



Embassy of Finland
The Hague

**Statement on behalf of the Republic of Finland
Delivered by Ambassador Katri Viinikka, Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Finland to the OPCW**

**At the Fifty-Ninth Meeting of the Executive Council of the OPCW
18 April 2018**

Mr Chairperson, Mr Director General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finland fully supports the statement made by Bulgaria on behalf of the European Union. I will add the following remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairperson,

Finland highly appreciates the professional and impartial work of the OPCW Technical Assistance Visit (TAV) team conducted in the United Kingdom and the work relating to the analysis on biomedical and environmental samples. The report presented by the OPCW TAV confirmed the findings of the United Kingdom relating to the nerve agent used in the Salisbury attack on 4 March 2018.

Finland is extremely concerned about the unprecedented accusations made to undermine the credibility of the OPCW Technical Secretariat and the OPCW TAV report. We have absolute confidence in the OPCW TS and the OPCW TAV report, and we find the accusations made simply shocking.

Mr Chairperson,

Finland stands in unqualified solidarity with the UK in face of this grave challenge to our shared security.

The contribution of the Russian Federation to bring clarity to the Salisbury attack is still urgently needed. We have called on Russia to fully cooperate with the investigation and to provide the clarifications requested by the United Kingdom.

Mr Chairperson,

To conclude I simply want to emphasize that accountability is absolutely vital for upholding the norm against the use of chemical weapons – a responsibility shared by all of us as State Parties to the CWC.

Mr Chairperson,

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.