

Statement by Norway at the 92nd session of the Executive Council of the OPCW

Chair,

Norway aligns with the statement of Ambassador Päivi Kaukoranta on behalf of the European Union.

We would like to make the following additional comments in our national capacity:

Norway supports the Director General's proposed program and budget for 2020. It will enable the organization to continue its work throughout 2020 in an efficient and responsible manner. We urge all members of the Executive Council to support the submission of the draft budget to the Conference of States Parties in November.

Chair,

We are deeply concerned by the continued failure of the Syrian Arab Republic to fulfil its obligations according to the Chemical Weapons Convention. The declarations provided by the Syrian authorities are still insufficient and marred with errors, as repeatedly pointed out by the Declaration and Assessment Team (DAT) of the OPCW. We urge the Syrian Arab Republic to fulfil without any further delay its declaration obligations.

Norway reiterates that those responsible for the use of chemical weapons should be held accountable. The Decision "Addressing the Threat for CW use" adopted last year during the fourth Special Conference of the States Parties is of great importance in this regard. We are pleased to note that the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) of the OPCW is operational, and we

look forward to their reports. We strongly urge the Syrian authorities to cooperate fully with the IIT.

Chair,

We would also like to highlight key efforts being taken to make clear that the aerosolized use of CNS-acting chemicals for law and enforcement purposes is prohibited under the CWC. We thank Australia, Switzerland and the United States of America for this very timely initiative, and we hereby announce that Norway has joined as co-sponsor. We look forward to possible adoption of the proposed decision at the Conference of States Parties in 2020.

Finally, chair, we would like to underline our commitment to transparency and the involvement of civil society in our joint efforts to uphold the CWC. Active participation from a wide range of non-governmental organizations is crucial in this respect. We note with regret that some states parties have raised objections against the participation of a number of NGOs in the upcoming CSP. We do hope that this issue is solved and that all NGOs may participate in the CSP.

Thank you, chair.