

**Statement by Poland
at the 109th session of the Executive Council
Agenda item 5: General debate
(The Hague, 8 - 11 July 2025)**

Mr. Chairperson,
Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,

Poland fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by Denmark on behalf of the European Union. In my national capacity, I wish to underline two points related to Ukraine and Syria.

At the outset, however, let me join others in congratulating H.E. Ambassador Thomas Schieb, Permanent Representative of Germany, on assuming the position of the Chairperson of the Executive Council. I would like to use this opportunity to thank also the previous Chairperson, H.E. Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral, Permanent Representative of Ecuador, for steering the work of the Council in an able way.

Mr. Chairperson,

More than 1200 days since the beginning of Russia's full-scale unprovoked invasion against Ukraine, the war of aggression continues unabated, bringing everyday further loss of life and destruction. Poland reaffirms its unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within Ukraine's internationally recognised borders.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine is a drastic violation of international law, including the UN Charter. This is totally unacceptable. It destabilizes the region and poses a direct threat to international security and the rule based international order. We do not want to live in a world in which might is right, threatened by the logic of conquest and disregard for international law.

All States Parties, including the Russian Federation have willingly subscribed to the world free of chemical weapons, prohibiting and condemning their use by anyone, anywhere and under any circumstances. Each State Party undertook the obligation not to use riot control agents as a method of warfare, therefore, Poland is seriously concerned by the growing evidence that in the ongoing war against Ukraine the Russian Federation blatantly violates the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

Since the beginning of a full-scale aggression against its neighbour, the Russian Federation regularly has been using ammunition containing toxic chemicals. Around 10 000 such cases have been recorded and documented so far by Ukraine. The presence and use of chemical weapons in Ukraine is corroborated by other sources. The third report released by the Technical Secretariat on the 20th of June 2025 once again confirmed the presence of CS, a riot control agent, along the confronting line in the Dnipropetrovsk region.

The June report adds to the findings of the reports released in November 2024 and February 2025, following technical assistance visits requested by Ukraine. They independently and credibly confirmed the use of chemical weapons. All this, along with the remaining very serious questions about the involvement of the Russian Federation in the attack with the use of so called Novichok nerve agent against the Skripals in 2018 and the poisoning of Mr. Alexei Navalny in 2020, further undermines already very poor record of the Russian Federation as a State Party to the Convention. For the sake of credibility and integrity of the CWC, States Parties cannot ignore this information.

There is an urgent need to react swiftly in the defence of the Convention. It is necessary to ensure the identification of perpetrators and their masterminds, which should be followed with further steps leading to their full accountability.

Mr. Chairperson,

The fall of the Assad regime at the end of last year has opened a window of opportunity to mend the co-operation between the Syrian Arab Republic and the OPCW, clarify all outstanding issues related to the Syrian chemical weapons programme, and help Syria return to the full compliance with the Convention and the reestablishment of its full rights as the Member of the OPCW. This opportunity must not be wasted. We urge all States Parties to contribute to this effort, which is in everyone's best interest.

Poland welcomes and supports the activities undertaken by the Director General and the Technical Secretariat aimed at closing once and for good the Syrian chapter. In this context, we support the creation of the Office of Special Missions (OSM), which we hope will prove itself useful, and not only in case of Syria.

Thank you.