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LITHUANIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR VIDMANTAS PURLYS
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA TO THE
OPCW AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
STATES PARTIES UNDER AGENDA ITEM 9(D)**

Mr Chairperson,
Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Lithuania aligns itself fully with the statement delivered by H.E Bård Ivar Svendsen, Ambassador of Norway to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, made on behalf of 46 countries, and also with the statement delivered by H.E. Ambassador Marjolijn van Deelen, Special Envoy for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, made on behalf of the European Union, both calling for a positive vote on draft decision, “Addressing the possession and use of chemical weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic” and would like to make the following remarks in the national capacity.

Lithuania firmly stands by the notion that any use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anyone, under any circumstances is a violation of international law and completely unacceptable. We must take all necessary action to ensure that the global norm prohibiting the use of chemical weapons is not compromised.

Lithuania strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons by the Syrian Arab Air Force as concluded by the IIT report to the OPCW Executive Council and to the Secretary General of the United Nations on 8 April 2020. We regret to note that the Syrian Arab Republic has not fulfilled its obligations under the Decision of the Executive Council (EC-94/DEC.2), which followed the first Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) report, as it was confirmed by the OPCW Director-General in his report on 14 October 2020. Further appropriate actions must be taken by the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and we urge all Member States to vote in favour of the draft decision suspending the Syrian Arab Republic’s rights and privileges (C-25/DEC/CRP.10) to ensure that there would be no impunity for the use of chemical weapons.

We would like to reiterate our full support to the IIT and its work. We welcome the second report released on 12 April 2021 and stand ready to work on ensuring the full follow-up of all findings.



Lithuania also supports the valuable work of the International Partnership Against Impunity for the Use of Chemical Weapons and remains strongly convinced that those responsible for the use of chemical weapons must be brought to justice.

We ask that this statement be issued as an official series document and published on the external server and the public website of the OPCW.

Thank you.

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