



**Permanent Representation
of Ukraine to the OPCW**

English only

Point 7 (e) Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador of Ukraine in the Kingdom of the Netherlands
Oleksandr Karasevych at the 103rd session of the Executive Council**

Mr Chairperson,

Director-General,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is of utmost importance for this Delegation to be a part of today's discussion on the threat of chemical weapons usage.

The Russian Federation is conducting a blatant disinformation campaign targeting States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and spreading completely false information about Ukraine planning to use chemical weapons.

We emphasize that Ukraine is fully committed to abiding by the provisions of the Convention. We reject absolutely all assertions by the Russian Federation, including several note verbales, that we plan to stage a chemical weapons attack or that we are working with any other state on chemical provocations.

At the same time, we are deeply concerned by evidence coming to light of Russian military forces using riot control agents against Ukrainian defense units. Each State Party undertakes not to use riot control agents as a method of warfare as stated under Article 1 of the Convention. Ukrainian authorities continue to gather facts related to all potential violations of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Technical Secretariat and the States Parties will be informed about the progress of the investigation in due course.

My country is in grave peril because Russian troops have destroyed one of the sections and pumping station of the ammonia pipeline Togliatti-Odesa, they have been mining the enterprise's facilities at Crimean Titan and planting explosives in the factory for the past few weeks. Hundreds of tons of ammonia and Sulfuric acid are stored in chemical plant.

Our separate and particular aspect of concern is the ongoing activities of the Russian Federation in support of the current Syrian regime, which has been repeatedly accused of using chemical weapons and toxic chemicals against the civilian population, the high probability of the involvement of Russia in the incident in Salisbury, in the attempted cyber-attack on the information site of the OPCW, as well as the attempt to poison the Russian oppositionist O. Navalny, increasingly marginalize the Russian Federation in the OPCW and increase the threat to the effectiveness and integrity of the Organisation.

I would like to use this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW and other States Parties for your continued readiness to provide technical assistance and financial support to Ukraine, especially in the field of chemical safety and security in line with the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The substantial voluntary contributions that have been made is another demonstration of the commitment to supporting the full implementation of the Convention and to upholding the global norm against chemical weapons.

Let me express my appreciation for all the statements of support from OPCW Member States about the war in Ukraine. We are very grateful for the strong international support.

Implementation of the Convention is one of the most important areas of our State's policy in the field of arms control and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Ukraine remains fully committed to achieving a world free of chemical weapons.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document of the 103rd session of the Executive council and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you for your attention.