



**Permanent Representation  
of Ukraine to the OPCW**

*English only*

*Point 6 (f) Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use*

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Maksym Kononenko, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the OPCW at the 102<sup>nd</sup> session of the Executive Council**

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

I am honored to be a part of today's discussion on the threat of chemical weapons usage.

Ukraine applauds the Technical Secretariat's professional efforts in the Syrian Arab Republic. We fully support the efforts of the DAT (Declaration Assessment Team), FFM (Fact-Finding Mission), and IIT (Investigation and Identification Team).

Let me express support and appreciation for the professional, impartial, and independent work carried out by the Investigation and Identification Team.

Ukraine welcomes the publication of the third report of the OPCW's IIT, which contributes to fighting impunity by identifying the Syrian Arab Air Force under the control of the Tiger Forces as responsible for a chemical weapons attack in Douma on 7 April, 2018.

We strongly condemn the use of chemical weapons by the Syrian Arab Air Force, as the IIT concluded in its report, and by anyone under any circumstances, and demand cessation of such use.

Ukraine regrets the lack of cooperation the IIT has faced from Syria in this process, including Syria's refusal to grant access to its territory to the head of the IIT and his team, as well as access to requested information relating to its chemical military program.

Ukraine is of the view that the use of chemical weapons by Syria, with the collusion of the Russian authorities, has contributed to increased risk of chemical weapons use elsewhere, including in my country.

We call on Syria to fulfil its obligations under the Convention, to cooperate with the Organisation and to provide assistance to the Secretariat as set in paragraph 7 of Article VII of the Convention, as well as its obligations to provide immediate and unfettered access to all personnel designated by the OPCW as set out in Council decision and United Nations Security Council resolution. There is no political narrative to discriminate the Syrian Arab Republic, but there is

lack of productive approach, identified gaps, inconsistencies, discrepancies, pending declarations, pending documents, evidence that disappear.

It is imperative that the perpetrators are held to account.

Implementation of the Convention is one of the most important areas of our State's policy in the field of arms control and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Ukraine remains fully committed to achieving a world free of chemical weapons.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document of the 102nd session of the Executive council and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

**Thank you for your attention.**