

**Statement on the occasion of the 109th Session of the OPCW Executive Council
on behalf of the Republic of Estonia by H.E. Ambassador Paul Teesalu
The Hague, 08-11 July 2025
Agenda item: General debate**

Distinguished Chairperson,

Estonia fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. In my national capacity, I would like to thank the Chair for his commitment to guiding the work of the Executive Council. I would also like to commend the unwavering leadership of the OPCW Director-General. Estonia has full confidence in the professionalism, impartiality, and technical expertise of the OPCW Technical Secretariat and its established mechanisms.

Chairperson,

For approximately 3 years and 5 months, Russia, has been waging the biggest and bloodiest war in Europe since World War II. It should therefore not come as a surprise, that the warfighting methods used belong to the same era. With great worry, I must refer to the recent OPCW Technical Secretariat's *Report of the Technical Assistance Visit on the Activities Carried Out in Support of a Request by Ukraine*, already third in this context. A report that once again confirms that riot control agents have been used in Ukraine.

We all know that the use of riot control agents as a means of warfare constitutes a blatant violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Yet, it seems that not all of us care for upholding the Convention. We all know that the re-emergence of chemical weapons use poses a significant threat to international peace and security. Yet, it seems that when pursuing neo-colonial ambitions, all is allowed. The dangerous re-emergence of this type of mentality should have remained in the dustbin of history. Clearly, it was not.

Estonia calls for the strong enforcement of the Chemical Weapons Convention to address the re-emergence of chemical weapons and ensure accountability for their use. We also call for a timely attribution of the proven use of riot control agents as a method of warfare. Their use must be investigated and impunity for their use must not and will not be tolerated.

Chairperson,

Estonia believes that the European security architecture, formed after the World War II and based on the principles of rule of law, states' sovereignty and territorial integrity, remains valid

today and in the future. We strongly reject the notion that any Member State could seek to dismantle or change the security architecture by means of threats, chemical weapons use and warmongering. Estonia strongly supports the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. We urge Russia to immediately and completely withdraw its forces from the entirety of Ukraine.

Chairperson,

Estonia takes note of the fact that new Syrian transitional authorities have informed the Secretariat that they do not have the knowledge needed to identify what elements of the Syrian chemical weapons program have not been declared. We commend them for having extended cooperation to the Secretariat with a view to ridding the country of all chemical weapons and ensuring accountability in cases of use of chemical weapons. We encourage them to ensure Syria's return to full compliance with the Convention as soon as possible. We commend the setting up the Office of Special Missions in the Secretariat, where former different work strands would come together, and are looking forward to closing the Syrian Chemical Weapons file in hopefully not too distant future.

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

Thank you, Chair.
