



OPCW

Executive Council

Fortieth Meeting
28 March and 11 April 2014

EC-M-40/NAT.1
28 March 2014
ENGLISH only

NORWAY

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ANNIKEN KRUTNES
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NORWAY TO THE OPCW AT THE
FORTIETH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

Norway appreciates the fact that the Syrian Arab Republic has presented a time frame for the removal of chemical weapons from its territory. Since the last meeting of the Executive Council, there have been important positive developments. The pace of the operation has accelerated and a significant quantity of chemicals has been removed from the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic.

However, it should be noted that the operation has come to a halt since Thursday 20 March. Moreover, unless a significant amount of chemicals is loaded during the coming few days, the Syrian Arab Republic will soon lag considerably behind its own schedule. Loadings have so far been too infrequent and unsystematic. Unless this pattern changes, there will soon not be enough time to make up for the losses that have been made.

We are deeply concerned about the reports of the deteriorating security situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. In our opinion, this further underlines the importance of removing the chemical weapons from the Syrian Arab Republic as soon as possible. The chemical weapons must, under no conditions, be allowed to fall into the hands of terrorist groups. All logistical assets required for in-country transportation have now been made available. It is important to complete the operation as soon as possible.

Norway is fully committed to the removal and destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons. We have invested heavily in the maritime operation to achieve this goal. The responsibility to contribute to the implementation of the decisions of United Nations Security Council and the Executive Council rests with all members of the OPCW, not least with the members of the United Nations Security Council.

We are pleased that the Syrian Arab Republic has reaffirmed its commitment to the complete elimination of its chemical weapons by the deadline set by United Nations Security Council Resolution 2118 and the decisions of Executive Council. In order to realise this objective, it will be important to accelerate the current momentum of removal activities.



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I request that this statement be included as an official document of the Fortieth Meeting of the Executive Council.

Thank you for your attention.

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