



OPCW

Executive Council

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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

GUATEMALA

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GUATEMALA
AT THE FIFTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

Guatemala is grateful to the Technical Secretariat for the report on the technical assistance visit (TAV/02/18), with the analyses carried out, as requested by the United Kingdom in order to verify the use of a neurotoxic chemical in Salisbury. Our capital is still analysing the report in detail.

We strongly support the OPCW's standards and mechanisms, so we rely on, and encourage, all the interested parties to cooperate to continue the defence of the regime for non-proliferation of these weapons and avoiding their use.

Guatemala is extremely concerned by the constant violations of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and, in this case, deeply regrets that a neurotoxic agent has been used in Salisbury. Those responsible for the use of such agents against any individual, and in any place, jeopardise the basic principles of the international instruments prohibiting the use of chemical weapons.

We have before us the Technical Secretariat's classified report on this incident, which concludes that the Salisbury victims were exposed to a toxic chemical, classified as a neurotoxic agent, and which does not figure in the OPCW's database. I repeat, once more, our concern at these results, and we thank the Director-General, who will follow up on the findings of the technical assistance visit (TAV). We shall follow the current discussions closely, to decide on our position in this matter.

Guatemala repeats its appeal to all the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction to comply with the obligations contracted under the Convention and the Charter of the United Nations.

Many thanks.

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