

STATEMENT OF ROMANIA
TO THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF
THE OPCW

Romania fully supports the European Union statement delivered by the Spanish Presidency in the general debate. Please find below a few elements from national perspective.

In order to set the agenda for the coming years, to consolidate the Convention and to adapt this unique organization, we need to build on the positive work that has been achieved at the Fifth Review Conference, as well as make further efforts to agree on the topics that are still open on our agenda.

Romania is determined to continue its actions in order to contribute to the consolidation of the OPCW. I take this opportunity to reiterate Romania's strong support for the professionalism, impartiality, objectivity, and independence of the work of the OPCW and to express appreciation to the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, and the Technical Secretariat for their efforts to uphold the norm against the use of chemical weapons.

The OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology will significantly enhance the capabilities and status of the OPCW as a global leader in the effort to rid the world of chemical weapons. But inaugurating it will not suffice. We must act now to ensure it can be used at its fair value and that State Parties, can fully benefit from this investment.

The most blatant breaches of the norm have occurred with the use of chemical weapons on the territory the Syrian Arab Republic. Those responsible for the repeated use of chemical weapons in Syria must be held accountable. At the same time, the Syrian Arab Republic needs to resolve the pending issues. Return to full compliance of the Syrian Arab Republic with the Convention is imperatively necessary.

We have not tired of advocating for the withdrawal of the Russian Federation forces from the territory of Ukraine. And we will continue to do so.

One of the main negative consequences of Russia's invasion in Ukraine in the multilateral arena is the undermining of the disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. My country is concerned by recent reports regarding the use of riot control agents by Russia as a method of warfare. Such use is prohibited under Article I of the Convention. Romania joins those who are calling Russia to strictly comply with its obligations under the Convention.

In this context, among the topics on the OPCW agenda that are not closed yet is the assassination attempt on the Russian opposition politician, Mr. Alexei Navalny. Romania once again joins the states that urge the Russian Federation to reveal without delay the circumstances of the assassination attempt against Mr. Navalny.

Fortunately, there are reasons for hope as this year the destruction of all declared chemical weapons will be completed. This is a positive momentum we can build on and all State Parties have a duty and responsibility to make sure that chemical weapons do not re-emerge ever again.

I kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you.