

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

Mr. Chairperson, Director-General, distinguished delegates,

Romania fully agrees and supports the statement of the European Union. Allow us to highlight some elements from the national perspective.

The European Union has demonstrated its total commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Convention for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, including to the contribution of 5.35 million euros in order to strengthening the OPCW activities for the benefit of all States Parties. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the EU and the OPCW is a solid step for fostering cooperation in the post-destruction phase.

We must continue the work done so far and implement the decisions and resolutions adopted by States Parties in order to defend the entire structure that is based on the Convention, a key instrument of the global non-proliferation architecture.

Romania is determined to continue its actions in order to contribute to the consolidation of the OPCW, sustaining and building the capabilities of the Technical Secretariat to investigate allegations of use of chemical weapons.

The use of chemical weapons, anywhere, at any time, by anyone - a State or a Non-State actor -, under any circumstances, is entirely unacceptable. It is a violation of international law and can amount to the most serious of international crimes - war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Romania welcomes the confirmation by the Director-General that the Technical Secretariat is monitoring all relevant situations, as well as any allegations of use of chemical weapons, and stands ready to assist, if requested, in accordance with the Convention.

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 of the Syrian Arab Republic. Those responsible for the repeated use of chemical weapons must be held accountable. In this context, we particularly appreciate the work done by the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) and welcome this team's latest report which shows professionally that there are reasonable grounds to believe that a Non-State actor, such as ISIL, fired artillery munitions containing chemicals, and affected dozens of persons.

At the same time, the Syrian Arab Republic needs to resolve the pending issues. Return to full compliance with the Convention is imperatively necessary.

Two years since the full scale invasion of Russian Federation in Ukraine, Romania strongly advocacy for the withdrawal of the Russian forces, and we will continue to do so as long as necessary.

Romania is deeply concerned about the growing number of reports, including from Russian open sources, on the use of Riot Control Agents by the Russian Federation in Ukraine as a method of warfare. Such use is prohibited under Article I of the Convention. Romania joins those who are calling on Russia to strictly comply with its obligations under the Convention.

Among the topics on the OPCW agenda that are not closed yet is the assassination attempt on the Russian opposition politician, Mr. Alexei Navalny, in August 2020, by a nerve agent. Unfortunately, after his detention in a strict-regime penal colony in Siberia, we are deeply saddened by his death, and we have to talk about him in the past tense. Mr. Alexei Navalny will remain a symbol of the fight for democracy, dignity, human rights and freedom. But this does not end the case for the use of the nerve agent against him in August 2020. Romania once again joins the States Parties that urge the Russian Federation to reveal without delay the circumstances of the assassination attempt against Mr. Navalny.

Finally, 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.

I kindly request that this statement be considered as an official document and posted on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you.