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## SLOVENIA

### **STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SANJA ŠTIGLIC PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SLOVENIA TO THE OPCW AT THE NINETY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

While fully subscribing to what was said on behalf of the European Union, I would like to make a few additional remarks in my national capacity.

Slovenia is very concerned about the use of chemical weapons—most recently in the Navalny case. This is utterly unacceptable and must be condemned in the strongest terms. We call for accountability for these serious breaches of international law.

As a member of the Partnership Against Impunity for the Use of Chemical Weapons we particularly value the professional and impartial work of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) as an important contribution towards accountability, and have therefore supported their work also through a voluntary contribution.

The regrettable re-emergence of chemical weapons makes the work of the OPCW all the more important. The Organisation must have the necessary tools to carry out its mandate effectively and efficiently. This is why Slovenia financially supported the establishment of the ChemTech Centre; it is also why we call for the timely approval of the proposed Programme and Budget for 2021.

Like the rest of the world, the OPCW, too, has been forced to adapt its working methods to constraints imposed on us by the spread of COVID-19. Going forward, we hope that full use will be made of available technologies, so that the important work against chemical weapons can continue unabated.

As working methods of this Organisation must adapt to contemporary challenges, so, too, must the Chemical Weapons Convention remain up to date with regard to new and emerging threats. Slovenia was therefore pleased that the Conference of the States Parties last November updated the list of controlled chemicals. We hope that the Executive Council will also favourably consider the proposed decision regarding the use of central nervous system(CNS)-acting chemicals for law enforcement purposes—which Slovenia resolutely supports.

Finally, Mr Chairperson, I would like to reiterate our every confidence in the expertise, objectivity, and impartiality of the work of the Technical Secretariat under the leadership of the Director-General Fernando Arias.

Thank you.

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