

NORWAY

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MARTIN SØRBY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NORWAY TO THE OPCW AT THE FIFTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Mister Chairperson,
Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,

First, let me express Norway's support for the statement delivered by the Ambassador of Bulgaria on behalf of the European Union

Norway has been steadfast in its support of the United Kingdom after the illegal and horrifying use of a nerve agent in Salisbury 4 March of this year.

We welcome the report of the OPCW Technical Secretariat. The report confirms the findings of the United Kingdom relating to the identity of the toxic chemical that was used in Salisbury.

We commend the UK government for swiftly sharing the full report with all States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention. Transparency is key to upholding the CWC disarmament regime.

Norway has full confidence in the ongoing investigation carried out by British authorities and we base our response on the assessments made by the British Government. We hope that this will lead to accountability for the heinous crime committed a little over a month ago.

We reiterate our position that Russia should respond to the legitimate questions posed by the United Kingdom.

Finally, I want to commend the Director General and staff of the Technical Secretariat for their dedication and professionalism in carrying out their duties.

I would kindly ask that this statement be issued as an official document and placed on the OPCW public website.

Thank you Mister Chairperson.