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NORWAY

**STATEMENT BY MR THOMAS MOSBERG-STANGEBY
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE OPCW
REGARDING THE SITUATION IN SYRIA**

First of all, let me thank the Director-General for his informative briefing.

Norway fully supports the Director-General's efforts in providing assistance to the United Nations Secretary-General's investigation on possible use of chemical weapons in Syria. We appreciate how he has kept us informed regarding these efforts.

We deeply regret that modalities for such a mission have not yet been finalised. However, the fact that Syrian authorities have invited UN inspector Åke Sellström, as well as UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms Angela Kane, to Damascus is a small positive step.

We continue to urge the Syrian authorities to grant unconditional and immediate access, so that UN inspectors supported by the OPCW can carry out their work in Syria. Let me reiterate my country's deep concern with the intensified reports of alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria, especially considering the disastrous humanitarian consequences such weapons may have caused already.

In conclusion, may I request that this brief statement be treated as an official document of the Seventy-Third Session of the Executive Council.

Thank you.

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

