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SLOVENIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SANJA ŠTIGLIČ
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA TO THE
OPCW AT THE NINETY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam Chairperson,

Slovenia fully subscribes to the statement made on behalf of the European Union, and would like to make the following additional remarks.

We unequivocally condemn, in the strongest terms, the unprovoked and unjustified aggression against Ukraine. Russia's actions are unacceptable and represent a blatant violation of international law as well as Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. We call on Russia to immediately stop its invasion and withdraw its forces from Ukraine. We furthermore recall the obligation to protect civilians under international humanitarian law and the no-impunity principle for atrocity crimes.

We reject false accusations and disinformation spread by Russia with regard to Ukraine, and express our deep concern about possible provocations using chemicals, which could have grave humanitarian consequences. In this regard, we recall the obligation of each State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention ("the Convention") never under any circumstances to use chemical weapons or to engage in any military preparations to use chemical weapons.

Any and all violations of international law, including the possible use of chemicals as a weapon, should be duly investigated and those responsible brought to justice.

We greatly appreciate the highly professional work of the OPCW in securing evidence of chemical weapons use in Syria, which we hope will one day bring justice to the victims of the conflict in Syria. We urge Syria to return to full compliance with the Convention, and to extend their full cooperation to the OPCW, as required by the Convention and Security Council resolution.

As we approach the twenty-fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention, it is ever more important to uphold the norm against chemical weapons use. Slovenia resolutely condemns any such use under any circumstances, including in the case of Alexei Navalny.

Thank you.

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