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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 joint statement delivered by H.E. Katerina Sequensova, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, made on behalf of 59 countries, condemning in the strongest possible terms the use of a toxic chemical as a weapon in the Russian Federation, 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, and would like to make the following remarks in the national capacity.

We are deeply concerned that the Russian Federation did not disclose the circumstances of the assassination attempt on Mr Alexei Navalny who was poisoned in Russia by a military grade chemical nerve agent of the novichok group in August 2020. The use of the novichok nerve agent in this attack against Mr Navalny has been confirmed by specialised laboratories in Germany, France and Sweden, as well as by the OPCW. This amounts to the use of a chemical weapon and a blatant violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. On 15 October 2020, under its chemical weapons sanctions' regime, the European Union imposed restrictive measures against six Russian individuals and one entity responsible for inducing and providing support to the poisoning of Alexei Navalny with the novichok nerve agent.

We are also disappointed that on 16 December 2020 the Russian Federation withdrew its request for a technical assistance visit (TAV) by the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW. We urge the Russian Federation to cooperate with the OPCW and to disclose fully the circumstances of the assassination attempt without further delay and bring the perpetrators to justice.

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

Thank you.

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