

Point 5 General Debate

Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine at the 107th session of the Executive Council exercising the right of reply

Mr Chairperson,

Director-General,

Since my country was mentioned several times, I am obliged to exercise my right of reply.

I will make just few points.

1. I have carefully studied the information provided in the Note Verbale from the Russian delegation.

It is more clearly structured than the information distributed in July, when they, among other things, relied on publicly available sources—a practice they actively oppose today.

At the same time, Russian state media themselves broadcast news about the use of chemical weapons by Russian forces on the battlefield in Ukraine.

But on this new information I would like to emphasize the misleading nature of these so-called documents.

Both in the Note Verbale and during the statement here, the Russian delegation referred to an "analysis carried out by an OPCW-designated laboratory."

However, as we all know, a laboratory only acts as an OPCW-designated facility when its work is related to the tasks of our Organisation.

We appreciate the Secretariat's Note Verbale, which appropriately clarifies Russia's misuse of the term "OPCW-designated laboratory" as "misleading and incorrect."

2. The Russian Federation does not have any facts on usage of chemical weapons by Ukraine. Because we do not have chemical weapons. We do not use them.

And Ukraine always complies with its international obligations.

Including during the terrible, illegal Russian war of aggression against Ukraine.

3. On the contrary, the Russian Federation is actively using riot control agents and toxic chemicals on the battlefield.

We do have results from analyses conducted by our national labs, but we are not spamming you with them.

We provide factual data of an informational character to keep you updated on developments.

And in parallel, we are working to present this case to the OPCW in line with the Convention.

Because our goal is to strengthen our responsible authorities and non-proliferation regime. And not to undermine it.

Please consider this statement as an official document for the 107th Session of the Executive Council.

Thank you for your attention.