

Statement by Ambassador Kaili Terras
Permanent Representative of Estonia to the OPCW
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Mr Chairperson, Mr Director General, distinguished delegates,

Estonia fully aligns itself with the statement by the European Union delivered by the delegation of Bulgaria. In addition, I would like to express a few remarks of particular importance to Estonia.

First, my country is deeply concerned and disturbed by the reported use of military-grade nerve agent in the United Kingdom on March 4. We have every confidence in the UK investigation in this matter and we offer our utmost support to the UK in its efforts to resolve the issue. Perpetrators of this heinous crime must be held accountable. We call for the full cooperation of the State Party in question.

Second, we deeply regret that no agreement could be reached on the renewal of the mandate of the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM), what undermines

attempts to ensure accountability for the confirmed use of chemical weapons in Syria. Estonia fully supports the work of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) to continue investigating allegations of use of chemical weapons, and the work of the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) until the Council determines that all concerns regarding the possession and use of chemical weapon by the Syrian Arab Republic have been resolved.

Finally, I take the opportunity to inform you that Estonia is going to join the International Partnership Against Impunity for Chemical Weapons, launched in Paris on January 23, which hopefully will help to mobilize international community to address properly the issue of impunity.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson