

Statement of the Slovak Republic

*in response to the release of the First Report of the Investigation and Identification Team
of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons*

delivered by

H.E. Juraj MACHÁČ, Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the OPCW

The Slovak Republic welcomes publication of the first report of the OPCW's Investigation and Identification Team (IIT), according to which the Armed Forces of the Syrian Arab Republic are responsible for carrying out chemical weapons attacks in the Syrian city of Ltamenah in March 2017. The report states that on 24, 25 and 30 March 2017, Syrian military aircrafts dropped bombs equipped with sarin and chlorine on the southern part of Ltamenah, including the hospital building.

The Slovak Republic condemns these attacks and reaffirms its principled position that the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere and under any circumstances is unacceptable and against international law. The Slovak Republic expresses its full support and confidence in the professional and impartial work of the OPCW, including the activities of the IIT, whose proposal for creation in 2018 was co-sponsored. At the same time, we condemn the efforts to question the activities and discredit the OPCW's findings.

The Hague, April 23th, 2020