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ITALY

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

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,

Italy would like to thank H.E. Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki of Morocco for his work as Chairperson of the Executive Council (“the Council”); at the same time, we would like to thank H.E. Ambassador Gudrun Lingner of Germany for having wisely led the Council in its vacancy.

Italy fully aligns itself with the statement by the European Union but would like to add some points in its national capacity, starting with the conflict in Ukraine.

Like the European Union, Italy has made its position clear all along: the unprovoked aggression decided by the Russian Federation is a blatant and outrageous violation of the most basic principles of international law and the United Nations Charter, of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, and of fundamental humanitarian rules and principles, and, as such, it has to be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

We therefore reiterate our demand today that Russia immediately ceases its hostilities, unconditionally withdraws all forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine, and fully respects Ukraine’s territorial integrity, sovereignty, and independence within its internationally recognised borders and territorial waters.

Against this backdrop, we read with great concern the indications contained in Note Verbale NV61219/30-196/50-3 of the Permanent Representation of Ukraine to the OPCW.

We take note of the impending danger due to the possible presence of tanks of chemical agents in the area of military operations.

In condemning all Russian disinformation campaigns, notably regarding allegations of provocations using chemical agents in Ukraine, we express our deepest concern about the possible use of chemical incidents in order to prepare false or real provocations that would further exacerbate the current state of affairs.

In a climate of deplorable daily warfare, we encourage the Technical Secretariat to continue, with the same firmness and professionalism, its activities regarding the regrettable events in Syria.



The latest evidence by the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) report is highlighting new and serious events having occurred in Syria, in which the use of chemical weapons is established.

We condemn the attitude of the Syrian Arab Republic, and we support the activities of the OPCW with particular regard to the FFM and the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT).

We call upon Syria to immediately align itself with the demands of the Technical Secretariat and with United Nations Security Council resolution 2118.

We look forward to the announced meeting between the Director-General and the Syrian Minister of Foreign Affairs, and we urge Syria to issue an entry visa to the DAT member stopped at the border as well as to all OPCW/United Nations operators.

With the same emphasis, we once again call for transparency by the Russian Federation regarding the poisoning of Mr Navalny.

The present deplorable situation must not be in any way a limitation in the search for truth, transparency, and security.

We intend here to thank the Director-General and the staff of the Technical Secretariat for their work.

We look forward with hope to march towards 2023—the year that will see the final destruction of the chemical weapons stockpile, the year of the Fifth Review Conference, and the opening of the Centre for Chemistry and Technology. At the same time, however, we take our firm position on the facts of 2022, aligning ourselves with the countries of the European Union, the Western Europe and Others Group, and global security.

While thanking you for your work, we ask that this statement be considered an official document of this Council session and look forward to its publication on Catalyst and the Organisation's public website.

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