



English only

**Permanent Representation
of Ukraine to the OPCW**

Point 5 General debate

Statement by the delegation of Ukraine at the 106th session of the Executive Council

**Mr Chairperson,
Director-General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I am honored to represent my country as a member of the Executive Council.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to H.E. Ambassador Lucian Fătu of Romania, for his professionalism and leadership during his chairmanship of the Executive Council. We also extend a warm welcome to the new Chairperson, H.E. Ambassador Andrés Teran Parral of Ecuador, and assure him of our full support during the work of the Council.

Ukraine fully associates itself with the statement delivered by H.E. Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the OPCW Dániel Mihály Horogszegi Szilágyi on behalf of the European Union.

Ukraine is a credible, reliable and responsible member of the OPCW, our state also has served as a member of the Executive Council before and is strongly committed to continuing contributing effectively to achieving our common goal of a world safe from the threat of chemical weapons. We believe that presence of new members of the EC, inter alia Lithuania, Poland, and Ukraine will help to ensure the implementation of provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Unfortunately, at least one state party to the Convention, Russia, believes that violating its obligations under the Convention is an acceptable tool for achieving the goals of just one obsessed person in the Kremlin. This is a clear pattern of Russia's misbehaviour and systematic breach of the Convention.

The armed aggression by the Russian Federation against another member, Ukraine, is unacceptable and unjustifiable, as confirmed by the United Nations General Assembly resolutions (inter alia, A.RES/ES-11/1 of 2 March 2022, and A/RES/ES-11/4 of 13 October 2022).

Despite repeated calls for immediate withdrawal of its occupation forces from the sovereign Ukrainian territory, the Russian Federation continues to blatantly violate the UN Charter and numerous fundamental norms of international law.

Russia is using toxic chemicals including riot control agents as a method of warfare in Ukraine extensively across the frontline of this egregious war. We will have the opportunity to talk about this in more detail during the Session under the relevant agenda item.

The Russian Federation has a track record of using chemical weapons against Alexei Navalny, Julia and Sergei Skripal. Also military assistance of the Russian Federation to the Syrian Arab Republic, including in locations where chemical weapons were used by the Syrian army.

Mr Chairperson,

The OPCW, being one of the most fundamental international organizations in the world, cannot continue to act as if nothing had occurred.

While Russia is waging an aggressive war against Ukraine, using chemicals as a weapon, Russian diplomats have no moral right to hold any positions in the OPCW and be represented in the Eastern European group.

It is a well-known fact that Russia uses its opportunities in international organizations to justify its armed aggression and shift responsibility from itself to the victim of the aggression.

Considering that Russia continues to consistently violate the Chemical Weapons Convention and undermines the work of the OPCW decision-making organs, we call on all the States Parties to the Convention to block Russia's candidacy for membership in the 2025-2027 Executive Council.

Let me express my appreciation for all the statements of support from the OPCW Member States about the war in Ukraine. We are deeply grateful for the strong international support.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document of the 106th session of the Executive council and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you for your attention.