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CHILE

**STATEMENT BY JAIME MOSCOSO CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES A.I. AND
ALTERNATE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE
TO THE OPCW AT THE 100TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Representatives and delegates,

First of all, we welcome H.E. Ambassador Ziad M.D. Al Atiyah, who has undertaken the duty of Chairperson of the Executive Council. Chile wishes him every success; he has the support of our delegation.

We also welcome the Director-General of the OPCW, Ambassador Fernando Arias, and his updates on the activities being carried out by the Organisation.

Chile once again reaffirms its commitment to the complete prohibition of the use of chemical weapons anywhere, by anyone, and under any circumstances. The use thereof is unacceptable and constitutes a serious violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We hope that all States Parties, especially those involved in conflicts, will meet their international obligations in this area.

The preamble of the Chemical Weapons Convention reaffirms the commitment of all States Parties to contribute to the implementation of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, which include preventing the re-emergence of the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other form that is incompatible with the purposes of the United Nations.

In line with the above, Chile wishes to express its strong condemnation of the unacceptable war of aggression that Russia continues to carry out against Ukraine, in spite of the repeated calls of the international community for dialogue with a view towards finding a peaceful solution to the conflict. Chile urgently calls upon Russia to withdraw its troops, to respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, and to avoid the loss of innocent lives and material damages.

Chile expresses its profound concern over Russia’s constant accusations with regard to the possible use of chemical weapons by Ukrainian forces or those who support Ukraine. It is critical that any accusation concerning the potential use of chemical weapons be supported with solid proof and confirmed by the technical bodies of the OPCW.



With regard to the chemical dossier of the Syrian Arab Republic, we are concerned that since the adoption of decision C-25/DEC.9 last April—in which the Conference decided to suspend some of the rights and privileges of said country in accordance with the Convention—difficulties have emerged for OPCW officials and their deployment to Damascus, which has hindered the Technical Secretariat from maintaining a continuous presence in that city.

We recall the obligations of each State Party to cooperate with the Technical Secretariat in line with paragraph 7 of Article VII of the Convention. For that reason, we urge the Syrian Arab Republic to cooperate fully with the Technical Secretariat by providing the pertinent documents and information in order to update its initial declaration, and to correct the gaps and discrepancies, including the 20 outstanding issues. The prompt issuance of visas to all OPCW personnel will ensure the fluidity and continuity of this process.

Finally, it seems to us that sufficient time has passed to arrange a meeting between the Director-General of the OPCW and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic. The Director-General suggested holding this meeting one year ago. We believe that there cannot be any more delays in the matter. It is critical that this meeting take place.

With regard to the poisoning of Mr Alexei Navalny with a toxic chemical identified as a novichok, as determined by OPCW laboratories, Chile condemns in the strongest possible terms the use of any chemical weapon. We reiterate our urgent call to investigate the circumstances of this incident, identify those responsible, and bring them to justice.

The personnel policy and geographic representation across the composition of the Technical Secretariat are two issues that cannot be seen as separate from one another. In this regard, discussions on the personnel policy should be held in parallel with those addressing the correction of the imbalance in geographic representation.

Chile expresses its willingness to continue the discussions on and examination of the personnel policy, and hopes to safeguard the key interests of under-represented States Parties while—even more importantly—making progress in rectifying the current imbalance in geographic representation, in line with the provisions of paragraph 44 of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We value the work of Ambassador Lauri Kuusing of Estonia in her capacity as Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparations of the Fifth Review Conference. We support the roadmap outlined for the next few months and the importance of working collaboratively in order to achieve a consensus-based result at the Fifth Review Conference.

Finally, we thank Germany for the inclusive and transparent manner in which negotiations were conducted on the draft decision to allow for convening Executive Council meetings or sessions in emergency circumstances. My country has decided to co-sponsor this initiative.

We kindly request that this statement be considered an official document and published on the OPCW website.