

STATEMENT OF ROMANIA
DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR LUCIAN FĂTU
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ROMANIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE 96th SESSION OF THE OPCW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
(THE HAGUE, 9-12 MARCH 2021)

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

Romania wishes to thank Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez for his professionalism and commitment in chairing the Executive Council. I would also like to thank the OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, and his staff for their determination and efforts.

Romania aligns itself with the statement made by Portugal on behalf of the European Union.

In addition, I would like to address the Executive Council in my national capacity.

In these extremely complicated times, the integrity of the rules-based international system with effective multilateralism as a key principle is indispensable for maintaining international peace and security.

As dynamic advocate of the 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. We continue to urge, more than ever, on all States Parties to actively uphold the Convention and reiterate to support the OPCW.

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.

The use of chemical weapons is unacceptable and I express the entire support of Romania for the destruction and verification of all chemical weapons, which must remain a priority of the OPCW, together with preventing their re-emergence.

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.

We support the continued involvement of the Director-General and the OPCW Technical Secretariat in urging the Syrian authorities to swiftly clarify existing concerns about the correctness of the Syrian statements and the Damascus authorities' compliance with their obligations, according to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Syrian regime needs to cooperate with OPCW in clarifying all aspects related to the issue of chemical weapons in Syria. We support all efforts in this vein.

In connection with the case of Alexei Navalny poisoning, leading opposition representative, we reiterate the previous request, made in October, at the 95th session of Executive Council regarding an impartial, transparent and in-depth investigations, in full cooperation between Russian Federation and the OPCW, to bring those responsible to justice. Until now, there is no explanation of the circumstances of the Alexei Navalny poisoning with banned Novichok nerve agent. We must not forget that the use of a banned nerve agent has been confirmed by the OPCW and by lab analysis made independently in three EU member states.

The use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, at any time and under any circumstances is a violation of international law. And it cannot be accepted.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document of the 96th Session of the Executive Council and posted on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you.