



REGERINGSKANSLIET

Ministry for Foreign Affairs Sweden

Statement by Sweden 59th Meeting of the Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

Delivered by Mr. Jan Lodding, Senior Adviser, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

18 April 2018

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

I would like to thank you, Ambassador Cheikh Mohammed Balal, for taking the Chair for yet another meeting of the Executive Council. You can count on our support. I would also like to thank the United Kingdom for proposing this timely briefing.

Sweden is aligned with the statement delivered by Ambassador Krassimir Kostov of Bulgaria on behalf of the European Union. I would like to add the following remarks in my national capacity.

Let me start by thanking the Director-General and the Head of the OPCW Laboratory for their briefing on the report entitled TAV/02/18. Sweden welcomes the continued cooperation between the OPCW and the United Kingdom in full conformity with the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

As a member of the community of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, Sweden has full confidence in, and respect for, the OPCW as the multilateral organization charged and equipped to safeguard the chemical weapons ban and to ensure the implementation of the provisions of the Convention.

We also have full confidence in the organization's authoritative findings regarding the aforementioned TAV. The report is extremely well substantiated. Based on the result of sample analysis, it unambiguously confirms the chemical identity of the toxic chemical used to poison three individuals in Salisbury on 4 March this year. This, Mr. Chairman, is a matter of the utmost concern.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me be very clear. Sweden condemns in the strongest terms the attempted murder of individuals on UK soil using a nerve agent developed as a chemical weapon. We fully subscribe to the position of the European Union as expressed by the heads of State and Government in the European Council on 22 March. We share the assessment of the United Kingdom that it is highly likely that the Russian Federation is responsible, and that there is no other plausible alternative

explanation. We once again call on Russia to respond to the legitimate questions put to it by the United Kingdom.

We reiterate our strong solidarity with the United Kingdom, a close friend and European Union partner, and we support the ongoing investigation. We would request that the States Parties to the OPCW be kept informed of all developments of relevance to the mandate of the organization.

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

Thank you Mr. Chairman.