

**STATEMENT OF DENMARK DELIVERED BY  
H.E. AMBASSADOR JENS-OTTO HORSLUND  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF DENMARK  
93rd SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 10 – 13 March 2020**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Mr. Director-General,

For this session of the Council, I will be brief. Denmark aligns itself fully with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union by Ambassador Dubravka Plejic Markovic of Croatia.

Mr. Chairperson,

Denmark strongly supports the work of the OPCW in bringing about the complete and verifiable destruction of the Syrian Chemical Weapons programme and holding those responsible for use of Chemical Weapons to account. Now more so than ever.

We take note with grave concern that there are still many unresolved issues concerning the Syrian declarations. One can only speculate as to the reasons behind the Syrian regimes continued breach of its obligations. However, the facts are chilling. Denmark stands fully behind the Director-General and his staff in remedying this situation. Denmark urges Syria to cooperate fully with the Declarations Assessment Team without further delays and obfuscations.

Mr. Chairperson,

In the same vein, holding the perpetrators of use of Chemical Weapons in Syria to account is of paramount importance. Much has already been achieved in this respect thanks to the outstanding work of the Fact-Finding Mission, including in documenting the use of Chemical Weapons in Douma. But more remains to be done. I pledge Denmark's full support to the Investigation and Identification Team in implementing the decision of the Fourth Special Session of the Conference in this respect. We look forward to receiving the first report of the IIT. There can be no impunity - or sanctuary - for those responsible for bringing the horrors of use of Chemical Weapons back to life.

Mr. Chairperson,

We have recently witnessed a number of attempts to obscure the facts concerning use of Chemical Weapons in Syria as well as very serious breaches of confidentiality. We must not let such efforts cloud our judgement or lead us astray. The Director General has handled the breach of confidentiality admirably, and we continue to have full confidence in the work of the FFM and the IIT.

In conclusion Mr. Chairperson, let me thank you for your able stewardship of the Council. I wish to also thank the Director General for his tireless efforts and commend the professionalism and dedication of his staff. We must all persevere in the defence of the integrity and credibility of our convention for the sake of future generations – and for the sake of the victims of use of chemical weapons. Past and present. Denmark remains fully committed to doing so.

I thank you Mr. Chairperson, and request that this statement be treated as an official document of this session of the Council