



OPCW

Executive Council

Ninety-Fifth Session
6 – 9 October 2020

EC-95/NAT.45
6 October 2020
ENGLISH only

ROMANIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR BRÂNDUȘA PREDESCU
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ROMANIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE NINETY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

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

Romania aligns itself with the statement delivered by Ambassador Gudrun Linger on behalf of the European Union. At the same time, I would like to address the Executive Council in my national capacity.

Romania supports the European Union declaration, condemning the use of a chemical nerve agent of the “Novichok group” against Alexei Navalny. The act of poisoning of Alexei Navalny, leading opposition representative, is a flagrant breach of international law. This is the second time when a prohibited chemical agent of the “Novichok” group is used. The Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bogdan Aurescu, expressed the need for the European Union to have an active stance, and called on Russia to conduct impartial, transparent, and in-depth investigations in full cooperation with the OPCW, to bring those responsible to justice.

Romania condemns the use of chemical weapons in Syria, supports the OPCW Investigation and Identification Team activity, and expresses confidence in the objectivity and impartiality of the OPCW investigation team.

Romania has already expressed its support, since October 2019, for the draft amendment to the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF) Rules of Procedure. A decision was postponed in this regard, because the project was interpreted as an attempt to politicise and affect the independence of the nominated experts in this advisory council.

Also in 2019, Romania expressed its support for the United States, Switzerland, and Austria initiative, regarding aerosolised chemical agents with an effect on the central nervous system.

As a dynamic advocate of multilateralism, Romania has always had a responsible, constructive, and supportive approach with respect to promoting the best ways for achieving a full and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. My country strongly urges all States Parties to actively uphold the Convention and support the OPCW. Also, we firmly support the activity of the OPCW Director-General and Technical Secretariat in their complex undertakings meant to advance the purposes of the Convention. We have total confidence in



their professionalism, expertise, and impartiality. At the same time, we firmly oppose any attempt to undermine the credibility and integrity of the OPCW, which threatens to weaken the foundations of the chemical disarmament system.

I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Ninety-Fifth Session of the Executive Council and posted on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you.

--- 0 ---