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**NORWAY**

**STATEMENT BY MR THOMAS MOSBERG-STANGEBY  
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DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NORWAY TO THE OPCW  
AT THE SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chair,

Let me congratulate you on your election and welcome you to the Chair of the Executive Council of the OPCW. We have many challenges ahead of us in the next year, and we are certain that you will do your best to lead us to a successful outcome. Rest assured that you can count on Norway’s support in bringing the important work of the Council forward.

As this is the first session in our second year as a member of the Council, let me outline some of Norway’s priorities in the coming year.

Firstly, one of the most important tasks of the Council in the near future will be to start implementation of the decisions taken at the Third Review Conference. In this regard, we thank the Director-General for preparing a matrix document outlining the many actionable items from the report of the Third Review Conference. For Norway it is important that this document is translated into concrete actions, and we encourage the facilitators and vice-chairs to make sure that the relevant items are incorporated into their respective consultations. Norway will place particular emphasis on the follow-up of some specific issues which we consider important, subject to an ongoing assessment by our National Authority.

Secondly, Norway and the other Nordic countries have advocated improving the verification regime through developing the OPCW Central Analytical Database (OCAD). In our view further additions to the OCAD are necessary to allow the OPCW to effectively perform sampling and analysis under the different scenarios envisaged in the Convention. In this regard, it is vital that this Council is mindful of its responsibility to approve relevant proposed additions to keep the OPCW Central Analytical Database updated. We look forward to continuing the constructive dialogue we had with interested delegations during the Third Review Conference about this important issue.

Thirdly, as you will recall, Norway supports the goal of establishing a discussion on the topic of toxic chemicals as weapons for law enforcement, so-called incapacitating chemical agents. While we still regret that no consensus could be reached at the Third Review Conference, we find it positive that the discussion will be continuing with interested States Parties. From our point of view, the use of incapacitating chemical agents poses risks to life and health and is a



potential threat to the prohibition of chemical weapons. In order to amend this anomaly in the Convention, Norway supports greater awareness and transparency with regards to these weapons.

Fourth: Finding ways to retain the knowledge and expertise in relation to chemical disarmament is an important matter which is closely linked to the prevention of re-emergence of chemical weapons. In this regard, we have read the non-paper by the Technical Secretariat on the establishment of an OPCW Knowledge Management Centre with great interest. Norway sees the value in establishing a Knowledge Management Centre, provided it supports the implementation of the Convention, ensures better access by States Parties and others to the available knowledge and expertise, and contributes to a more effective and efficient Technical Secretariat.

Let me also use this opportunity to thank the Director-General for his visit to Norway on 4 June where he had a meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs. He also had a meeting with the Norwegian Defense Research Establishment (FFI) and the Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB), in which they agreed to exchange ideas on a possible event in Norway on education and outreach in 2014.

Mr Chair,

Norway continues to be deeply concerned with the intensified reports of alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria. The use of chemical weapons by any party is not only a violation of international norms and standards; it is also a criminal act with disastrous humanitarian consequences. The international community has a responsibility to do everything to prevent the use of chemical weapons. As was stated by our Minister of Foreign Affairs recently: "The paralysis of the international community sends the message of talk but no action". In this light, we urge the Syrian government to fully cooperate with the United Nations Secretary-General and grant the inspectors unconditional access, so that the United Nations mission can carry out its work in Syria. We welcome the Director-General's full support to the UN investigation.

As signatories to the Chemical Weapons Convention we are all "determined, for the sake of mankind, to exclude completely the possibility of the use of chemical weapons". Simultaneously, the world community expects the OPCW, as the leading repository of knowledge of chemical weapons to remain vigilant in the face of chemical threats. Hence, the Executive Council must take responsibility for actively addressing the new and intensified reports of use of chemical weapons when it is appropriate. Failing to do so can in our view potentially damage the credibility and relevance of the Convention's goals and objectives.

Finally, may I request that this statement be treated as an official document of the Seventy-Third Session of the Executive Council.

Thank you.