

**Statement by
POLAND
at the 106th session of the Executive Council
(The Hague, 9 - 12 July 2024)**

Mr Chairperson,

Poland aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. I would like to add the following in my national capacity.

Let me start by congratulating you Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral for assuming the position of the Chairperson of the Executive Council. I am confident that your leadership will guide our work and deliberations to successful results.

I would like to use this opportunity to also express Poland's full and continued support to Director General Ambassador Fernando Arias and his dedicated staff for their professionalism, impartiality and credibility in carrying out their everyday responsibilities.

Mr Chairperson,

Poland is pleased to be back as a member of the Executive Council. I would like to seize this opportunity to thank once again all State Parties, who voted for us, for their support. Let me also congratulate all new members of the Council. Let me ensure you that Poland looks forward to working with all other delegations in a constructive manner.

Poland decided to compete for the membership in the Council, because we believe that it should be composed of credible and reliable partners, whose good faith engagement is indisputable and who respect the provision of the Charter of the United Nations and other international obligations.

We also underline the importance of safeguarding the CWC as an important instrument of disarmament and non-proliferation, especially in times when the whole international security system is under heavy pressure and being undermined by those who in order to realize their neo-imperialistic ambitions are interested in dismantling the world's security architecture.

Poland wants to use the opportunity of the two year mandate to support efforts to strengthen the organization, ensuring that it remains fit for purpose and fully prepared to face future challenges and threats. In that context, we are pleased that Poland's Chemical Laboratory of

CBRN Area Control Centre has recently obtained OPCW designation status for the environmental sample analysis.

My delegation would like to thank all States Parties for their understanding and positive engagement in addressing the issue of chemical weapons dumped at sea and related threats. We look forward to continue discussing this topic with all interested parties.

Mr Chairperson,

In a few weeks it will be 900 days since Russia attacked Ukraine. This war of unprovoked and unacceptable aggression continues everyday claiming lives of innocent people of Ukraine. Poland strongly reiterates its unwavering support to Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders and its inherent right of self-defence against the Russian aggression.

We have learned with grave concern about the growing number of cases of riot control agents (RCA) use by Russian armed forces in combat operations in Ukraine. We consider that this matter must be promptly and thoroughly investigated.

For that very reason Poland and a number of other States Parties have supported German request addressed to the Executive Council to assist in clarifying the matter. Poland supports the view that in order to investigate it properly a Technical Assistance Visit (TAV) or a fact-finding mission is necessary. In that context, we welcome the signing of the Privileges and Immunities Agreement between Ukraine and the OPCW, which will enable the Technical Secretariat's visits to be conducted in Ukraine. We would also like to commend the Technical Secretariat for conducting a technical training for Ukrainian experts, and for delivering the necessary equipment to Ukraine. It is important that all formal and technical issues are resolved swiftly. We thank the Technical Secretariat for its readiness to assist Ukraine in every possible way.

Mr Chairperson,

Article I of the CWC clearly forbids to use riot control agents as a method of warfare, therefore, allegations regarding the use of RCA by Russia in the war against Ukraine along with the use of chemical nerve agents from the Novichok family in assassination attempts against Sergej

Skripal and Alexei Navalny put into question the Russian Federation's compliance with its obligations under the CWC.

Due to continuing concerns about the possible use of chemical weapons in the conflict, Ukraine remains in the centre of Poland's attention, but at the same time we do not forget about addressing the use of chemical weapons in Syria. We appeal to the Syrian Arab Republic to fully observe the CWC and swiftly clarify all remaining questions related to its initial declaration. We note the resumption of regular consultations with the DAT, but at the same time we are concerned that in addition to 17 outstanding issues previously reported by the DAT, serious concerns remain regarding the presence of unexpected chemicals in the samples collected by the DAT between 2020 and 2023 at several declared sites. We reiterate that it is the Syrian Arab Republic's obligation to co-operate with the OPCW and provide to the Technical Secretariat all requested information necessary to clarify the outstanding issues and concerns.

Mr Chairperson,

Poland thanks the Technical Secretariat and personally the DG for all efforts to meet challenges related to the emerging technologies, including the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). We agree that this is a matter that needs to be closely monitored. In that context, we congratulate Germany on successful organization of a conference on Artificial Intelligence, held recently in Berlin, and we already look forward to the planned for autumn conference on the impact of AI on the CWC to be organized by Morocco and the Technical Secretariat.

I kindly ask to consider this statement as an official document of this session and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you for your attention.