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CHILE

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR JAIME MOSCOSO
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE TO THE OPCW
AT THE 101ST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Representatives and delegates,

First, we welcome the Chairperson of the Executive Council, H.E. Ambassador Ziad M.D. Al Atiyah, and his leadership in managing the Council sessions. Chile reiterates its commitment to his leadership and the support of our delegation.

We also welcome the Director-General of the OPCW, Ambassador Fernando Arias, and his update on the activities being carried out by the Organisation.

Chile once again reaffirms its full commitment to the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons anywhere, by anyone, and under any circumstances, as well as to the full implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. As a sign of the latter, we highlight the recent voluntary contribution made by Chile to the OPCW trust fund with the aim of supporting its programmes of assistance and protection against chemical weapons and towards ensuring the implementation of Article X of the Convention.

The preamble of the Chemical Weapons Convention reaffirms the commitment of all the States Parties to contribute to the implementation of the purpose and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, among which is to prevent the recurrence of the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any other State. In this regard, Chile wishes to reiterate its firm condemnation of the unacceptable war of aggression that Russia continues to wage against Ukraine, and urgently calls upon Russia to withdraw its troops, respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, and prevent any more loss of innocent lives.

Chile expresses its profound concern surrounding the constant accusations made by Russia regarding the possible use of chemical weapons by Ukrainian forces, or forces supporting Ukraine. It is critical that any accusation involving the potential use of chemical weapons is substantiated with solid evidence and confirmed by the technical bodies of the OPCW.

With regard to the poisoning of Mr Alexei Navalny with a toxic chemical substance categorised as a novichok, which has been established by OPCW laboratories, Chile strongly condemns this act as well as the use of any other chemical weapon.



With regard to the chemical dossier of the Syrian Arab Republic, we are concerned that since the adoption of decision C-25/DEC.9 in April last year, where the Conference decided to suspend some of the rights and privileges of this country under the Convention, difficulties have arisen for the deployment of OPCW officials to Damascus, hindering the Technical Secretariat from maintaining a constant presence in that city.

We recall the obligations of each State Party to cooperate with the Technical Secretariat in line with paragraph 7, Article VII of the Convention. For this reason, we urge the Syrian Arab Republic to collaborate fully with the Technical Secretariat, to provide the relevant documents and information in order to update its initial declaration, and to rectify the gaps and inconsistencies, including the 20 outstanding issues. The issuance of visas to all OPCW staff in a timely manner would ensure the fluidity and continuity of this process.

Finally, we reiterate the urgency of organising a meeting between the Director-General of the OPCW and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic as soon as possible. We firmly believe that this high-level meeting will help revitalise the stagnation that has taken place over the last period and, above all, move forward on important substantive matters.

We recognise the work of China and Japan in progressing in the destruction of chemical weapons abandoned at the Haerbaling facility (China). We highlight with positivity the joint cooperation as a successful example of the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

For Chile, geographical representation within the staff of the OPCW is a priority. As such, we reiterate the need to ensure that geographical representation is as balanced as possible within the Organisation. We believe that the discussions on the personnel policy and geographical representation within the makeup of the Technical Secretariat should focus on rectifying the imbalance in geographical representation, while safeguarding the interests of underrepresented States Parties, and with a view to rectifying the current imbalance in geographical representation in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 44, Article VII of the Convention.

For this reason, we call upon the Director-General to explore ways, incentives, and specific measures so that professionals from all countries—especially GRULAC countries—can have the opportunity to be part of this Organisation.

We value the work of Ambassador Lauri Kuusing of Estonia in her capacity as Chairperson of the Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference. We reiterate our support for the roadmap drawn up for the next few months, while underscoring the importance of working together to achieve consensus-based results at the Fifth Review Conference.

Finally, we reaffirm our commitment to continue promoting an approach that is both inclusive and integral, with a view to transversely incorporate, in the long term, gender equity in the Organisation's programmes and activities.

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