

**Statement of Estonia at the OPCW 90th Session of the Executive Council
(The Hague, 12 March)**

Madam Chair,

Estonia fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. In our national capacity, I thank the Director-General for his comprehensive report to the Executive Council. Estonia wants to reassure its full confidence in the professionalism and expertise of the work of the OPCW Technical Secretariat.

The repeated use of chemical weapons have gravely undermined the universal prohibition against the use of chemical weapons. In this connection, we are seriously concerned by the recent report and conclusions of the Fact Finding Mission regarding the Incident of Alleged Use of Toxic Chemicals as a Weapon in Douma in Syrian Arab Republic in April last year. We would like to commend the FFM for the professional work on the ground, which has been and will be indispensable in investigating the chemical weapons attacks.

Madam Chair,

We also thank the Director-General for his report to the Executive Council on the progress made in the implementation of Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3. We look forward to further steps and stand ready to support the Technical Secretariat's efforts in this regard. Estonia also recognize the Director-General's assessment that there is a need for more flexibility in OPCW's tenure and human resources policy for ensuring the Organization's operative functioning.

As well, Estonia supports financially the endeavors of upgrading the OPCW laboratory into a Centre for Chemistry and Technology.

Madam Chair,

In maintaining the norm against chemical weapons, updating the Annex on Chemicals of the CWC also remains critical. Estonia welcomes the Executive Council's Decision recommending to all States Parties the adoption of the proposal tabled by the United States, Canada and the Netherlands.

Madam Chair,

I would like to pay tribute to You personally for the hard work and solid leadership of the Executive Council.

Finally yet importantly, it has been an honor for Estonia to serve as a member of the Executive Council for two years. We would like to thank the Director General and all the countries for their cooperation.

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

Thank you.