

**Statement by Norway at the 93rd session of the Executive Council of the
OPCW**

Chair,

Norway aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, delivered by Ambassador Dubravka Plejic. I will make the following comments in my own national capacity:

Chair,

We remain 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 must be held accountable. The Decision “Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons use”, adopted during the fourth Special Conference of the States Parties in June 2018, is of great importance in this regard. We welcome the fact that the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) is operational. We look forward to its first report, which will represent important progress towards identifying those responsible for the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic.

I would like to express Norway’s full support and confidence in Director General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, and the Technical Secretariat. Norway

commends their professionalism and capacity to implement the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and tasks assigned by the States Parties.

Chair,

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

Thank you, chair.