



**Permanent Representation  
of Ukraine to the OPCW**

*English*

*Item 8: General debate*

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Oleksandr Karasevych on the occasion of the 29th  
Conference of States Parties (November 25 - 29, 2024)**

**Mr. Chairperson,**

**Mr. Director-General,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Ambassadors and Delegates,**

First of all, allow me to pay tribute to H.E. Mr. Suljuk Mustansar Tarar, Ambassador of Pakistan, President of the 28th Conference of States Parties, and to H.E. Mr. Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral, Ambassador of Ecuador, Chairman of the Executive Council, for their tireless efforts and outstanding performance in the discharge of their duties.

I would also like to express my gratitude to H.E. Ambassador Fernando Arias, Director General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and to the staff of the Technical Secretariat for the efforts to improve implementation of the Convention and to raise awareness of the important role it plays in multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation worldwide.

I also have the honor of congratulating H.E. Mr. Almir Šahović, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on his election to the presidency of the 29th Conference of States Parties and to assure him of our full support for the success and smooth running of this conference.

While fully associating myself with the statement made by the Representative of Hungary on behalf of the European Union, I would like to take this opportunity to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

**Mr President, Dear Colleagues,**

This annual meeting in The Hague serves as an opportunity to take concrete steps toward ensuring adherence to the Chemical Weapons Convention, approve the Organisation's program budget, elect members of the Executive Council, and explore ways to foster international cooperation for peaceful chemical activities, among other important tasks.

The work of the Conference of States Parties is far from isolated; it unfolds within a global context profoundly shaped by, first of all, by Russia's aggression against Ukraine

and security situation in the Middle East. It is crucial that we address this issue, as the effective functioning of the Organisation depends on it. The success of these discussions hinges on our ability to remain clear-eyed, honest, and courageous—calling things by their true names. Given the significant geopolitical shifts that have rocked Europe and the world in recent months, the approach of kind indifference or turning a blind eye, adopted by certain countries, is no longer viable. The new reality is inescapable, and we will all pay the price for failing to respond strongly and protect our grounds. It is better to acknowledge this now and respond promptly, including at the level of the OPCW.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

For over a thousand days now, Ukraine has been resisting the full-scale armed aggression of the Russian Federation and has been fighting for its freedom, statehood, territorial integrity and the opportunity to develop freely and build its future.

Russia is waging a hybrid war not only against Ukraine, but also against the entire world, using food, energy and other resources as weapons. Russia is implementing large-scale disinformation campaigns and cyberattacks, trying to manipulate public opinion, spread chaos and divide democratic societies. It is unacceptable to proceed as if nothing has happened by electing Russian diplomats to key positions within this Organisation.

Russia should not be allowed to represent the Eastern European Group as a member of the Executive Council.

The aggressive actions of the Russian Federation against our country clearly demand proper international legal action, leading to measures that stop the aggression and hold the aggressor accountable in every way. Such brazen conduct by the aggressor has serious consequences.

That is why Russian officials have no moral standing to hold leadership roles in international institutions.

As for Ukraine, I want to reassure you that we remain fully committed to the Chemical Weapons Convention and have no intention of ever using such weapons, regardless of the situation on the frontlines. Ukraine will never, under any circumstances, resort to chemical weapons or use industrial chemicals as a weapon.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

In line with this position, Ukraine, a staunch supporter of the Chemical Weapons Convention and an active member of the OPCW, reaffirms that the use of chemical weapons, by any party, under any circumstances, constitutes a clear violation of international law.

Ukraine strongly condemns the attacks on Mr. Alexei Navalny, as well as on Yulia and Sergei Skripal. Additionally, Ukraine denounces the Russian Federation's military support to the Syrian Arab Republic, particularly in areas where the Syrian army has used chemical weapons. Independent laboratories in Germany, France, Sweden, and two OPCW-designated facilities have all confirmed the use of Novichok.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Ukraine fully supports the professional, independent and impartial work of the Technical Secretariat's teams. This is an important step in ensuring accountability for those responsible for the use of chemical weapons. The Declaration Assessment Team (DAT), the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM), as well as the Investigation and Identification team (IIT) have all conducted thorough investigations to demonstrate that the Syrian regime has violated its international obligations under the Convention. We welcome the Director-ongoing General's initiatives to communicate with Syria. However, on all of the outstanding issues, there has been no significant progress reported to the Council.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

The Director-General's proposed revised draft programme and budget for 2025 enables the OPCW to carry out its essential activities, including cooperation and assistance initiatives, has the full support of Ukraine. We also fully support the Director-General's efforts in introducing further efficiency and cost-saving measures, ensuring the best use of limited available resources. Therefore, we urge all States Parties to support it as recommended by the Executive Council.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

The universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention is an important factor to enhance its credibility and ensure irreversible character of chemical disarmament in global dimension.

We strongly believe that in order to create the atmosphere of international trust, transparency and mutual responsibility, we need the highest degree of participation in the Convention.

Since some States have not yet made their choice in favour of the CWC, we also believe that it is a common task to use all possible political instruments to convince them to join the Convention in order to achieve its ultimate goal – to make the world free of chemical weapons.

Ukraine appeals to those countries, which have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention, to do so without further delay.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

At this Session of the Conference, we are addressing the issues that demand our close attention. The delegation of Ukraine is ready to fully co-operate with the delegations of other States Parties and the OPCW Secretariat to do its utmost to work for the implementation of the important task of the Organization aimed at complete elimination of chemical weapons.

Thank you, **Mr. Chairperson**, and I would like to request that this statement be treated as an official document of the Conference.

**Thank you for your attention.**