



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Statement By H.E. Ambassador Henk Cor Van Der Kwast
Permanent Representative Of The Netherlands
To The Organisation For The Prohibition Of Chemical Weapons
EC-101, 4 – 7 October 2022 | Agenda item 6G**

Mr Chairperson,

Thank you for your leadership in chairing this meeting. We appreciate and fully support you. And, Mr Chair, we do realise that chairing this Executive Council is quite a challenging task. We stand behind the EU statement expressed by the Czech Ambassador.

Now more than six months ago, the Russian Federation launched a completely *unprovoked and unjustified war against Ukraine*. Moreover, in obvious efforts to justify this brutal aggression, the Russian Federation has started a disinformation campaign that continues until this day, accusing Ukraine of possible use of chemical weapons. However, this campaign has all the tell-tale signs that the accusations are nothing but efforts to prepare for a 'false flag' operation, that would falsely incriminate Ukraine.

Russia's unbridled aggression under the pretence of protecting the Ukrainian people against its leadership, is an assault on the UN Charter and the international rules-based order.

As a member of the European Union we repeat and underline the demand of the EU that Russia immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraws all its troops and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine and fully respects Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognised borders.

The war against Ukraine is a gross violation of international law, undermining the international rules-based order and the principles of multilateralism and the Russian Federation should be condemned in the strongest possible terms for starting this war.

As other countries, the Netherlands has positively responded to the requests for assistance that have been made by Ukraine. Among other things, the Netherlands has provided protective equipment, measuring devices, medical and other material and decontamination equipment to Ukraine and we stand ready to assist Ukraine further.

The Netherlands encourages and urges the Technical Secretariat to closely monitor the situation in Ukraine. It must be clear that the world is watching and that use of chemical weapons will be investigated without delay.

Mr Chairperson,

Let me finish by quoting the Prime Minister:

This war is bigger than Ukraine itself.

It's about upholding the international rule of law.

It's about a sovereign people's right to choose its own path.

It's about freedom.

Theirs and ours.

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