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LUXEMBOURG

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR JEAN-MARC HOSCHEIT PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Distinguished Ambassadors,
Dear delegates,

First of all, I would like to assure you of my delegation's support for the chairpersonship of this Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of States Parties ("the Conference"). Luxembourg wishes to thank all stakeholders at the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for their remarkable work over the past year. I wish to assure you of our deepest confidence in its expertise, impartiality, and professionalism.

Luxembourg fully aligns itself with the European Union's statement. Allow me to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

In order to accomplish its missions, the OPCW must have adequate financial and human resources. Therefore, Luxembourg calls upon all States Parties to the Convention to approve the OPCW's Programme and Budget proposal.

Since the last Conference, the geopolitical context has changed dramatically. The international security architecture has been severely affected by Russia's unprovoked and brutal invasion of Ukraine. This war of aggression, in violation of international law, is characterised by heinous crimes directly targeting the civilian population. It includes attacks on industrial chemical facilities in Ukraine. At the same time, the Russian authorities have launched a disinformation campaign blaming Ukraine for using chemical weapons, without providing any evidence. These actions constitute not only an attack on the Ukrainian people, but also an attempt to undermine the values and norms that the OPCW has defended over the past 25 years. Luxembourg strongly condemns Russia's unacceptable behaviour.

The invasion in Ukraine has shaken the foundations of the multilateral system. However, I firmly believe that we will emerge from this dark period stronger and even more united. The OPCW must, more than ever, play its role in taking the necessary steps to ensure compliance with the Convention and to realise our shared vision of a world without chemical weapons. We urge all States Parties to demonstrate their clear support of the OPCW by standing together in defence of its values and principles, and for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention.



Luxembourg underlines the serious concerns about the use of chemical weapons in Syria, about the poisoning of political opponent Alexei Navalny in Russia. We strongly condemn the use of chemical weapons by any State or non-State actor. In the case of Syria, the violation of the Convention is well documented through investigations under the existing mechanisms. We deeply regret that Syria has failed to comply with the measures put in place by the Executive Council and to act in accordance with its obligations under the Convention.

Any use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anyone, and under any circumstances, can never be accepted. Those who use these deadly toxic agents in violation of the Convention must be held accountable and responsible for their actions. In this context, my country welcomes the European Union's recent update of the list of restrictive measures targeting Russian and Syrian entities and individuals involved in the use of chemical weapons.

Once again, we call upon the Russian Government and the Syrian Government to fully cooperate with the OPCW Technical Secretariat and to fulfil all of their responsibilities as States Parties to the Convention.

Luxembourg pursues a feminist foreign policy and remains concerned about persistent gender-based inequalities. We wish to see gender equality further integrated into all dimensions of the OPCW's work. The issue of gender equality must be applied to all aspects of the implementation of the Convention, such as the protection and care of women victims of chemical attacks, and particularly taking into account the asymmetric impacts of chemical weapons on women. Further research on the diverse and disproportionate effects of chemical attacks on women is also essential. We encourage the OPCW and all States Parties to continue their efforts to ensure and advance gender equality in this area.

Luxembourg would greatly appreciate the expansion of the involvement of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the Conference and in the Fifth Review Conference. Indeed, a more inclusive approach with respect to NGOs would further promote transparency and strengthen the collective efforts against the use of chemical weapons.

We would be grateful if this statement could be published on the external server and public website of the Organisation as an official document of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference.

Thank you.

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