



**OPCW**

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**NORTH MACEDONIA**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR BETI JACHEVA  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA  
TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE  
OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,  
Director-General,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

The Republic of North Macedonia expresses appreciation to the outgoing Chairperson, H.E. Ambassador Bård Ivar Svendsen Permanent Representative of Norway, for his excellent chairmanship of the Conference of the States Parties. North Macedonia also warmly congratulates H.E. Ambassador Vusimuzi Madonsela, Permanent Representative of South Africa for his election as the Chairperson of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties and offers him its full support. North Macedonia would also like to commend the work of OPCW Director-General Fernando Arias, and to reiterate its full confidence in the OPCW Technical Secretariat.

North Macedonia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. In addition, I would like to underline the following observations in my national capacity.

This year we are marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the entry-into-force of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction. In this occasion, we reaffirm that the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, under any circumstances is unacceptable and contrary to the international law and its principles. We also reiterate that there can be no impunity for chemical weapons use.

Russia's unprecedented and unprovoked military aggression is a blatant breach of international law and cannot be justified under any pretext. We express our full support for Ukraine and its territorial integrity and sovereignty.

We strongly condemn the attempts to challenge the OPCW's credibility through disinformation campaigns, and we join the others in condemning Russian disinformation campaigns regarding allegations of provocations using chemical agents in Ukraine.

It is still worrying that the Syrian Arab Republic continues to fail to comply with the Chemical Weapons Convention, including not complying with its obligation to allow full access to OPCW personnel. We urge Syria to act constructively and cooperate fully with the Technical Secretariat and Declarations Assessment Team.



We support the proposed Draft Revised Programme and Budget for 2023 since it enables the OPCW to continue its vital work towards world free of chemical weapons.

Mr Chairperson, the Fifth Review Conference to be held in May 2023 is fast approaching and North Macedonia expresses gratitude and appreciation to the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group, H.E. Ambassador Lauri Kuusing of Estonia for his excellent leadership and for his open and inclusive approach in preparation of this Conference. North Macedonia deems this upcoming Review Conference as an important opportunity for States Parties to shape up the activities of the OPCW to enable it to continue with its core mandate—achieving a world safe from the threat of chemical weapons.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you.

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