

**ROMANIA**  
**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR LUCIAN FĂTU, PERMANENT**  
**REPRESENTATIVE OF ROMANIA TO THE OPCW**

Mr. Chairperson, Mr. Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Let me start by expressing the appreciation of Romania for the outgoing Chairperson, Ambassador Bård Ivar Svendsen of Norway, for his able stewardship at the forefront of the Conference during these difficult times.

I would also like to congratulate Ambassador Vasimuzi Philemon Madonsela of South Africa on the election as the new Chairperson of the Conference, and to express Romania's support during your mandate.

Romania fully subscribes to the statement of the European Union. And this sentence is not just a simple diplomatic statement. It is a reiteration of the fact that, despite these terrible times we live in, we are more united than ever.

At the same time, I would like to briefly address the Conference in my national capacity.

This year has been another challenging year for the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction ("the Convention").

We cannot ignore that the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine is a violation of our values, and a serious violation of international law and international commitments, including in connection with the Convention.

In this context, we need to renew the appeal for Russian Federation to stop its premeditated, unjustified, and unprovoked aggression against Ukraine.

We must continue to condemn all Russian disinformation campaigns, notably regarding allegations of provocations using chemical agents in Ukraine. Undermining democracy is an insidious process that we must tackle. Such provocations, including "false flag" actions, would be irresponsible and could have grave humanitarian consequences.

We urge The Secretariat to continue to monitor the situation and to inform all States Parties about the developments.

In this difficult context, the States Parties must protect international law and the Convention even more strongly.

Unfortunately, considering the identified gaps, inconsistencies, and discrepancies that remain unresolved, the Secretariat assesses that the declaration submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic still cannot be considered accurate and complete in accordance with the Convention, Council decisions EC-M-33/DEC.1 and EC-94/DEC.2, and United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013).

Romania expresses its concern about this situation. Therefore, it is among the States Parties requesting the Syrian Arab Republic to cooperate with the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW and clarify these outstanding issues.

My country remains deeply concerned about the repeated violations of the Convention, and expresses its conviction that perpetrators must be held accountable. An attack using a chemical warfare agent

or, as in this specific case, a nerve agent is a blatant violation of international law and the Convention. We must reaffirm the non-negotiable aspect of the norm established by the Convention.

Hence, Romania reiterates its strong concerns that the Russian Federation has not reacted in a real way to international calls to investigate thoroughly and in full transparency the assassination attempt on Mr. Navalny by a nerve agent of the “Novichok” group in August 2020.

Romania condemns the use of chemical weapons in the strongest terms and calls on all States Parties to respect their obligations under the Convention.

But the recurrent use of chemical weapons sends a clear signal: the OPCW’s role within the disarmament and non-proliferation framework remains crucial.

And the implementation, at the national level, of the decisions adopted at the level of the Conference of States Parties remains an important element in this equation.

I would also like to express my country’s unwavering support and confidence to the Technical Secretariat’s expertise, professionalism, impartiality, and independence. We thank all those who have contributed to the continuation of the work of the OPCW during these difficult times.

For this reason, Romania supports the proposal regarding Draft Revised Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2023. The achievement of a world permanently free of chemical weapons requires predictable and solid financial resources. We encourage all States Parties to enable the OPCW to continue its crucial work by paying their assessed contributions in full and on time.

In addition to financial resources, the OPCW needs adequate and qualified human resources and expertise. We support the decision to rehire the inspectors, as a crucial measure to the operational effectiveness of the Organisation. We urge the Secretariat to continue to make efforts so that such a measure does not become the norm.

Furthermore, another illustration of Romania’s underpin is the support for business continuity measures, such as convening Executive Council meetings or sessions in emergency circumstances. We will continue to uphold this much needed proposal of the Federal Republic of Germany.

At the same time, we are looking forward to the inauguration and activities of the new Centre for Chemistry and Technology, the “ChemTech Centre”. I would like to express our appreciation for the Director-General’s determined efforts in keeping the project on track during these difficult times.

Before concluding, I want to welcome the numerous presences of the representatives of international non-governmental organizations.

I would kindly request that this statement be considered an official document of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties and published on the Catalyst platform and the OPCW’s public website.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.