



OPCW

Executive Council

Seventy-Fourth Session
8 – 11 October 2013

EC-74/NAT.15
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NORWAY

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ANNIKEN KRUTNES
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NORWAY TO THE OPCW
AT THE SEVENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Chairman,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

On behalf of Bulgaria, Norway, Sweden and South Africa I would like to present a joint proposal for a draft decision regarding rehiring of inspectors. I would kindly ask the Secretariat to circulate the proposal in the room.

The Third Review Conference highlighted the importance of the Technical Secretariat maintaining and developing the technical capabilities, expertise and readiness that it needs for a quick and efficient response to any request for a challenge inspection or investigation of alleged use. In this regard, we are concerned that the OPCW is facing a diminishing recruitment pool for experienced inspectors with chemical weapons expertise. This concern needs to be addressed as a matter of priority.

While recent developments in the Syrian Arab Republic accentuate the need for experienced inspectors on staff, this need extends beyond the Syrian issue, and should therefore not be limited to the short-term authority granted under decision EC-M-33/DEC.1.

Our recommendation is that the Director-General be authorised to rehire designated inspectors as part of normal recruitment practices, and that this authority be guaranteed pursuant to staff regulations. In addition to their ability effectively to manage and implement investigations of alleged use and challenge inspections, such experienced inspectors will play an important role in the training of the next generation of skilled inspectors. We recommend that each term of duty continue to be limited to seven years, and that safeguards be introduced in order to ensure against the overuse of this authority.

Bulgaria, Norway, Sweden and South Africa propose that the Executive Council recommends that the Conference of the States Parties adopt this decision at its Eighteenth Session.

Consultations held in the margins of this session indicate that other delegations share this concern and that there is widespread support across regional groups for our joint proposal.



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We have booked the Ooms Room at 10:00 for consultations open to all States.

I thank you, Mr Chairman.

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