

Statement by Lithuania

at the OPCW 59th meeting of the Executive Council

18 April, 2018

Mr Chairperson, Mr Director General, distinguished delegates,

Lithuania fully aligns itself with the statement by the European Union. In addition, I would like to make few remarks in my national capacity.

First of all, I would like to express our appreciation to the Director General of the OPCW and the Technical Secretariat for the prompt and efficient reaction in response to the United Kingdom's request under Article VIII of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We would also like to commend an outstanding professionalism and impartiality of the Technical Assistance Visit (TAV) team, and express full confidence with regard to preparation of the report and its findings.

Also, we welcome the complete transparency demonstrated by the United Kingdom in handling the report. We have full confidence in the diligent and thorough investigation by the British authorities of the horrendous Salisbury attack. We reiterate our solidarity with the UK following this shocking incident.

In this context, it is deeply regrettable to see attempts by some states parties of this organisation aiming to undermine the work of the Technical Assistance Visit team, and the credibility of the OPCW.

We call on Russia to live up to its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention, fully disclose its chemical weapons programmes to the OPCW, and urgently address important legitimate questions of the British government.

We would like to reiterate that any use of chemical weapons by a state party, under any circumstances, is a breach the international law and must be adequately countered in order to deter further attacks and would-be perpetrators.

Lithuania reaffirms its commitment to the Chemical Weapons Convention, as well as our support to the International Partnership against Impunity for the Use of Chemical Weapons, both as a political commitment to hold to account those responsible for the use of chemical weapons, and as supplement to the international mechanisms to counter proliferation of chemical weapons.

I kindly request that this Statement be circulated as an official document of this session and posted on the OPCW's public website.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson