

**Statement by H. E. Jana Reinišová, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the OPCW, at the 57<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Council**

- Mr. Chairman, Mr Director General, distinguished delegates
- The Czech Republic fully aligns itself with the statement made by the Ambassador of Bulgaria on behalf of the European Union.
- The Czech Republic would like to repeat our condemnation in the strongest possible terms of the shocking attack in Salisbury. We express our full solidarity with the United Kingdom.
- The use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere any under any circumstances is illegal and the perpetrators must be held accountable. It is all the more important to remember this on the 1-year anniversary of the attack in Khan Shaykhun.
- Also, the Czech Republic rejects all the accusations that it could be involved in the development or even possession of the chemical agent Novichok. Their only purpose is to divert attention from the merits of the case.
- Let me conclude by stressing that we have full confidence in the investigation by the UK in collaboration with the OPCW Technical Secretariat. It has been done so far in full compliance with the Convention, namely Article 8 para 38, and we should now wait for the results of the analysis of the samples before proceeding further.
- I would like to ask for this statement to be made an official document of this meeting.
- Thank you, Mr. Chairman

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