
**JOINT NORDIC STATEMENT AT THE
One Hundred and Eleventh Session of the Executive Council
(The Hague, 10 March – 13 March 2026)**

**AGENDA ITEM 6 (c) – ELIMINATION OF ANY REMNANTS OF THE ASSAD-ERA CHEMICAL
WEAPONS PROGRAMME**

Mr. Chairperson,

The Nordic States Parties 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, Norway, and my own country Sweden.

Mr. Chairperson,

After more than a decade of lies and obstruction from the Assad regime, the Nordic States Parties welcome the Syrian transitional authorities' commitment to cooperate fully with the OPCW to complete the elimination of Syria's former chemical weapons program, destroy any remaining materials, and ensure accountability for past attacks. Full cooperation with the OPCW is essential to eliminate chemical weapons in Syria once and for all.

Mr. Chairperson,

In a situation as complex as the current one, we recognize that operational challenges may arise in the implementation of agreed procedures. At the same time, adherence to the Convention remains essential. As such, we are concerned by the reported events of 27–29 January 2026 involving the handling of seventy-five Category 3 chemical weapons cylinders in the Aleppo region. These actions were inconsistent with the Convention and with the agreed framework for expedited on-site destruction. We look forward to the Syrian National Authority concluding its internal inquiries promptly and share its findings with the Secretariat and States Parties.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Nordic States Parties welcome the Technical Secretariat's continued deployments to Syria, the Director-General's regular reporting, and the restructuring undertaken to strengthen delivery of the OPCW's mandate, including the integration of the Declaration Assessment Team, the Fact-Finding Mission and the Investigation and Identification Team within the Office of Special Missions. We commend the dedicated and professional work of OPCW staff, whose efforts have been essential in documenting and attributing chemical weapons use in Syria. To sustain this progress, it is imperative that the OPCW is provided with the necessary resources to fulfil its Syria mandate effectively.

We encourage swift implementation of the next steps to counter the considerable proliferation risks and to pave the way for the eventual restoration of Syria's rights and privileges under the Convention.

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.
