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ROMANIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR LUCIAN FĂTU
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ROMANIA TO THE OPCW AT THE
TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

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

Romania fully aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union. At the same time, I would like to add the following remarks in my national capacity:

During these difficult times, we continue to face new challenges to the security of our States and to the rule of law.

Nevertheless, we continue to keep topics on our agenda that we have discussed several times. We do this because it is necessary to remember that these topics are extremely important for our security and for the rules-based international system and we will continue to repeat as long as it will be necessary as the use of chemical weapons, these abhorrent weapons, is unacceptable and I express the entire support of Romania for the destruction and the verification of the destruction of all chemical weapons, which must remain a priority of the OPCW, together with preventing their re-emergence. 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.

The use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere and under any circumstances is a violation of the international law. This is what all States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”) believe in. The Convention is a key instrument of the non-proliferation and disarmament regime. It is important for international rule of law, for compliance with international conventions. It is important for us, as nations. And it is important for all those affected by the use of chemical weapons. We must not forget them. It is our duty to make sure that their suffering is not forgotten.

Romania strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons in Syria. The draft decision entitled “Addressing the Possession and Use of Chemical Weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic” is an appropriate response by the Conference of the States Parties to the clear violation of the core principles of the Convention.



We reiterate our support for 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 compliance of the Damascus authorities with their obligations, according to the Convention.

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

In this context, Romania reaffirms its firm support for the activity of the OPCW Director-General and the Technical Secretariat in their complex undertakings 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.

Unfortunately, the ban on chemical weapons has been violated several times in recent years.

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.

Impunity for the use of chemical weapons must not and will not be tolerated.

We must reiterate that the actions of the CSP, like the previous declarations of the OPCW Executive Council, are not a form of punishment. These actions and declarations are necessary constraints to follow the rules by everyone who wants to be at this table.

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

I would kindly request this statement be issued as an official document of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you.

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