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REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SANJA ŠTIGLIC
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SLOVENIA TO THE OPCW ON THE FIRST
REPORT OF THE OPCW INVESTIGATION AND IDENTIFICATION TEAM**

Slovenia welcomes the publication of the first report of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT). The report clearly showcases the expertise, transparency, and professionalism of the IIT and its staff. Slovenia therefore reiterates its full support to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and expresses full confidence in the objectivity, impartiality, and independence of the Organisation's Technical Secretariat and the IIT.

We note with great concern the clear and irrefutable conclusions of the report, which determined that the chemical attacks in Ltamenah in March 2017 were carried out by the Syrian Arab Air Force. Slovenia strongly condemns these attacks. They constitute a war crime and a serious violation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (CWC).

As a participating State of the International Partnership against Impunity for the Use of Chemical Weapons (PICIAC), Slovenia supports efforts to identify those responsible for the use of chemical weapons against civilians in Syria and ensure accountability for these heinous acts. This would represent an important step in helping to deter future perpetrators and in restoring the global taboo against the use of chemical weapons.

Finally, Slovenia expresses its solidarity with all the victims of chemical weapons and pledges unwavering support to the important work of the OPCW and the IIT.

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