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COSTA RICA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ARNOLDO BRENES CASTRO
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA TO
THE OPCW AT THE NINETY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Representatives and delegates,
Your Excellencies,

Costa Rica wishes to address this body of the OPCW today because the current situation demands it. We are facing a major affront to international security and the peaceful coexistence of humanity. Now, more than ever, we must safeguard international law.

In its preamble, the Chemical Weapons Convention has incorporated the commitment “to contribute to the realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations”.

For this reason, this forum is adequate for Costa Rica to express its rejection of any unilateral act of force and violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a State and, in this regard, vehemently condemns the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. Paragraph 4 of Article 2 of the United Nations Charter obliges Member States of the Organisation to abstain from allowing the recurrence or the threat of the use of force against the territorial integrity or the political independence of any State. This obligation now falls with even more weight upon the shoulders of the permanent members of the Security Council.

For this reason, such aggression is a flagrant violation of international law, international humanitarian law, and the international law of human rights. Each war is a wound against all humanity, and any violation of this international legal regime should be carefully noted. We express our solidarity with the families that have lost loved ones as a result of this aggression, as well as the civil population that has been forced to evacuate their country. We recognise the efforts that neighbouring countries, members of the OPCW, have made to take them in, and we insist on the ability to establish safe evacuation channels.

True to our pacifist tradition, in absolute accordance with international law and multilateralism, and based on respect for the Charter of the United Nations, we urge the international community to redouble its efforts to achieve an immediate ceasefire and strengthen and maintain the mechanisms of dialogue and negotiation to prevent a serious escalation of the conflict. We call upon the Russian Federation to immediately put a stop to its hostilities, withdraw all of its forces and equipment from Ukraine, and return to the path of dialogue and



diplomacy to resolve disputes. As the President of Costa Rica recently expressed at one forum: “The path that is courageous, enlightened, and humane is peace. Today, the most courageous action that a leader can take is that of withdrawing soldiers to their families—not killing”.

We kindly request that this statement be considered an official document and published on the external server and the OPCW website.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

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