

ROMANIA

STATEMENT BY H.E AMBASSADOR LUCIAN FĂTU

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ROMANIA TO THE OPCW

AT THE NINETY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Mr Chairperson, Director-General, Excellencies, Ladies and gentleman,

Romania fully aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union. In addition, I wish to emphasize a few issues from the national perspective.

It is a new meeting of the Executive Council in the circumstances of the global COVID-19 pandemic. While we hope to get out of this difficult situation for our nations, we think with sorrow of all the lost lives and all the suffering of so many families.

In this difficult context, let me reiterate Romania's strong support to the OPCW Director General and Technical Secretariat. Romania has full confidence in their expertise, professionalism, impartiality and independence. We express our gratitude to the Director-General and Technical Secretariat for adapting in ways that allow the OPCW to safely continue its important work.

At the same time, we, the States Parties, must continue to act in order to achieve the goal assumed by all of us: a world free of chemical weapons. Unfortunately, the reality is that the OPCW and the Convention are under threat more than ever.

Let us be clear and reiterate: the use of chemical weapons, anywhere, at any time, by anyone, under any circumstances, is entirely unacceptable.

For this reason, Romania strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons in Syria and considers that the decision of the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the States Parties regarding the possession and use of chemical weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic was an appropriate response. But this decision does not mean that we have turned our backs to the Syrian Arab Republic. On the contrary, this decision reiterates how important it is for the Syrian Arab Republic to cooperate with the OPCW in clarifying all aspects related to the issue of chemical weapons in Syria. As before, we support all efforts in this vein.

At the same time, Romania joins those who continue to urge the Russian Federation regarding an impartial, transparent, and in-depth investigation, in full cooperation between Russian Federation and the OPCW, to bring to justice those responsible for the poisoning of Alexei Navalny.

Because we must work together for a world free of chemical weapons, Romania, along with like-minded States Parties, continues to strengthen the implementation of the Chemical Weapons

Convention and to reinforce the norm against chemical weapons. As committed advocate of multilateralism, Romania has always had a constructive and supportive approach with respect to promoting the best ways for achieving a full implementation of the Convention. An example of this is the demarche by numerous co-sponsors, including Romania, in support of a decision by the Conference of the States Parties, in November 2021, stating that the use of aerosolized Central Nervous System (CNS)-acting chemicals is inconsistent with law enforcement as a “purpose not prohibited” by the Convention.

Another example is the entire effort regarding the proposal for convening Executive Council meetings or sessions in emergency circumstances. Romania supports this demarche as part of Business Continuity of the OPCW.

I do not want to end without reiterating what Romania has always said: the re-emergence of chemical weapons is one of the most urgent threats to international peace and security and must be dealt with firmly and collectively.

I would kindly request this statement be issued as an official document of the Ninety-Seventh Session of the Executive Council of the OPCW and posted it on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you