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**STATEMENT OF DENMARK TO THE  
One Hundred and Seventh Session of the Executive Council  
(The Hague, 8 October – 11 October 2024)**

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**AGENDA ITEM 5 – GENERAL DEBATE**

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Since this is the first time I take the floor in my current capacity as Permanent Representative of Denmark to the OPCW, and my first time participating in the Executive Council, allow me to assure H.E. Ambassador Andrés Teran Parral of Ecuador of my delegation's full cooperation and support during his mandate. Furthermore, I wish to extend my delegation's gratitude to the Director General and his staff for their outstanding performance. Denmark has full confidence in the professionalism, impartiality and integrity of the Technical Secretariat in carrying out the many important tasks we have given them.

Mr Chairperson,

The use of chemical weapons is an unequivocal violation of both morality and law, often constituting a war crime or a crime against humanity. By joining the Chemical Weapons Convention, we have collectively pledged to do everything in our power to prevent their use— **ever again**. While we celebrated significant strides last year, such as the complete destruction of the last possessor state's chemical weapons stockpiles and the establishment of the ChemTech center, we are appalled to still witness the horrific deployment of these weapons. This stark reality demands our unwavering commitment and collective action. We must stand together to uphold international norms and protect the most vulnerable from such atrocities.

Mr. Chairperson,

Denmark vehemently condemns Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, a stark violation of international law. We stand resolutely in support of Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. We call on Russia to halt its military actions immediately, withdraw its forces from all Ukrainian territory, and respect Ukraine's sovereignty.

We are profoundly alarmed by reports describing the alleged use of Riot Control Agents by Russia as a method of warfare along with the reported deployment of the choking agent chloropicrin against Ukrainian soldiers. We insist that Russia promptly clarify these serious allegations, as required by Article IX, paragraph 2 of the Convention. It is crucial that we hold those responsible accountable, and the international community expects nothing less.

Mr. Chairperson,

Over a decade has passed since Syria's initial declaration, yet many crucial questions remain unresolved. Syria must adhere to its obligations under the Convention without delay. Full and transparent cooperation with the OPCW and its established mechanisms, including the Investigation and Identification Team, is non-negotiable.

Mr. Chairperson,

Denmark wishes to highlight the serious risks that Artificial Intelligence could pose to the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in the post-destruction era. With the rapid pace of innovation in this field, it is essential for the Technical Secretariat to develop a robust technical understanding of AI. This expertise will enable the Secretariat to track significant developments, harness potential benefits, and effectively identify emerging threats. Denmark is fully prepared to assist the organization in this crucial effort.

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion, I wish to reaffirm Denmark's steadfast commitment to advancing the universal adoption and effective implementation of the Convention. We recognize the critical importance of ensuring that all member states fully engage with and adhere to its principles. During my tenure on the Executive Council, our delegation will aim to foster collaboration and dialogue, working

alongside our partners to strengthen the Convention's impact and integrity. Our focus will be on identifying practical and constructive solutions to the challenges this organization faces. Together, we can navigate these challenges and enhance our collective efforts to uphold international norms.

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.

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