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ROMANIA

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

Madam Chairperson, Director-General, Excellences, Ladies and gentlemen,

Romania fully aligns itself with the statements made on behalf of the European Union. In addition, I wish to emphasise a few issues from a national perspective.

This Executive Council takes place in unprecedented and extremely dire circumstances. Romania condemns in the strongest possible terms the Russian Federation's premeditated, unjustified, and unprovoked military aggression against Ukraine. This severe violation of international law and international commitments, including the United Nations Charter principles, places the entire world at risk.

Romania strongly rejects such irresponsible, aggressive behaviour that undermines the very foundation of international relations and the international rules-based order.

Thus, we welcome and fully stand by the United Nations General Assembly resolution condemning the aggression of Ukraine by the Russian Federation and demanding that Russia immediately, completely, and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised border.

In this context, we are extremely concerned by a potential "false flag" operation by Russian military forces attacking chemical plants or related storage facilities in Ukraine. Thus, we denounce Russia's unjustified statements and condemn all Russian disinformation campaigns, notably regarding allegations of provocations using chemical agents in Ukraine. We urge Russia to adopt a responsible behaviour, returning in good faith to the diplomatic path.

The Chemical Weapons Convention ("the Convention"), to which the Russian Federation is also a State Party, states in extremely clear terms the absolute prohibition on the use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anyone, and under any circumstances, and clearly states the accountability terms.

In this grim context, Romania recognises and supports the important role of the OPCW in the multilateral architecture. We can only restate our gratitude and full confidence regarding the activity of the Technical Secretariat, the Director-General and all those who contribute to the continuation of the OPCW's work.



Also, the implementation of the Centre for Chemistry and Technology project is fully supported, including financially, by Romania.

On 29 April 2022, we will celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention. The good news is that 99% of the declared chemical weapons were destroyed. But we are unfortunately still witnessing their use.

Romania strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic and makes a plea for an honest cooperation of the Syrian Arab Republic with the OPCW, declaring the full existence of its chemical weapons programme and returning to full compliance with the Convention.

Moreover, Romania reiterates its strong concerns regarding the lack of reaction by the Russian Federation to the international calls to investigate thoroughly and in full transparency the assassination attempt on Mr Navalny.

Romania welcomes and co-sponsors Germany's initiative on Executive Council business continuity.

Romania believes that the Fifth Review Conference will enable us to assess the past activities and measures taken in order to implement the Convention, but also to discuss the way forward. Romania expresses its readiness to engage in a constructive discussion regarding the Fifth Review Conference, which will take place in 2023.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document and publish it on Catalyst and the public website of the OPCW.

Thank you.

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