



**Permanent Representation
of Ukraine to the OPCW**

English only

Point 5 General debate

Statement by the delegation of Ukraine at the 107th 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 am grateful to the Chairman, His Excellency Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral (Ecuador), for his wise leadership and assure him of our full support in guiding the work of the 107th session of the Executive 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.

Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine stands out as a stark reminder of the fragility of international peace and security. This aggression is not just an attack on Ukraine; it is an assault on the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, rules-based order, international law and the UN Charter. This is an aggression against all of us.

Ukraine proposes a clear path to peace. It is the Peace Formula. But in response we hear from Russia different types of threats. Including ones, aimed at ruining non-proliferation regimes. I urge everyone present in this room to take a strong stance against such Russia's dangerous and irresponsible rhetoric.

The only reason Putin resorts to these threats is desperate need to scare all of us. We have proven many times that fear is not an answer. We should do the opposite. We should not allow Russia to ruin international peace and security. This blackmail and terror shall never pass.

Russian aggression must be stopped as soon as possible. Otherwise, it will become the norm and Russian terror will prevail over the world order. And tomorrow, many aggressors in all corners of the world will violate borders of its neighbors and will seize land by force.

Mr Chairperson,

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.

Russia believes that violating its obligations under the Convention is an acceptable tool for achieving its criminal military goals.

Russia is using toxic chemicals including riot control agents as a method of warfare in Ukraine extensively across the frontline. I will share more details under the relevant agenda item.

The Russian Federation also has a track record of using chemical weapons against Alexei Navalny, Julia and Sergei Skripal. Besides we can mention about the 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,

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, including its decision-making organs.

Russia should not be allowed to use its seat in this reputable Organisation to justify its armed aggression and shift responsibility from itself.

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

The Russian Federation continues to blatantly violate the norms of international law, in particular the Chemical Weapons Convention, and regularly uses munitions filled with hazardous chemical substances and riot control agents as a method of warfare against Ukraine in violation of paragraph 5 of Article I of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

In this regard, the international community must firmly condemn these illegal actions and speak with one voice against the election of Russia to the Executive Council of the OPCW for 2025-2027.

Today, more than ever, we must demonstrate unity of purpose and actions in defending our common values and the interests of the OPCW. Otherwise, Russia will abuse this reputable organization to spread its deceitful and cynical narratives. However, the final word depends on us!

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document of the 107th session of the Executive Council and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you for your attention.