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DENMARK

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR JENS-OTTO HORSLUND
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF DENMARK TO THE OPCW
AT THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES
PARTIES TO REVIEW THE OPERATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS
CONVENTION**

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Denmark aligns itself fully with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Allow me only to highlight a few points of particular importance to us. However, before I go into substance, let me express our gratitude to you Mr Chairperson, to the Chairperson of the Executive Council, to the Director-General and the all the Secretariat staff and to all those who have taken on special responsibilities in preparing and conducting this Conference. I assure you all of Denmark's full cooperation.

Today, at this review conference, we find ourselves at a crossroad. On the one hand, we have achieved remarkable progress in the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles and on universalising the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter "the Convention"). On the other hand, we have witnessed the return of a menace from the past – use of chemical weapons. We have the choice of resigning ourselves-and humanity-to the consequences of this menace, or to redouble our efforts, even as we are being challenged, toward a world free of chemical weapons.

Recent years have seen repeated use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, in Iraq, in Malaysia and not long ago in Salisbury and Amesbury in the United Kingdom. Denmark strongly condemns all use of chemical weapons, holding those responsible for these crimes to account and preventing all future use of chemical weapons requires firm and swift action. A special session of the Conference of the States Parties was held on 27 June this year to this effect. Denmark stands fully behind the measures adopted by the Conference during that Session. And we welcome the steps taken by the Director-General in implementing them.

The Conference did decide to establish arrangements for identifying those responsible for chemical weapons use in Syria. It also requested the Director-General to strengthen the options available for offering support to States Parties in preventing the use of chemical weapons and responding effectively when use has occurred. As such, the decision serves the



international community as a whole; it also places emphasis on wider technical assistance to States Parties in need. We welcome the Director-Generals report to this conference on these matters. Denmark strongly believes that this is the path we must follow to meet the challenges of today, and of tomorrow.

As a sign of Denmark's enduring commitment to ensure accountability for use of chemical weapons, I am happy to announce a small contribution of 600.000 Danish Kroner or roughly 80,000 euro to the Attribution Team's activities. Hopefully this will help in the implementation of our Conference decision.

While looking to the future we must not forget the past. Denmark wholeheartedly supports the essential work of the Fact-Finding Mission and the Declaration Assessment Team. We must ensure accountability for use and we need full and verifiable disclosure of the Syrian chemical weapons programme.

The recent use of chemical weapons in different regions underlines the need for the OPCW to continue to adapt to a changing security environment. Many issues have been put before the Conference to this effect. Adapting the verification regime to developments in science and technology; ensuring that the Secretariat has the human resources it will need in the future; reinforcing the technical capabilities of the Secretariat; and providing enhanced assistance to States Parties in need, across all areas of the Convention, are but a few. Such measures are needed to enable us to stay one step ahead of those who wish to develop and use chemical weapons, and to keep the OPCW and the Convention relevant.

Against this background, it is not difficult to choose, even if we are at a crossroad. We choose the path of accountability. We chose the path of prevention. We chose the path of 'never again' - the path that will take us to a world free of chemical weapons. I look forward to walking it with all of you.

Thank you Mr. Chairman

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