

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Kaili Terras, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Estonia to the OPCW, at the 89th Session of the Executive Council  
(The Hague, 9-12 October)**

Madam Chair,

Estonia fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union delivered by the Permanent Representative of Austria, Ambassador Heidemaria Gürer. In our national capacity, I would like to join others in congratulating Ambassador Fernando Arias on his appointment as the Director-General of the OPCW. You can count on our support on your efforts to respond to the topical needs of the OPCW and Technical Secretariat.

The repeated use of chemical weapons in Syrian Arab Republic and most recently in Europe in the United Kingdom has severely undermined the universal prohibition against the use of chemical weapons. Estonia is committed to enhance the effectiveness of Chemical Weapons Convention and successful outcome of the Fourth Review Conference.

We welcome Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 of the Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties in June as a crucial step to combat the use, the proliferation and the impunity for the use of chemical weapons, by strengthening the capacity of the Technical Secretariat to identify the perpetrators of chemical weapons attacks. We look forward to the Director General's proposals on concrete steps for the implementation of the Decision.

Madam Chair,

Referring to recent events, we reaffirm our solidarity with the UK and welcome the progress made in the investigation of Salisbury and Amesbury incidents, including attribution. Herewith we commend the highly professional work of the experts from the OPCW Technical Secretariat who confirmed the UK findings in their Technical Assistance Visit report issued on September 4.

Last week we learnt with a great concern about the attempted cyber attacks against the OPCW by the Russian military intelligence service. Cyber attacks against international institutions, democratic elections and civilian critical infrastructure violate international law and norms, and cause serious political and economic consequences. These attacks cannot be tolerated.

Last but not least. As the response to the Director General's plea, I would like to inform you that my capital has decided to make a voluntary financial contribution to the Trust Fund of upgrading the OPCW Laboratory to a Centre for Chemistry and Technology to keep pace with current threats and remain fit for purpose in future.

I ask the statement to be issued as an official document of this council.

Thank you madam Chair.