe that the Security Council should have the ability to act in support of the values and principles that are most fundamental for humankind. Chile sponsored the draft resolution in a spirit of openness and in the conviction that it represented a necessary step in obtaining justice for all the victims of the conflict in Syria, without any distinction between the various sides.

Our country is a party to the Rome Statute and, as such, we believe that its integrity must be upheld so as to enable it to be fully implemented and effective in the fight against impunity. The International Criminal Court has shown itself to be the best tool for investigating the acts that have produced the draft resolution that could not be adopted today.