



Embassy of Finland  
The Hague

**Finland**  
**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Ilkka-Pekka Similä**  
**Permanent Representative of Finland to the OPCW**  
**At the 107th Session of the Executive Council of the OPCW**

**“Read out verbatim”**

Mr. Chair, Mr. Director-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finland aligns itself with the statement made by Hungary on behalf of the European Union. In addition, we wish to highlight a few issues from a national perspective.

We would like to thank H.E. Ambassador Andrés Teran Parral of Ecuador for his leadership and commitment as the Chair of the Executive Council. We also extend our sincere gratitude to Director-General Fernando Arias and his staff. We reiterate our full confidence in the expertise, professionalism and impartiality of the Secretariat.

Mr. Chair,

Finland condemns the unjustified and illegal war of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. The Russian invasion of a sovereign country is a violation of international law, including the UN Charter.

As Russia’s war of aggression continues, Finland reiterates its unwavering support to Ukraine’s independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as its right to self-defence. Russia must immediately cease its military actions, withdraw its troops from the

entire territory of Ukraine and respect Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty within its internationally recognised borders.

Russia's repeated use of riot control agents as a method of warfare, as well as its use of other chemical munitions against the Armed Forces of Ukraine, is in blatant violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We are deeply concerned by reports that the frequency of Russia's chemical attacks against Ukrainian forces is increasing, as is the variety of chemical munitions that Russian forces are using on the battlefield. Finland condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's use of chemical agents in Ukraine.

To seek clarification twelve States Parties have requested the Executive Council to assist in clarifying the situation pursuant to Article IX, paragraph 3. Russia's continued evasion of providing clarification is unacceptable. Finland calls on Russia to strictly comply with its obligations under the Convention.

August 20<sup>th</sup> this year marked the fourth anniversary of Alexei Navalny's poisoning. We were saddened and outraged by the death of Mr. Alexei Navalny while imprisoned in the Russian Federation. The ultimate responsibility of Navalny's death lies with the Russian authorities. Finland repeats its call on Russia to investigate the assassination attempt in full transparency and without further delay.

Mr. Chair,

Syria's continued non-compliance with the CWC and its lack of cooperation with the OPCW cause significant damage to the object and purpose of the Convention. More than ten years after Syria's accession to the CWC numerous discrepancies and inconsistencies remain in its initial declaration. The full extent of Syria chemical weapons program is yet unknown. So far, the OPCW and the UN has attributed Syrian regime to be responsible for the use of chemical weapons on nine occasions. Finland fully supports the professional, impartial, and independent work carried out by the Investigation and Identification Team. IIT's work and capabilities help States Parties ensure that there is no

impunity for chemical weapons use by state or non-state actors. As a member of the International Partnership against Impunity for the Use of Chemical Weapons Finland is committed to ensuring full accountability of those responsible for the use of chemical weapons.

Mr Chair,

To conclude, we wish to express our appreciation and strong support to the Director-General's efforts towards gender equality in the Organization. We emphasize the need for further progress in gender mainstreaming at the OPCW and for a more geographically diverse and representative secretariat.

I kindly request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session and posted on Catalyst and public website.