

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR NEILAS TANKEVIČIUS
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA TO
THE OPCW AT THE 109TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
THE HAGUE, 8–11 JULY 2025
Agenda Item 6(e)**

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation fully aligns itself with the EU statement on this matter.

Lithuanian delegation underscores its concern over the findings of the third OPCW Technical Assistance Visit to Ukraine. Independent analyses yet again confirmed the presence of CS riot control agents and related compounds in munitions used in Ukraine. We commend the Technical Secretariat for the important work done as well as Ukraine for its support and cooperation.

These findings, consistent with earlier reports, indicate a pattern of using riot control agents as a method of warfare, in clear violation of Article 1 of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Lithuanian delegation notes the recent joint statement issued by the intelligence services of Germany and the Netherlands, which confirms a known fact that Russia is intensifying its use of chemical weapons in and against Ukraine. We support the call of these countries for Russia to immediately cease the use of chemical weapons, stop violating the Convention, and to comply with it. We also support their call for the Organisation to officially attribute responsibility, identify perpetrators and seek full accountability for the established violations.

We welcome the Note Verbale by the Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to the OPCW as of July 7, 2025, asking the Director General to take steps towards establishing an independent and impartial mechanism to support efforts ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Convention. Lithuania believes that Director General has full authority to do so in line with the decision of the Conference of State Parties of June 27, 2018 on “Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use” as well as paragraph 37 of the Convention, entrusting the Technical Secretariat to carry out verification measures provided for in the Convention as well as functions entrusted to it under the Convention or by the CSP and the Executive Council.

Facts speak for themselves: almost ten thousand cases of usage of ammunition with toxic chemicals and over 2,500 injuries inflicted from their use have been documented by Ukrainian authorities up to the end of this June. This and other reports demonstrate Russia’s growing disregard for the Convention as well as other fundamental norms of international law.

Thus, while we call for the timely attribution of the perpetrator and identification of accomplices in pursuit of accountability, we also applaud the efforts of EU

and other countries for imposing sanctions on individuals and entities involved in chemical weapons development or their use. We also reiterate the demand for a credible response from Russia regarding the 2020 poisoning of Mr. Alexei Navalny with a Novichok nerve agent. His death does not absolve Russia of responsibility. The same goes with the poisoning of Sergei and Yulia Skripal in 2018.

I kindly ask this statement to be made as an official document of the One-Hundred-Ninth Session of the Executive Council and published on the Catalyst platform and the official OPCW website.

Thank you.