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**DENMARK**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR JENS-OTTO HORSLUND  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF DENMARK TO THE OPCW  
AT THE NINETY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,  
Mr Director-General,  
Distinguished delegates,

Denmark aligns itself fully with the statement delivered by Ambassador Gudrun Lingner of Germany on behalf of the European Union and wishes to highlight only a few points.

Denmark extends its congratulations to Ambassador Agustin Vasquez Gomez on his appointment as Chair of the Executive Council. We have full confidence in your stewardship of the Council and you can count on our full cooperation. In the same vein, we commend Ambassador Andrea Perugini for his tireless efforts during the past twelve months.

Denmark wholeheartedly supports the OPCW's efforts in identifying those responsible for the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, as decided by the Conference of the States Parties in June 2018. Any use of chemical weapons is completely unacceptable and those responsible must be held accountable.

In this respect, we note with concern the conclusions in the first report of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT). We remain convinced of the necessity of meaningful action in follow-up to its findings. Denmark strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons by the Syrian Arab Air Force as documented in the report. For such crimes, there can be no impunity.

We call on the Executive Council, and indeed all States Parties, to take appropriate and meaningful action to uphold the Convention and protect its core values. Taking into account the continued breaches of the Convention and in particular the conclusions of the IIT report, a stringent and verifiable regime with clear timelines must be put in place to ensure a return to full compliance for the Syrian Arab Republic.

Denmark has full confidence in the ability, impartiality, and professionalism of the IIT. It is beyond reproach. We commend their sterling efforts in implementing their mandate under very challenging and adverse circumstances and we look forward to receiving future reports.



In closing, Denmark wishes to thank the Director-General and his staff for their invaluable efforts in implementing and protecting the Convention. During these last months, ensuring continued operations has been a major challenge. We are grateful for all the efforts of the Technical Secretariat in this respect.

I thank you Mr Chairperson and request that this statement be treated as an official document.

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