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**JOINT NORDIC STATEMENT AT THE  
One Hundred and Ninth Session of the Executive Council  
(The Hague, 8 July – 11 July 2025)**

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**AGENDA ITEM 6C – ELIMINATION OF THE SYRIAN CHEMICAL WEAPONS PROGRAMME**

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Mr Chairperson,

The Nordic countries fully align themselves with the European Union statement, and I have the honour to make the following additional remarks on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden, and my own country, Norway.

Mr Chairperson,

The Syrian Arab Republic is undergoing a period of transition under new leadership. Whilst serious challenges remain, recent developments present an opportunity to address past violations and enhance transparency. We commend the Syrian transitional authorities for their close cooperation with the OPCW and the international community. This engagement is a key step toward building confidence and restoring compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The Nordic State Parties welcome the efforts of the Syrian transitional authorities in facilitating the deployments of the Technical Secretariat's teams to Syria, as outlined in EC-109/DG.19. This cooperation is essential for the OPCW's ability to verify declarations and ensure the complete destruction of the Assad-regime's chemical weapons programme. Such efforts are not only vital for justice and accountability – they are critical for maintaining international peace, upholding the global norm against the use of chemical weapons, and eliminating the risks of proliferation.

Over the past decade, the independent and professional work of the OPCW—particularly through the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) and the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT)—has been crucial in providing thoroughly documented evidence of violations of the Chemical Weapons Convention in

Syria. Upholding the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) requires a continued commitment to investigating any alleged use and holding all perpetrators responsible.

We take note of the establishment of The Office of Special Missions (OSM) as a step towards adapting to the current realities in Syria. By consolidating expertise and improving coordination, the OSM can help ensure more focused and effective engagement regarding Syria. At the same time it is crucial that the OPCW maintains the attained knowledge and competence with regard to its attribution mandate. With the OSM now established on the ground in Syria, we look forward to the further reporting on its operations and the cooperation with the interim authorities.

Mr. Chairperson,

The full and verified dismantlement of Syria's chemical weapons programme depends on close cooperation with the OPCW and continued transparency. The Nordic State Parties remain committed to supporting all efforts to uphold the Chemical Weapons Convention and hold all perpetrators to account.

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

Thank you.

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