

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

Mr. Chairperson, Director-General, distinguished delegates,

Romania fully supports the European Union statement delivered by the Spanish Presidency. Allow us to highlight some elements from the national perspective.

We are at a moment when we have to defend the entire structure the Convention for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is based on, this key instrument of the global non-proliferation architecture.

Following the Fifth Review Conference, many topics are still open on our agenda. Romania is determined to continue its actions in order to contribute to the consolidation of the OPCW. We 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 Director-General's proposed programme and budget 2024-25 enables the OPCW to continue its vital work. Adjustments to this proposal are possible and a responsible approach should be applied in the use of extra budgetary funds. At the same time, Romania considers it very important that all States Parties should pay their assessed contributions on time in order to allow the OPCW to function effectively, including inspections, verification, international cooperation and assistance.

We will continue to highlight the fact that 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.

This meeting takes place, again, while Russian Federation is pursuing its illegal, unjustified and unprovoked military aggression on Ukraine. We will use each opportunity to firmly condemn, in the strongest possible terms, this attack on Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Romania is a direct neighbor to Russia's war of aggression and we are acting with all our energy to bring solid contributions to regional and international security. We believe that long-lasting international stability can only be achieved by efficient multilateralism.

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. We are concerned about possible false flag actions as well as reports of the Russian Federation's use of riot control agents as a method of warfare. Such use is prohibited under Article I of the Convention. Romania joins those who are calling Russian Federation 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. All State Parties have a duty and responsibility to make sure that chemical weapons do not re-emerge ever again.

Finally, we would like to reiterate the importance of engaging all relevant stakeholders, ranging from chemical industry to think tanks, civil society organisations and NGOs, to the OPCW work. A better action is needed from all the States Parties, to strengthen the resilience of our societies, promote competent candidates for the tenure policy of the OPCW and strengthen the capacity building of the organisation.

We must do everything we can to ensure that chemical weapons are not used by state or non-state actors and we prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons.

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.