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COSTA RICA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ARNOLDO BRENES CASTRO
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA TO
THE OPCW AT THE 101ST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Your Excellencies,
Representatives and delegates:

The delegation of Costa Rica welcomes Ambassador Ziad M.D. Al Atiya and his leadership in managing the sessions of the Executive Council.

We also express our recognition of the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, and the team of the Technical Secretariat, for the intensive and dedicated work carried out in implementing the Convention. Likewise, we applaud the professional, impartial, and independent work of the Technical Secretariat.

The Chemical Weapons Convention has incorporated in its preamble the commitment to carry out the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

The multilateral system is facing an unprecedented threat due to the continuation of the intensified war of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. Costa Rica wishes to reiterate that it will not recognise any territorial acquisition resulting from the threat or use of force in violation of the sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity of Ukraine and that it is, moreover, in contradiction to the principles of the United Nations Charter.

Costa Rica strongly urges the Russian Federation to withdraw its armed troops from Ukrainian territory immediately, completely, and unconditionally, with the aim of finding a solution through dialogue, negotiation, mediation, or other peaceful means.

Before this severe affront to international security and the peaceful coexistence of humanity, today, more now than ever, we must safeguard international law. Safeguarding international law is also synonymous with maintaining and defending the principles upheld by this Organisation.

With regard to the dossier of the Syrian Arab Republic, Costa Rica recognises the professional and dedicated work on the part of the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT), the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM), and the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) of the Technical Secretariat. We regret that it has still not been possible to clarify the discrepancies identified in the initial declaration. We reiterate the urgency of complying with the obligations set out in



the Convention and the decisions of the Executive Council, the Conference of the States Parties, and the Security Council. Likewise, we join the calls made to the Syrian Arab Republic to cooperate with the Organisation without delay.

Likewise, we reiterate that the use of chemical nerve agents in the novichok family in an attack perpetrated against Alexei Navalny, as confirmed by OPCW designated laboratories, is a crime that must be investigated without excuses and without delay in order to prevent impunity. We regret that the circumstances of this deplorable incident have yet to be clarified.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to express its gratitude and support for Ambassador Lauri Kuusing of Estonia, Chairperson of the Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference. We congratulate her on the progress made on the roadmap and the leadership she has demonstrated towards achieving substantive results at the Fifth Review Conference.

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

Thank you very much, Mr Chairperson.

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