

**SWEDEN****STATEMENT BY MS ANNA WRANGE
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SWEDEN TO THE OPCW
AT THE NINETY-THIRD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. Director-General,
Distinguished Delegates,

Sweden fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union, delivered by Ambassador Plejić Marković of Croatia. I wish to add a few remarks in my national capacity. I would like to start by [joining others in] thanking Ambassador Perugini for his leadership and efforts as Chair of the Executive Council.

I would also like to thank Director-General Ambassador Fernando Arias for providing us with useful guidance through his comprehensive reports to the Council.

Two years have passed since a chemical agent was used against the Skripals in Salisbury and almost two years since the use of a chemical as a weapon, which allegedly took place in Douma.

We must not forget the professional work carried out by the Fact-Finding Mission (hereinafter “the FFM”), under challenging circumstances, in its investigations. Sweden is deeply concerned about the ongoing and persistent attempts to undermine the validity of the FFM’s findings. We commend the Director-General for putting in place an independent investigation into possible breaches of confidentiality.

We thank the Declaration and Assessment Team (hereinafter “the DAT”) for its continued efforts to resolve all outstanding issues regarding the Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme. Sweden urges the Syrian Arab Republic to fully cooperate with the DAT during the upcoming twenty-third round of consultations.

The States Parties to the Convention cannot remain passive when chemical weapons are used. Sweden reiterates its full support for the IIT and looks forward to its upcoming report, which must be considered with full attention.

To take further action on the hostile use of chemicals, we must address the aerosolized use of central nervous system-acting chemicals for law enforcement purposes. Sweden is proud to co-sponsor the draft decision on this important issue, presented by Australia, Switzerland and the United States.



In order for the OPCW to conduct its assigned tasks and effectively handle contingencies involving chemical weapons, proper expertise must be at hand. For Sweden, it remains important that the tenure policy ensures that qualified inspectors with a proven track record are available to the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) at all times.

Furthermore, Sweden appreciates the ongoing work of the Director-General and the Secretariat on gender related issues. The leadership of the Director-General and the senior management team, the support from the gender focal points, and the access to gender training have already proven to have an impact.

However, we remain convinced that further progress can be made. Sweden looks forward to working together with the Secretariat and States Parties to enhance gender mainstreaming and gender balanced representation. On 3 June Sweden together with the Secretariat will organize a workshop on gender issues, and we hope that this workshop will benefit both the Secretariat and States Parties.

Thank you.

I kindly request that this statement be considered an official document of the Ninety-Third Session of the Council and be placed on the public website.

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