



*The Permanent Representation of Italy to the
Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons*

ITALY
STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ITALY TO THE OPCW
AT THE 99th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. Director-General,
Distinguished Delegates,

1. Italy would like to thank H.E. the Ambassador of Morocco Abdelouahab Bellouki for his work as Chairperson of the Executive Council, at the same time we would like to thank H.E. Ambassador of Germany Gudrun Lingner for having wisely led the Executive Council in its vacancy.
2. Italy fully recognizes itself in the statement by the European Union, but would like to add some points in its national capacity, starting with the conflict in Ukraine.
3. Like the EU, Italy has made its position clear all along: the unprovoked aggression decided by the Russian Federation is a blatant and outrageous violation of the most basic principles of international law and the UN Charter, of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine and of fundamental humanitarian rules and principles, and, as such, it has to be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

We therefore reiterate our demand today that Russia immediately ceases its hostilities, unconditionally withdraws all forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine and fully respects Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognized borders and territorial waters.

4. Against this backdrop, we read with great concern the indications contained in the the Note Verbale NV61219/30-196/50-3 of the Permanent Representation of Ukraine to the OPCW.

We take note of the impending danger due to the possible presence of tanks of chemical agents in the area of military operations.

In condemning all Russian disinformation campaigns, notably regarding allegations of provocations using chemical agents in Ukraine, we express our deepest concern about the possible use of chemical incidents in order to prepare false or real provocations that would further deteriorate the current state of affairs.

Mr. Chairperson,

5. In a climate of deplorable daily warfare, we encourage the Technical Secretariat to continue with the known firmness and professionalism, its activities regarding the regrettable events in Syria.

The latest evidence of the FFM is highlighting new and serious events occurred in Syria in which the use of Chemical Weapons is established.

We condemn the attitude of the Syrian Arab Republic and we support the activities of the OPCW with particular regard to the FFM and the IIT.

We call upon Syria to immediately align itself with the demands of the Technical Secretariat and in line with UN Security Council Determination 2118.

We look forward to the announced meeting between the Director General and the Syrian Minister of Foreign Affairs and we urge Syria has to issue an entry visa to the DAT member stopped at the border as well as to all OPCW/UN operators.

6. With the same emphasis, we once again call for transparency by the Russian Federation regarding the poisoning of Mr. Navalny.

The present deplorable moment must not be in any way a limitation in the search for truth, transparency and security.

7. We intend here to thank the Director General and the staff of the Technical Secretariat for their work.

We look forward with hope to the march towards 2023. The year that will see the final destruction of the chemical stockpile, the year of the Convention Review Conference and the opening of the ChemTechCenter. At the same time, however, we take our firm position on the facts of 2022, aligning ourselves with the countries of the EU, the WEOG regional group and global security.

Mr. Chairperson,

8. while thanking you for your work, we ask that this statement be considered as an official document of this EC session and look forward to its publication on Catalyst and the organization's public website.