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SLOVENIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SANJA STIGLIC
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
TO THE OPCW AT THE EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam Chairperson,

Allow me to begin by congratulating Ambassador Fernando Arias on his appointment as the new Director-General of the OPCW, since this is the first session of the Executive Council that he attends in his new capacity. Mr Director General, your professionalism and experience are highly appreciated and much needed in these challenging times. Slovenia pledges its full support to your work and endeavors of upholding the Convention and integrity of the OPCW.

Madam Chairperson,

Slovenia fully aligns itself with the statement by Austria on behalf of the European Union. I would like to make some additional remarks in my national capacity.

Slovenia considers the Chemical Weapons Convention to be the key disarmament and non-proliferation instrument. Its strict application must be fully guaranteed with the view to safeguarding international peace and security. Slovenia sees, therefore, the upcoming Fourth Review Conference as an opportunity for all States Parties to review the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and set a strategic direction for the OPCW for the next five years and beyond.

Slovenia will engage constructively, including through highlighting the integrity of the Chemical Weapons Convention and OPCW, accountability, and the need to end impunity for the use of chemical weapons. With the goal of ensuring the highest level of knowledge, skills and expertise within the OPCW, Slovenia supports a comprehensive review of the tenure policy of the Organisation, giving the necessary flexibility to the Director-General.

Slovenia supports the planned upgrade of the OPCW Laboratory into the Centre for Chemistry and Technology. We strongly believe that the new facility will create tangible benefits for both Technical Secretariat and the States Parties.

Madam Chairperson,

The use of chemical weapons in the recent times should be a wake-up call for the international community as a whole to further support the work of the Technical Secretariat



of the OPCW. Slovenia strongly condemned the chemical attack in Salisbury and expressed its full solidarity with the United Kingdom. I would like to underline our full confidence in the reports of the Technical Secretariat, issued on incidents in both Salisbury and Amesbury.

Slovenia welcomes the adoption of the Conference of the States Parties decision “Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use” and the enhancement of the capacity of the Technical Secretariat to identify the perpetrators of chemical weapons attacks. We greatly appreciate the work done by the Secretariat in taking forward the decision to put in place arrangements to identify the perpetrators of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic. For the object and purpose of the Convention to be achieved and the decision to be fully implemented, Slovenia calls for ensuring a timely adoption of the Programme and Budget for 2019 as proposed by the Director-General.

Slovenia condemns all attempts to undermine international institutions and international law through cyber-attacks and reiterates its constant support for the work of the OPCW, its mandate and its independence to achieve our ultimate goal – a world truly free of chemical weapons.

I thank you for your attention and would ask that this statement be considered as an official document of the Eighty-Ninth Session of the Council.

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