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POLAND

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MARCIN CZEPELAK
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND
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,

Poland reiterates its concern that threats and challenges related to the use of chemical weapons persist and continue to undermine key goals and objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”). We need to do our utmost in order to ensure full compliance of each and every State Party with the Convention. It is a fundamental matter for the OPCW’s credibility and—in a broader sense and longer perspective—for the future of the whole chemical disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

Similar to many States Parties and the European Union who expressed their views earlier, also in the context of the general debate, Poland would like to reiterate its deep concern about the use of the toxic chemical—a military-grade nerve agent of the novichok group—against a Russian oppositionist Mr Alexey Navalny. The poisoning of Mr Navalny with a chemical weapon has been a serious breach of the Convention and requires adequate, resolute, and decisive reaction of the international community and the OPCW States Parties.

Poland strongly condemns the heinous attack on Mr Navalny and stresses that those guilty of the attempted murder, with the use of a prohibited chemical warfare agent, must be brought to justice. It is an absolute necessity to conduct a thorough investigation in this regard, in full transparency and without further delay in accordance with the obligation defined in the Convention. The withdrawal of the Russian Federation’s request for an OPCW technical assistance visit (TAV) seems to be a step in the opposite direction.

Poland has been promoting the full implementation of the Convention for years, strongly advocating the full elimination of such weapons. We will continue our efforts on the international stage in this regard, also in the context of our ongoing membership in the Executive Council.

Thank you.

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