

STATEMENT BY H.E AMBASSADOR LUCIAN FĂTU
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ROMANIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE ONE HUNDREDTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Mister Chairperson, Director-General, Ladies and Gentlemen,

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.

Unfortunately, we continue to operate in unprecedented circumstances. Romania, along with its EU partners and NATO allies, has not stopped condemning Russian Federation's premeditated, unjustified and unprovoked military aggression on Ukraine. The UN Charta has been breached and we continue to be witnesses of a serious violation of international law and international commitments, including in connection with Chemical Weapons Convention.

In this context, we need to renew the appeal for Russian Federation to stop its premeditated, unjustified and unprovoked aggression. We must continue to condemn all Russian disinformation campaigns, notably regarding allegations of provocations using chemical agents in Ukraine. Such provocations, including „false flag” actions, would be irresponsible and could have grave humanitarian consequences.

The visit to Kyiv by President of Romania, Klaus Iohannis, together with the President of France, German Chancellor and Italian Prime minister demonstrates Romania’s firm support for Ukraine, on multiple layers. We will continue to act in this regard.

On 29th April 2022 we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention. In this difficult context, the States Parties to the Convention must protect international law and the Convention even more strongly. Next year will be an extremely important one: the Fifth Review Conference will take place. It will be an opportunity to consider how to ensure the continued relevance of the Convention as a key instrument of the international non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

Romania recognizes and supports the important role of the OPCW in the multilateral architecture that underpins the rule of law and advances towards the rule-based order. We can only thank again to the Technical Secretariat, the Director-General and all those to contribute to the continuation of the OPCW’s work. Romania has full confidence in their expertise, professionalism and impartiality.

Romania strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic and is among States Parties requesting the Syrian Arab Republic to cooperate with the OPCW. The Syrian Arab Republic needs to resolve the pending issues, declare the full existent of its chemical weapons programme, and return to full compliance with the Convention.

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

This belief was also the basis of Romania's actions regarding the assassination attempt on the Russian opposition politician, Mr. Alexei Navalny. Romania reiterates its strong concerns that the Russian Federation has not reacted to international calls to investigate thoroughly and in full transparency the assassination attempt on Mr. Navalny.

Not least, Romania co-sponsors Germany's initiative on Executive Council business continuity and we will continue to support this demarche.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document and published on the external server (Catalyst) and the public website of the OPCW.

Thank you.