



**OPCW**

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**SLOVAKIA**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR JURAJ MACHÁČ  
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 the following remarks in my national capacity.

First of all, let me convey the appreciation of the Slovak Republic to the Chairperson of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties (“the Conference”), Ambassador Krassimir Kostov of Bulgaria, and to the Chairperson of the Ninety-Fourth and Ninety-Fifth Sessions of the Executive Council, Ambassador Agustín 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 Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference.

Secondly, I would like to extend our sincere congratulations to Ambassador José Antonio Zabalgaitia Trejo of Mexico for his election as the Chairperson of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference.

Thirdly, the Slovak Republic highly appreciates the indisputable independence and impartiality, the high level of professionalism, and tireless endeavour of H.E. Mr Fernando Arias, Director-General, the Technical Secretariat, and the staff of the Organisation to fulfil the entrusted mandates, in order to achieve effective progress towards general and complete chemical disarmament, as clearly stated in the Preamble of the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”). Simultaneously, we acknowledge the proper maintenance of the day-to-day business of the Organisation during these uneasy times of the COVID-19 pandemic that we are all facing.

In this context, the Slovak Republic welcomes the decision on the Draft Programme and Budget of the Organisation for 2021 as adopted by the Executive Council. We consider it as balanced and reflecting the obligations of the Organisation and its organs under the Convention and the



decisions taken by the policy-making organs. The adoption of the proposed budget will create a reasonable and adequate financial basis for the proper and smooth functioning of the Organisation in pursuit of 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 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 Convention should be considered as one of the pillars of international disarmament and non-proliferation and as such be respected. Therefore, the Slovak Republic condemns any scrupulous attacks on the integrity of the 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 that occurred on the territory of the Russian Federation. The use of a chemical nerve agent, a 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 the 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, the Slovak Republic has sent a clear and strong message re-confirming its long-lasting position on the unacceptability of the 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 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 has condemned it. Moreover, the use of chemical weapons against civilians and medical facilities 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 be considered as an official document of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference and be published on the external server as well as on the public website of the Organisation.