

**Statement by Estonia to the OPCW
58th Meeting of the Executive Council
16 April 2018**

Mr Chairperson,

Estonia fully supports the European Union statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria. In my national capacity I would like to add the following:

Estonia reiterates its firm condemnation of the use of chemical weapons by anyone in any circumstance. There is no justification of committing such acts.

Estonia strongly condemns the repeated use of chemical weapons by the Syrian regime, most recently in Douma on April 7, 2018 and calls for those responsible to be brought to justice.

Estonia fully supports the work of the OPCW Fact Finding Mission and the Declaration Assessment Team. We would like to thank Director General for his prompt decision to deploy the Fact Finding Mission to Douma.

We regret that the United Nations Security Council has so far not been able to agree on how to stop the use of chemical weapons in Syria.

The action taken by the United States, the United Kingdom and France on April 14, 2018 was a proper and proportionate response to the repeated use of chemical

weapons by the Syrian regime against the Syrian people. The international community should be determined to act in unity in order to stop the use of such weapons.

Estonia reaffirms its support for UN-led efforts to achieve a lasting political resolution to the Syrian conflict, consistent with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2254 (2015) and the Geneva Communiqué (2012), and calls on all members of the United Nations Security Council to uphold their responsibilities in this regard.

I would kindly ask that this statement be issued as an official document and placed on the OPCW public website.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.