

**STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA**  
**TO THE OPCW**  
**AT THE 59TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**  
**18 APRIL 2018**

Mr. Chairperson,

Latvia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Ambassador of Bulgaria H.E Krassimir Kostov on behalf of the European Union and would like to make the following points in national capacity.

Latvia commends the professional work during Technical Assistance Visit (TAV) and welcomes the decision of the UK to share the report prepared by the TAV team. We express our full confidence in the impartial analysis of OPCW TAV team.

Latvia strongly supports the close and transparent cooperation between the OPCW Technical Secretariat and the UK to investigate fully the use of toxic chemical in Salisbury. Steps taken by the UK have demonstrated responsible approach and full compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We strongly condemn all attempts by the Russian Federation to attack the integrity and independent work of the OPCW and discredit the TAV report. It is clearly intended to hamper with the rules-based international order and undermine the CWC, in particular. Any such attempt is simply deplorable.

Mr Chairperson,

The use of chemical weapons under any circumstances is completely unacceptable and must be addressed accordingly. We remain strong in our commitment to adhere fully to the principles of the CWC and expect no less from other States Parties.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson