



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Ninety-Eighth Session

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ENGLISH only

**ITALY**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC TO THE  
OPCW AT THE NINETY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,  
Mr Director-General,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank you for organising the Ninety-Eighth OPCW Executive Council session. Once again, all the difficulties associated with this difficult time were overcome and highly professional and intense work has been performed.

I would also like to thank all the facilitators who led the many works in progress and, in most cases, guided the delegations to the conclusion of a difficult and articulated path.

The role of OPCW is again central in the field of disarmament and arms control. Every effort must be made to abate the re-emergence of the chemical weapons threat. The many despicable situations that have occurred in recent years require us to keep our guard up and to strongly affirm the role of the OPCW. We cannot allow chemical weapons to become a global threat or to be considered by anyone as an accessible tool with which to threaten, offend, or strike anyone.

The situation in Syria is a sore point on which the international community cannot yield. The Syrian Arab Republic must satisfy the requests made by the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat. We cannot allow the use of chemical weapons to go unpunished. The use of chemical weapons in the Syrian theatre in 2017 and 2018 has been proven beyond a shadow of a doubt, and it is therefore urgent that the IIT continue its activities, and that Syria immediately return to full compliance with the Convention.

Italy believes that relentless attention must be also paid to the novichok poisoning of Mr Alexei Navalny.

A year has passed, and many things have not been clarified.

We strongly ask that Russia actively participate in the search for a transparent investigation of the facts as requested by the OPCW.

Italy reaffirms its belief in the vital importance of the OPCW in this historical moment. It is for this reason that we support the planned increase of the Budget and invite all States Parties to do the same, in full and on time.



We are also proud to support the ambitious “ChemTech Centre” project. Italy invites all States Parties to continue to do the same. The first pillar ceremony warmed our hearts and marked the way on a common path to renew and enhance our journey towards a world free of chemical weapons and the threat that they pose.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement an official document and post it on the OPCW’s external server and public website.

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