

**COSTA RICA****STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA
IN RESPONSE TO THE PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST REPORT BY THE OPCW
INVESTIGATION AND IDENTIFICATION TEAM ON THE USE OF CHEMICAL
WEAPONS IN THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**

The Republic of Costa Rica welcomes the presentation of the first report of the OPCW Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) on the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, pursuant to decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 of the Conference of the States Parties to the OPCW. In this regard, Costa Rica reiterates its firm support for and confidence in the impartiality and independence of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW and the IIT.

As an unarmed democracy that is loyal to its commitment to peace, Costa Rica categorically condemns the violation of the Convention for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons as stated in the report by the IIT, which concludes that there are reasonable grounds to believe chemical weapons were used in three attacks perpetrated by the Syrian Arab Armed Forces in March 2017.

Likewise, Costa Rica makes an urgent call to the OPCW's decision-making bodies and the international community to undertake the appropriate actions in line with international law, to ensure that those responsible for the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic are held accountable and to prevent these heinous crimes from going unpunished.

Costa Rica also expresses its solidarity with the victims and their families and reiterates that as a country that defends international law as the foundation of peace and security, it will continue to promote effective multilateralism.

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