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TURKEY

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ŞABAN DIŞLI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY TO THE OPCW
AT THE NINETY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,

Turkey aligns itself with the European Union statement submitted under the general debate. I would like to make some remarks in my national capacity.

At the outset, I would like to thank Chairperson H.E. Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki of Morocco for his able and constructive leadership of the Council during his tenure and thank Vice-Chairperson H.E. Ambassador Gudrun Lingner of Germany for her guidance in preparation of the Ninety-Ninth Session of the Council.

I would also like to thank the Director-General Ambassador Fernando Arias for his leadership of the OPCW Technical Secretariat in fulfilling the mandate of the Organisation.

Turkey considers the military operation launched by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation against Ukraine a grave violation of international law. Hence, Turkey finds it unacceptable and rejects it. Our support for the political unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine will continue.

As the twenty-fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”) is approaching, Turkey’s commitment remains unwavering.

Turkey highly appreciates the active role played by the OPCW in all fields within its purview, including the destruction of chemical weapons, preventing their re-emergence, as well as promoting international cooperation for the development of the chemical industry.

The OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology is a project we support. It will be a key asset in further strengthening the capacity of the Organisation to perform its core tasks in verification, inspection, and capacity building.

The Fifth Review Conference, to be held in 2023, will be critical in reaching a common understanding to address the challenges facing the Convention and to keep the Organisation fit for purpose.



On many occasions, Turkey has underlined the importance of accountability and fighting against impunity for the perpetrators of chemical weapons use.

Turkey reiterates its support for the Partnership Against Impunity for the Use of Chemical Weapons.

In this context, Turkey fully supports and appreciates the work of the OPCW and its Syria missions in establishing the facts on the allegations of chemical weapons use and the perpetrators.

Turkey notes the reports of the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM), establishing the use of chemical weapons in Marea on 1 September 2015, and in Kafr Zeita on 1 October 2016, and condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the use of chemical weapons. We await the further investigation of those chemical weapons attacks by the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT), for the identification of the perpetrators.

Failure of the Syrian regime in fulfilling its obligations under international law is a cause of concern. The regime must declare the full extent of its chemical weapons programme without any further delay and extend its full cooperation to the OPCW, in accordance with the Convention, OPCW decisions, and United Nations Security Council resolutions.

I kindly request that this statement be considered as an official document and be posted on Catalyst and the public website.