
**JOINT NORDIC STATEMENT AT THE
One Hundred and Eight Session of the Executive Council
(The Hague, 4 March – 7 March 2025)**

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

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 Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and my own country, Denmark.

Mr Chairperson,

The Syrian Arab Republic is entering a new phase under a new leadership, presenting an opportunity to address past violations and enhance transparency. It is encouraging that the interim government is on board and engaging in the process. This is also clearly showcased by the participation of the Minister of foreign affairs of Syria in our meeting today and by the appointment of a focal point, Mr. Olabi.

Allow me also, Mr Chairperson, to express our gratitude to Qatar and its role in facilitating the dialogue with OPCW.

The Nordic States Parties welcome Director-General Arias' visit to Syria and the progress made thus far, as outlined in document EC-108/DG.10, the Director-General's letter of 21 February 2025 and the note from the Technical Secretariat of 26 February 2025. Continued cooperation with the OPCW is essential to arrive at a complete and accurate declarations pursuant to the Convention, as well as to safely dispose of any remaining chemical weapons and preventing future threats. We remain

committed to supporting all efforts to uphold the Chemical Weapons Convention and hold all perpetrators to account.

Mr Chairperson,

Over the last decade, the OPCW — particularly through the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) and the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) — has played a vital role in documenting violations of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Their independent and professional work has provided thoroughly documented evidence in order to support international law and to the global efforts to ensure accountability. This process remains essential for enabling justice for victims and for strengthening the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) regime.

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.
