



OPCW

Executive Council

100th Session
5 – 7 July 2022

EC-100/NAT.27
5 July 2022
ENGLISH only

UKRAINE

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MAKSYM KONONENKO
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UKRAINE TO THE OPCW
AT THE 100TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

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

I am pleased to be part of the discussion about the threat of chemical weapons use.

The Russian Federation has made a large number of completely false allegations of chemical weapons use by Ukraine. They have made wild accusations of conspiracies involving other States Parties. None of these are true and the Russian Federation has offered no evidence.

Russia is failing to reach its goals on the battlefield and are becoming increasingly desperate. Terrified of defeat there is a real risk that Russian troops may use weapons of mass destruction (WMD) as the last resort. The distribution of note verbales through the OPCW is a Russian attempt to prepare the international community for the possible use of chemicals in their war against Ukraine.

Ukraine confirms that all accusations published by the Russian Federation through the OPCW Technical Secretariat are false. Other States, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, have also rejected Russian accusations.

Russian troops are systematically violating the norms of international humanitarian law and international human rights law which include—amongst others—the deliberate and indiscriminate attacks on civilians; their use as hostages and human shields; execution and rapes; forceful conscription and kidnapping; attacks on medical personnel and facilities; and the use of banned weapons. Ukrainian law enforcement agencies have launched investigations into over 20,000 war crimes and crimes of aggression committed since 24 February 2022.

Russia is an aggressor State. Ukraine is a strong supporter of the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention) and remains deeply concerned about the use of chemical weapons by the Kremlin regime on our territory.

We are acting in strict compliance with relevant provisions of the Convention. We reject absolutely all assertions to the contrary by the Russian Federation. The false allegations made by Russia are intended to cover up their own provocations, including the possible use of chemical weapons against Ukrainian people.



My country is in grave peril, under constant attack by Russia and with many civilian casualties. Should chemical weapons be used we will ask for help with establishing the facts on the territory of Ukraine. Russia must be held to account. I am grateful to the Secretariat for the work that it does, to the highest professional standards. This includes the monitoring of breaches of the Convention, including allegations of use of chemical weapons, and assisting States Parties when needed, in line with the provisions of the Convention.

In accordance with Article VIII paragraph 38 (e) of the Convention and Article X paragraph 5 (b), Ukraine has requested technical assistance from the Technical Secretariat, and expert advice and assistance in identifying how Ukraine's programmes for the development and improvement of a protective capacity against chemical weapons could be implemented.

We are grateful to the OPCW for any relevant assistance, including advice and coordination; ways and forms of possible cooperation in the field of counteracting the proliferation and use of chemical weapons, as well as the investigation of chemical incidents; OPCW involvement in the international cooperation projects and programmes to receive specialised and logistical support; participation in trainings and seminars on improving the skills of rapid and safe response to chemical incidents; selection and preservation of evidence during events related to the use of combat chemicals; and the application of various analytical methods for the analysis of chemicals included in the Annex on Chemicals to the Convention.

We also remain very grateful to those States Parties that have already offered protective assistance to Ukraine, and we would like to encourage other States Parties to provide advice and assistance as provided for in Article X.

Implementation of the Convention is one of the most important areas of our State's efforts in the field of disarmament, arms control, and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Ukraine undertakes never to use any toxic chemicals as a means of warfare.

Today, let me express my appreciation for all the statements of support from OPCW Member States about the situation in Ukraine. We are very grateful for the strong international support. Thank you.

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