



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Twenty-Fifth Session
20 – 22 April 2021 (Part II)

C-25/NAT.92
20 April 2021
ENGLISH only

NORWAY

**JOINT STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF FORTY-SIX MEMBER STATES
OF THE OPCW DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR BÅRD IVAR SVENDSEN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY TO THE OPCW
AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES
PARTIES UNDER AGENDA ITEM 9(D)**

Mr Chairperson,

I am speaking on behalf of the 46 co-sponsors—Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America—of the draft decision “Addressing the Possession and Use of Chemical Weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic”.

In response to widespread concern about repeated chemical weapons use, in 2018 the Conference of the States Parties met in a special session and adopted a decision directing the Technical Secretariat to put in place arrangements to identify those responsible for chemical weapons use in the Syrian Arab Republic. Pursuant to that decision, the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) was then established by the Technical Secretariat in 2019.

The IIT published its first report on 8 April 2020 and found that there were reasonable grounds to conclude that the Syrian Arab Air Force was responsible for three incidents of chemical weapons use in Ltamenah in March 2017.

Pursuant to the Executive Council decision EC-94/DEC.2 dated 9 July 2020 and in the absence of response from the Syrian Arab Republic to the requests made by the Executive Council, it is now for the Conference of the States Parties, as the principal organ of the Organisation, to act in order to promote the object and purpose of the Convention.

We reiterate our strong conviction that the use of chemical weapons, anywhere, anytime, by anyone, under any circumstances is unacceptable. Repeated use of chemical weapons, as documented by the OPCW, cannot and must not remain unanswered. States Parties must take action, collectively, to uphold the Chemical Weapons Convention.



It is our strong conviction that the draft decision, “Addressing the possession and use of chemical weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic” is a measured response to the current situation which is why we support the said draft decision and call on all States Parties to do so.

I request this statement be issued as an official document of this session of the Conference and posted on the OPCW public website and Extranet.

--- 0 ---