

Statement
by Dr Kateryna Bila,
Head of the Secretariat of the National Authority on the implementation of
Chemical Weapons Convention of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine at
the Fifth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the
Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention
(Agenda Item 9, Enhancing international cooperation and assistance
(ix) assistance and protection against chemical weapons)

(15-19 May, The Hague)

Mr. Chairperson,

Ukraine highly appreciates the OPCW and its Secretariat ability to provide assistance to those member states who need it.

My country is among those states which have a significant potential for cooperation in the framework of Articles X and XI of the CWC, taking into account its human and technical resources, high scientific and technological capacities.

Ukraine has adopted the legislation, which provides the legal framework for CWC implementation. Government of Ukraine strictly controls all export-import operations and transfers of scheduled chemicals.

We believe that the Secretariat should further maintain readiness to conduct different types of inspections, including investigations of alleged use of chemical weapons and challenge inspections, and of providing technical assistance including through technical assistance visits (TAVs) to States Parties at their request.

As the result of growing co-operation between Ukraine and the OPCW the Secretariat has been involved in dealing with the consequences of the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, in line with its mandate under the Convention.

The Secretariat has been providing assistance and protection to Ukraine, upon its request, in several ways under Article X. This includes training courses to Ukrainian first responders to strengthen preparedness against the use of chemical weapons, in particular in attacks targeting industrial facilities. The Secretariat is also providing chemical detection equipment.

The trust fund for the implementation of Article X, to which States Parties have contributed recently, will need to be constantly funded. Ukraine is ready to continue its very fruitful and useful collaboration with the OPCW in this direction.

We are convinced that this will enable us to better resist the Russian aggression, to strengthen our chemical safety measures, to improve our emergency response, to counteract the possible use of chemicals on the territory of Ukraine and to move forward with important projects, helping to prepare us for future challenges.

Ukraine is also grateful to the States Parties to the Convention that have provided us on the bilateral level with assistance, including alarm systems, detection protective decontamination equipment, medical antidotes and treatments as well as instructions on application of these protective measures.

The Russian full-scale war against Ukraine showed not only the problem of the threat of the use of chemical weapons by the aggressor, but also the unknown extremely intense poisonous effect on people of mixtures of highly toxic substances that are formed from

explosives, burning of phosphorous ammunition in combination with industrial and agricultural chemicals and burning of energy infrastructure, including transformers and oil depots.

Today it is not possible to carry out a full examination and investigation, but after we win the war our medical care system will tackle new challenges. We will have to diagnose, treat and rehabilitate thousands of people with chemical damage to their health, severely complicated with traumatic psychological stress.

Apart from the OPCW, there is no other organization that can cover such a chemical threat to human life, which is comparable in impact and consequences to chemical weapons. In this regard we suggest that the state parties consider the possibility of bringing the issue of such chemical threat to the OPCW agenda.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and I would like to request that this statement be treated as an official document of the Conference.