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**STATEMENT OF THE NORDIC STATES TO  
THE SIXTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (EC-M-66)  
(The Hague, 12 December 2024)**

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**Syria's Chemical Weapons programme**

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Mr Chairperson,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Nordic States Parties Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and my own country, Denmark. We align ourselves with the statement made by the EU and would like to make the following remarks.

Mr Chairperson,

We welcome the convocation of this meeting and the communication from the Secretariat on 9 December 2024 reminding Syria of its continued obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We applaud the quick reaction of OPCW in terms of monitoring closely the recent developments in Syria, with special attention to the status of its chemical weapons related sites and other locations of interest. In the present fragile environment, it is of the utmost importance to continue this work and to ensure the security and safety for the chemical weapon stockpiles.

A well-controlled process for verification and destruction should be assured. We must continue to insist on full accountability.

Irrespective of who will take over power in the future, Syria must live up to its obligations under the convention. Syria's international obligations remain unchanged. After the eleven year long process, aiming to ensure an accurate and complete declaration of Syria's chemical weapons stockpiles, the obligations are well-known. The changed circumstances are an opportunity for Syria to make progress.

Let me also use this occasion to say that our thoughts are with the many victims of the Syrian Arab Republic's egregious use of chemical weapons in recent years and their families.

We have continuously expressed our support to the Secretariat for its professional work over the last many years and we reiterate our support and confidence in the Secretariat's future work. You have our full support.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document of this meeting and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you.

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