
**STATEMENT OF DENMARK TO THE
One Hundred and Eight Session of the Executive Council
(The Hague, 4 March – 7 March 2025)**

AGENDA ITEM 5 – GENERAL DEBATE

At the onset, allow me to assure the Chairperson, H.E. Ambassador Andrés Teran Parral of Ecuador, of my delegation's full cooperation during this session. Furthermore, I wish to extend our gratitude to the Director General, H.E. Fernando Arias, and his staff. Denmark has full confidence in the professionalism, impartiality and integrity of the Technical Secretariat in carrying out the many important tasks we have given them.

Mr Chairperson,

We gather at a time with both opportunities and challenges to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

The current global security landscape is marred by conflict and chemical weapons are re-emerging on the global scene. Also, the emerging technologies and the aftermath of abandoned chemical weapons are testing the efficiency of the Treaty system.

At the same time, we see areas of opportunities and progress. In Syria, we have witnessed the fall of the Assad regime, which marks a pivotal moment and renewed prospects for the full implementation of the CWC in a region long plagued by chemical warfare. With the departure of a regime that repeatedly weaponized chemical agents against its own people, the path is now clearer for Syria to transition into a state fully committed to disarmament and non-proliferation.

It is encouraging to see the openness and engagement of the new government. With the attendance of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Syria in this meeting, and with the appointment of a focal point within the Syrian Government, we see important steps being taken.

Also, we support the work of OPCW in its engagement to see that Syria, as soon as possible, moves towards a future free of chemical weapons. Seizing this opportunity requires unwavering commitment.

Allow me also to express our gratitude to Qatar and its role in facilitating the dialogue with OPCW.

Mr. Chairperson,

This brings me to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, a stark violation of international law. Denmark stands resolutely in support of Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. We call on the Russian Federation to withdraw its forces from all Ukrainian territory, and respect Ukraine's sovereignty.

We continue to be profoundly alarmed by credible reports on the use of Riot Control Agents by the Russian Federation as a method of warfare along with the reported deployment of the choking agent chloropicrin against Ukrainian soldiers. We insist that the Russian Federation respect its obligations under the CWC and underline the importance of continued monitoring of the situation by the Technical Secretariat.

Mr. Chairperson,

Denmark wishes to highlight the serious risks that Artificial Intelligence could pose to the implementation of the CWC in the post-destruction era. With the rapid pace of innovation in this field, it is essential for the Technical Secretariat to develop a robust technical understanding of AI.

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

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