



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Thirty-Third Meeting  
27 September and 3 October 2013

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3 October 2013  
ENGLISH only

**NORWAY**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ANNIKEN R. KRUTNES  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NORWAY TO THE OPCW  
AT THE THIRTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

Norway strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons in Syria. We thank Professor Åke Sellstrøm and his team for providing the evidence of the use of these horrendous weapons, and we commend the team for excellent work performed in battlefield conditions.

Syria has decided to accede to the Chemical Weapons Convention, thereby confirming that it is “determined, for the sake of mankind, to exclude completely the possibility of the use of chemical weapons”. It is high time. We strongly urge Syria to live up to its commitments and we expect it to cooperate fully with the procedures being set in place for rapid chemical weapons destruction.

The Executive Council adopted a historic decision on 27 September on the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons. Norway would like to thank Russia and the United States for their tireless diplomatic efforts over the last few weeks.

Let me also commend the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat for the way in which they have stepped up to the challenge. We are aware that the destruction of chemical weapons in Syria is placing a tremendous workload upon them, not least the inspectors and other staff in Syria, who will be working under dangerous circumstances. We cannot honour them enough.

The plan for destruction of Syrian weapons is ambitious, and voluntary contributions from States Parties are needed. Norway will contribute and our capital is urgently assessing how best we can do it.

I request that this statement be included as an official document of the Thirty-Third Meeting of the Executive Council.

Thank you.

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