



OPCW

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ROMANIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR LUCIAN FĂTU
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ROMANIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE NINETY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Romania fully supports the statement of the European Union. It is a statement that covers the main concerns of States Parties that are European Union members.

However, in these complicated times, even more support is needed. For this reason, I would like to add a few remarks in our national capacity.

Romania recognises and supports the important role of the OPCW in the multilateral architecture that underpins the rule of law and advances towards rule-based order. For this reason, we can only thank the Technical Secretariat, the Director-General, and all those who contributed to the continuation of the OPCW's work, under exceptional circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This session of the Executive Council will definitely contribute to strengthening multilateralism and the rules-based international order. Every step taken is important. After all discussions, consultations, declarations, and decisions, only one fundamental element remains: a world free of chemical weapons. This depends on how we work together to achieve this goal and prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons.

Romania is convinced that all States Parties must act to protect the integrity of the Convention—a key instrument of the international non-proliferation and disarmament regime—and uphold the global chemical weapons non-use norm. Romania acts in this spirit.

For this very reason, Romania voted in favour of the decision of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to suspend the voting rights and privileges of the Syrian Arab Republic. Romania is among the States Parties requesting that the Syrian Arab Republic cooperate with the OPCW. We urge the Syrian Arab Republic to provide the relevant information to the Technical Secretariat in order to resolve outstanding issues.

This conviction also served as the basis of Romania's actions regarding the assassination attempt against the Russian opposition politician Mr Alexei Navalny. Romania reiterates its



strong concern that the Russian Federation has not reacted to international calls to investigate the assassination attempt against Mr Alexei Navalny thoroughly and with full transparency.

Romania considers it very important that all States Parties pay their contributions on time to ensure that the OPCW is able to function effectively.

In the same vein, Romania welcomes and co-sponsors Germany's initiative on the business continuity of the Executive Council.

Romania supports the re-appointment of Ambassador Arias for a second term in office. We are convinced that Ambassador Arias will continue to act in the same firm way and that His Excellency will also continue the projects that have already been started. One of these projects is the establishment of the Centre for Chemistry and Technology, the implementation of which Romania fully supports, including financially.

I kindly request that this statement be considered an official document and published on the OPCW's Catalyst platform and public website.

Thank you.

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