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

AGENDA ITEM 6C – ELIMINATION OF THE SYRIAN CHEMICAL WEAPONS PROGRAMME

Mr Chairperson,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Nordic States Parties Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and my own country, Denmark.

Mr Chairperson,

The Syrian Arab Republic has egregiously used chemical weapons multiple times in recent years, inflicting immense suffering and loss of life to the civilian population of Syria. Thorough investigations by the UN and OPCW have meticulously documented these atrocities, revealing the Syrian Arab Republic's blatant disregard for its international obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention. This persistent failure to comply demonstrates not only a willingness to breach established norms but also a profound lack of accountability.

The time has come for the Syrian Arab Republic to take responsibility. It must fully declare and dismantle its chemical weapons stockpiles and program, adhering to its commitments under international law. Only through decisive action can we hope to prevent further tragedies and uphold the principles of justice and humanity.

Mr Chairperson,

October 14th 2024 marks the eleventh anniversary of Syria's accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention. However, as outlined by the Director-General's report (EC-107/DG.8) on the work strands to eliminate the Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme, we regretfully note the troubling stagnation in the progress. More than a decade after Syria's initial declaration, 19 questions remain

unanswered, and alarmingly, two additional questions have recently been added. Recent findings from the DAT suggest that Syria may possess an even more extensive chemical weapons program than previously believed.

It is imperative that Syria fully and transparently cooperates with the OPCW and all established mechanisms, including the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT). The lack of compliance undermines international norms and security. We must insist on accountability and take decisive action to ensure that Syria meets its obligations under international law.

Mr Chairperson,

In closing, we wish to commend the outstanding efforts of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT). The four reports released thus far exemplify the professionalism and independence with which the IIT undertakes its critical missions. These reports are not just documents; they are vital contributions to our collective pursuit of accountability.

At the same time, we unequivocally reject the unjustified criticism directed at the IIT by certain States Parties, who have unfairly labelled the team as “illegal” and “illegitimate.” Such claims not only undermine the integrity of the IIT but also threaten to derail our shared efforts to uphold international law and justice. We must unite in our support for the IIT and affirm its essential role in addressing chemical weapon violations.

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.

Thank you.
