

Joint statement of the States Parties to the OPCW in connection with the
incident in Salisbury

The following States Parties Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela being members of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), express their deep concern over the situation surrounding the incident in Salisbury (the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), on 4 March 2018. Remaining firmly committed to the goals of total and global chemical disarmament and the eventual liberation of the world from chemical weapons, we consider it very important to preserve the unity of the Organization and to ensure conditions for effective mutual work to achieve these important and noble goals.

Given the high urgency of the resonance incident when, according to the British side, the use of chemical warfare agents against civilians took place in its territory, we consider it necessary to ensure that this problem is solved exclusively within the international legal framework using the full potential of the CWC. The stake holders among States Parties of the OPCW should, in close cooperation with each other through constructive dialogue, find a solution for the current dangerous situation and prevent its further escalation. It is the only way to clarify all circumstances of the incident in Salisbury, to identify those responsible and bring them to justice.

We expect that OPCW, being the most authoritative multilateral structure in the sphere of disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, will be at its height in this difficult time, and will retain the ability to confidently safeguard the interests of peace and international security.