

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR NEILAS TANKEVIČIUS**  
**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA TO THE OPCW**  
**AT THE 107th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr. Chairperson, dear colleagues,

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

We continue to commend the work of Director-General Ambassador Fernando Arias in supporting the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and we reaffirm our full confidence in the expertise, professionalism, impartiality, and credibility of the Technical Secretariat.

My Delegation welcomes H.E. Ambassador Andres Teran Parral's of Ecuador leadership of the Executive Council and assures him of our full support in conducting the work of the 107th session.

Mr. Chairperson,

The use of chemical weapons is unacceptable regardless of the location, time, perpetrator, or circumstances. Still, it has been used in the attempted assassination of late Mr Navalny, as well as in the attempted assassination of Mr Skripal. These days we have firm grounds to believe that Riot Control Agents, irritant gas, improvised explosive devices equipped with ammonia, chloropicrin, etc. were used by Russian Armed Forces in war of aggression against Ukraine. Over the last months use of these substance, banned by the Convention, is increasing in terms of scale and intensity.

Against this background, we commend the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for monitoring the situation in Ukraine closely. We also very much appreciate the Secretariat's ongoing work in providing equipment to Ukraine and in training Ukrainian experts in order to enable Ukraine to respond to contingencies brought about by Russia's aggression.

Lithuania welcomes the commitment, expressed by Ukraine to further deepen cooperation with the Technical Secretariat and strengthen the capabilities of Ukrainian experts in countering the threat of chemical weapons use. We welcome the fact that Ukraine remains a strong supporter of the Convention and fully complies with its provisions.

Mr. Chairperson,

After a decade of international efforts and repeated pledges of cooperation, Syrian Arab Republic remains non-compliant with the Chemical Weapons Convention. Yet again we insist that Syria must cooperate and respond with urgency to the Technical Secretariat's requests as the continuous non-compliance undermines the objective and purpose of the Convention.

We strongly believe that all perpetrators of chemical weapons use must be held accountable. Therefore, Lithuania is a contributor to The Trust Fund for Syria Missions to support the Fact Finding Mission and other remaining activities, which presently include the work of the Declaration

Assessment Team and the Investigation and Identification Team, total contributions and pledges to this fund stands at 45.1 million EUR. The Fund will continue supporting the full elimination of the Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme, as well as to establish facts surrounding the alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria. It is important, that Investigation and Identification Team continues to make progress on its investigations to identify the perpetrators of use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. Chairman

Lithuania continues to draw attention to the matter of sea dumped chemical weapons. Let me recall, that the Resolution of the General Assembly of the UN on “Cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea” was unanimously adopted last year again. Therefore, the Lithuanian delegation calls upon all contracting parties, especially countries in the Baltic Sea region, to be active and cooperative.

Lithuania strongly believes, that OPCW is a right venue to address the problem of sea dumped munition, including chemical weapons in the Baltic Sea. This problem relates to the threat to the ecosystem of the seas, safety of the economic activities offshore, safe navigation, etc. This year again, in the margins of CSP-29, we will invite you to the Side Event on the matter organised by Poland, Germany and Lithuania.

I ask that this statement be made an official document of the 107th session of the Executive Council, and for it to be published on the OPCW external server and the public website.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson