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**Permanent Representation
of Ukraine to the OPCW**

Point 6 General debate

Statement by the delegation of Ukraine at the 105th session of the Executive Council

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

I am honored to be a part of today's discussion during the General debate.

Since I take the floor for the first time, allow me to state that Ukraine fully associates itself with the statement delivered by H.E. Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the OPCW Olivier Belle on behalf of the EU.

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine started over two years ago, on February 24th, 2022. Yet we must not forget that the war started in 2014 when Russia temporarily occupied the Ukraine's Crimea peninsula and invaded Ukraine's eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk.

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is the bloodiest in Europe since 1945. Putin is seeking to redraw the world map, rewrite history and all the while destroy the rules-based international system. And he is using toxic chemicals, in breach of the CWC, as a means of warfare to achieve these objectives. But Putin will not stop at Ukraine - his territorial ambitions extend much further to the west. Those who believe Russia will not dare to attack other European countries or even test Article 5 of NATO should recall that few believed Putin would launch a full-fledged invasion of Ukraine.

After 24 years in power, the Russian dictator has become detached from reality and obsessed with pseudo-historical delusions. He believes Russia is above international law and sees his mission as expanding Russian territory and zone of influence. His regime's mouthpieces routinely threaten other European countries.

In addition to this, Putin's years of self-isolation and his impunity have led to his complete physical and mental degradation. He has made the genocide of our people a central part of his policy. Putin kills whoever he wants, be it an opposition leader or anyone else who might threaten his weak position of autocratic power. After the murder of Alexei Navalny, any remaining façade of Russian democracy has been ripped away.

Supporting Ukraine now and enabling Ukraine's victory over Russia's armed aggression is the best way to prevent a larger war in Europe and a chain reaction of interstate wars around the globe. Whatever the cost of supporting Ukraine is, the cost of dealing with the global crisis if Ukraine does not win will be enormously higher.

Our collective message is one of unity and resilience in the face of aggression and terror. We cannot and will not allow aggression to become normalized in the twenty-first century. Instead, we will mobilize all forces to restore a just peace. All nations should rally behind this cause.

At the end of the day, all nations want to see international law upheld and cooperation prioritized over military conflict.

Ukraine is the one suffering the most in this war; therefore, no one wants peace more than us. The problem isn't Ukraine but the state that started the war - Russia.

When Russia says it is willing to negotiate, it means negotiating Ukraine's capitulation. What Moscow calls "peace talks" are actually "occupation talks". Russia wants to be able to bite off a portion of Ukrainian territory and then bite off more when the time is right.

Ukraine is not ready for "peace at any price". We need a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, in line with the norms of the international law.

All genuine peace efforts are consolidated in Ukraine's Peace Formula. This ten-point initiative represents our vision on how to restore the rules-based world order, which corresponds with the interests of all states who respect Purposes and Principles of the UN Charter.

Ukraine's partners should not reduce military aid to Ukraine, as this will only feed Russia's illusions about the possibility of a military victory. This will push peace further away.

Leaving Ukraine without foreign defence supplies would be playing Russia's game and handing Putin the victory. It will not stop the bloodshed, but rather turn it into a bloodbath, potentially encouraging even more Russian aggression.

Russia is using toxic chemicals including riot control agents extensively across the frontline of this egregious war. We call on the OPCW and its Member States to monitor the situation in Ukraine very closely and, if necessary, intervene without delay. In the worst-case scenario, I urge you to make Russia pay a heavy price for any violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

And finally, neither this Organization nor its Member States should remain indifferent to the suffering of the Ukrainian people. Russia wants to destroy Ukraine. In the face of these atrocities, you cannot continue as if nothing has happened by electing Russian diplomats to important positions within this Organisation.

Ukraine will never, under any circumstances, use chemical weapons or industrial chemicals as weapons. Ukrainians will never let a Chernobyl-type disaster happen again, which can pollute our land and deprive several generations of the opportunity to enjoy it.

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

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document of the 105th session of the Executive council and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you for your attention.