

STATEMENT OF ROMANIA
DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR BRÂNDUȘA PREDESCU
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ROMANIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE 89th SESSION OF THE OPCW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
(THE HAGUE, 9-12 OCTOBER 2018)

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

Let me start by congratulating Ambassador Fernando Arias on his appointment as the new Director-General of the OPCW. I would also like to assure Director-General Arias of Romania's full support in performing his important mandate at the forefront of the Organization's Technical Secretariat.

At the same time, I seize this opportunity to express Romania's entire support to the work of Ambassador Jana Reinišová as Chairperson of the Executive Council and for a successful outcome of this session of the EC.

Romania fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union delivered by the Permanent Representative of Austria, Ambassador Heidemaria Gürer. At the same time, I would like to make the following remarks in my national capacity:

Romania actively supports the activities of the OPCW in promoting and accomplishing the objectives established by the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. In a global environment fraught with continued challenges, among which the recurrent use of chemical weapons or weaponized chemicals, Romania will continue to strongly support and assist the OPCW in implementing policies, as agreed in the sessions of the Conference of State Parties, including the decision adopted at the 4th Special Session of the CSP with regard to accountability for any use of chemical weapons. My country also lends concrete support to those projects aimed to equip our organization with appropriate tools to properly manage its responsibilities, in particular, but not exclusively, those related to capacity building, such as the RRAM/the Rapid Response and Assistance Mission which undertook an important training exercise in Romania, in December 2017.

Romania remains committed to the efforts meant to consolidate the Organization's relevance in the world, as well as its capacity and tools to better respond to the increasingly complex challenges it faces in the current and future international environment. We encourage all States Parties to support actions along these lines in order to achieve the goal of a world free of chemical weapons.

At the same time, I would like to stress that Romania has no understanding for and opposes any kind of actions which would intrude upon the proper functioning of the OPCW. In this context, Romania expresses its deep concern over the recently revealed hostile cyber activities against the Organization. We believe they constitute an unacceptable attempt to undermine the OPCW, a crucial actor and component of the international disarmament system. We express our appreciation for the Netherlands, host country of the OPCW, for timely disrupting this attempt.

Romania believes that only by remaining committed to multilateralism and cooperation in good faith as well as by upholding the rules-based international system - that we have together created - can States Parties to the CWC effectively and to the fullest implement its provisions.

In concluding, let me stress again that Romania has full trust in the competence, activity and integrity of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW and expects that all States Parties lend their support for it to put into practice the decisions adopted. From this perspective, and relying on the valuable preparatory work accomplished in the dedicated Open-Ended Working Group under the able leadership of Ambassador Puja of Indonesia we believe in a successful outcome of the Fourth Review Conference and stand ready to continue working with States Parties and the Technical Secretariat towards this end.

I would like to request that this statement be issued as an official document of this session of the Executive Council and posted on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.