



**SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. JURAJ MACHÁČ,  
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC TO THE OPCW,  
AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr. Chairperson,

Director-General,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Slovak Republic fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by H.E. Ambassador Marjolijn Van Deelen, Special Envoy of the European Union for Disarmament and Non-proliferation on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and aligned countries.

I take this opportunity to make following remarks in my national capacity.

First of all, let me convey appreciation of the Slovak Republic to the Chairperson of the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the States Parties Ambassador Krassimir Kostov of Bulgaria and to the Chairperson of the 94<sup>th</sup> and 95<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Council Ambassador Agustin Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador for their leadership and high level performance of their functions during the intersessional period in order to duly prepare the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the States Parties.

Secondly, I would like to extend our sincere congratulations to Ambassador José Antonio Zabalgoitia Trejo of Mexico for his election as the Chairperson of the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the States Parties.

Thirdly, the Slovak Republic highly appreciates indisputable independence and impartiality, high level of professionalism and tireless endeavour of H.E. Mr. Fernando Arias, Director-General, also of the Technical Secretariat and the staff of Organisation to fulfil the entrusted mandates, in order to achieve effective progress towards general and complete chemical disarmament as clearly states the Preamble of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Simultaneously, we acknowledge the proper maintenance of the day-to-day business of the Organisation during these uneasy times of COVID19 pandemic that we are all facing.

In this context, the Slovak Republic welcomes the decision on Draft Programme and Budget of the Organisation for 2021 as adopted by the Executive Council. We consider it as balanced and reflecting obligations of the Organisation and its organs under Chemical Weapons Convention and decisions taken by the Policy-Making organs. The adoption of proposed budget will create a reasonable and adequate financial basis for proper and smooth functioning of the Organisation in pursuing its supreme goal.

The policy of disarmament and non-proliferation of the Slovak Republic has always been consistent. Therefore, I take this opportunity to reiterate our fervent support to the respect of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We do consider any use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, at any time and under any circumstance as absolutely unacceptable and reprehensible. Moreover, it constitutes a clear violation of international law.

The Chemical Weapons Convention should be considered as one of the pillars of the international disarmament and non-proliferation and so be respected. Therefore, the Slovak Republic condemns any scrupulous attacks on the integrity of the Chemical Weapons Convention and on the credibility of the Organisation.

In that context, the Slovak Republic condemns in the strongest possible terms the poisoning of Mr. Alexei Navalny occurred on the territory of Russian Federation. The use of chemical nerve agent cholinesterase inhibitor belonging to a group of chemicals known as “Novichoks” has been confirmed by France, Germany and Sweden as well as by two designated laboratories of the Organisation. We urge Russian Federation to do its utmost and to provide any assistance to the Organisation’s experts in order to impartially investigate the poisoning of Mr. Navalny. The perpetrators should be unconditionally brought to justice.

By joining our European partners when imposing restrictive measures in that context, the Slovak Republic has sent a clear and strong message re-confirming its long-lasting position on unacceptability of use of weapons of mass destruction.

Further to the release of the first report of the Investigation and Identification Team of the Organisation confirming the use of chemical weapons in the Ltamenah on 24, 25 and 30 March 2017, the Slovak Republic has re-confirmed its policy of unacceptability of any use of chemical weapons and condemned it. Moreover, the use of chemical weapons against civilians and medical facility is highly deplorable. Therefore, it was our moral duty to co-sponsor the corresponding decision adopted by the Executive Council.

Mr. Chairperson, on behalf of the Slovak Republic I kindly ask you that this statement should be considered as an official document of the Twenty-Fifth session of the Conference of the States Parties and be published on the External Server as well as on the public website of the Organisation.