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ARABIC and ENGLISH only

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

**SUPPLEMENT TO THE STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MILAD ATIEH
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC TO THE
OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
STATES PARTIES UNDER AGENDA ITEM 9(D) (RUSSIA)**

Mr Chairperson,

We have followed the statements of the States Parties on this matter. It is unfortunate that they all level false accusations against Russia, exactly as in the Syrian case. Suffice it to read one statement to know the content of the other statements. They are exactly the same accusations levelled against Syria. They say that Russia used chemical weapons in the two cases of Skripal and Navalny; that it must declare its chemical weapons; that Russia was not cooperating and that it obstructs truth; that those responsible for the use of chemical weapons must be held accountable; that Russia supports what some Western States like to call the Syrian regime, which uses chemical weapons; and that Russia was preparing for the use of chemical weapons in Ukraine.

I wish all States Parties to compare these accusations with those levelled against Syria. They are the same accusations in terms of their content and source. Of course, those making these accusations are the United States of America and some Western States. Russia declared all its chemical stockpile that was completely destroyed in 2017 under OPCW supervision and ahead of the deadline set by the OPCW. This in itself is an evidence of Russia's full compliance with the provisions of the Convention and its adherence to the relevant decisions of the OPCW. Those who are waging this campaign and accusing Russia today are still not in compliance with the provisions of the Convention and delay the destruction of their arsenal although they have all the means and capabilities.

The alleged incidents of Skripal and Navalny remain shrouded in uncertainty and lack of transparency. They unveil the same scenario used by Western States against Syria over the past nine years.

Western States level false accusations and reject any dialogue with Russia. They also refuse to give answers to objective questions raised by Russia and refuse to accept any information provided by Russia on the ongoing provocations in Ukraine. This is a politicised approach that some Western States are used to following in this Organisation. We have been suffering from this approach to date.

Russia asserts that it is keen on uncovering the truth. It did all that was required of it and asked for specific information and for answers to very important questions. But it is Western States that impede the truth. Those States are leading a campaign of incitement against Russia. Those



who do not answer Russia's questions and refuse to cooperate with it are the ones endeavouring to blur the truth.

Russia has demonstrated full openness to dialogue and cooperation with the States claiming that these two alleged incidents occurred. In response to this Russian openness, those States keep levelling baseless accusations and have not responded to Russia's objective queries.

This situation that the OPCW is going through since the past four years marked by politicisation, polarisation and division indicates beyond any doubt that the standing and future of this Organisation are at risk if the situation continues due to the wrong approach followed by some Western States.

The international community must thank Syrian and Russia profusely for their war on terrorism. We are at the frontline of this war. We prevented terrorism from reaching the world with the blood of our martyrs. Those fighting terrorism with the blood of their people are worthy of appreciation and thanks. These are not slogans. This is the fact that everyone must know.

I thank you and I request that this statement be considered an official document of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties and posted on the OPCW's public website and on Catalyst.

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