



***Statement on behalf of the Republic of Albania
at the 27th session of the Conference of States Parties
to the Chemical Weapons Convention***

The Hague, 28 November – 2 December 2022

Written submission for General Debate

BY H.E. Ms. Adia Sakiqi,

Ambassador of the Republic of Albania to the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Agenda item 8 - General debate

Mr. Chairperson,

Mr. Director-General,

Distinguished delegates,

The Republic of Albania would like to express our appreciation to Chairperson of the 26th Conference of States Parties, Ambassador Bård Ivar Svendsen of Norway, and Chairperson of the Executive Council, Ambassador Ziad Al Atiyah of Saudi Arabia, for their tireless efforts and leadership in executing their duties.

We would also like to extend our warm congratulations to Ambassador Vusimuzi Madonsela of South Africa for his election as the Chairperson of the 27th Conference of States Parties. Your excellency, you have our support in leading us through the works of CSP27.

We take this opportunity to thank the leadership of OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, and reiterate our entire tenacity in the OPCW Technical Secretariat (TS), its

objectivity, expertise and well-established technical mastery in implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and tasks assigned by the States Parties. The Republic of Albania, serving as a UN non-permanent member and as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, strongly supports the Draft Resolution of October 13th, 2022, discussed in the United Nations General Assembly First Committee, concerning the steps that have to be undertaken in achieving the common goal of a world without chemical weapons. We align with the UN in this matter and emphasize that it is crucial to protect our international security environment and minimize the threat of nuclear weapons during these difficult times.

Your Excellency, Dear Chairperson,

The Republic of Albania strongly condemns the ongoing war waged by Russia in Ukraine, a flagrant violation of the UN Charter. We want to emphasize that the war initiated by Russia is a threat to our values and freedom. Russia has utilized its propaganda to spread unsupported allegations about the development of chemical weapons against Ukraine and has committed a punishable act of aggression. Russia's invasion of Ukraine is a violation of its territorial integrity and of the UN Charter and we urge Russia to withdraw its troops from the territory of Ukraine.

Concerning the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Albania aligns with EU Statement of CSP27 and has supported its decision in deferring Syria from their right to vote. We emphasize that it is crucial for all State Parties to respect the Convention's international obligations and it is evident that Syria has failed to do so, as they have not declared the chemical weapons programme and refuse to cooperate with the Organization. Another pressing issue is the issuing of visas for OPCW's officials, and we urge the Syrian Arab Republic to issue them without delay, as it is a breach of the UNSC Resolution 2118. The Republic of Albania applauds the Director-General's ongoing initiatives to communicate with Syria and urges Syria to respond in a constructive manner. In this light, it is worth acknowledging and appreciating the undertaken investigations by OPCW-UN Joint Investigation Mechanism (JIM), the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT), the OPCW Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) and the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM).

Furthermore, the Republic of Albania aligns with the EU Statement of CSP27 in the Navalny matter and urges Russia to promptly disclose the specifics of the attempted assassination. We view this as the only remedy to address the threat posed by the use of chemical weapons. By

specialized laboratories in Europe and as well as by the OPCW, Mr. Navalny's poisoning in Russia in August 2020 by a military-grade nerve agent has been proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

The Republic of Albania agrees with the Director-General's proposed adjustment to the program and budget for 2023, which enables the organization to carry out its essential activity, including collaboration and assistance initiatives.

Furthermore, the Republic of Albania aligns with the EU Statement of CSP27 about the inspector's matter and supports their re-hiring procedure. We comprehend that the Team Leader's required tenure will experience a large turnover in the Inspectorate Division in 2023 and we understand that such a development would affect the Organisation's operating capabilities. That is why, the Republic of Albania supports the selection of re-hiring inspectors, as a temporary remedy, which is justifiable and necessary. This necessity is related to the inspectors' core contribution, quality expertise and knowledge that they provide.

The Republic of Albania aligns with the Joint Statement on Gender for CSP27 and fully supports the incorporation of gender equality within the Organization. We anticipate onward progression in this direction, as women continue being a minority at OPCW. The Republic of Albania is thankful for the work carried out thus far from Director-General and emphasizes that continuing efforts are required from all State Parties to improve gender integration.

Additionally, we also align with the EU on the Join Statement concerning accreditation of NGOs, as we believe that it is highly important to promote inclusion whilst collaborating with these organizations. The Republic of Albania supports their participation as non-Governmental organisations play a critical role in developing society and promoting citizen affiliation.

Your Excellency, Dear Chairperson,

Lastly, the Republic of Albania would like to emphasize on the very important work that will occur next year at the Fifth Review Conference. We strongly believe that this Conference will provide a possibility to act on improving the Convention's implementation as a crucial component to maintain technological and economic developments, as well as international peace and security. We urge all States Parties to give their contribution in this planning process, in order to achieve a mutual vision for combating the resurgence of chemical weapons. In this

regard, I'd like to express our appreciation to the chairperson, Ambassador Lauri Kuusing of Estonia, for guiding the intricate work in a transparent and inclusive manner with the intention of achieving consensus.

The Republic of Albania will continue to actively provide its support, in order to meet the fundamental objective of the OPCW: a world without chemical weapons.

Dear Chairperson, please accept this statement as an official document of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you.

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