



**Permanent Representation  
of Ukraine to the OPCW**

***English only***

*Point 5 General debate*

**Statement by the delegation of Ukraine at the 109th session of the Executive Council**

**Mr Chairperson,**

**Director-General,**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

I extend a warm welcome to the new Chairperson, H.E. Ambassador Thomas Schieb of Germany, and assure him of our full support in guiding the work of the 109th session of the Executive Council.

Ukraine fully associates itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Russia's ongoing full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine continues to threaten international peace, security, and the very foundations of the rules-based global order. This unprovoked invasion is not only an attack on Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, but a direct assault on international law, the United Nations Charter, and the principles that bind us all.

In The Hague, in place of dialogue and diplomacy, the Russian Federation persists in reckless provocations, including the use and threat of chemical weapons, aimed at undermining global non-proliferation regimes and destabilizing the international community. We urge all Member States to reject Russia's dangerous rhetoric and irresponsible actions.

We strongly share the concerns regarding the existing threats of the use of chemical weapons against Ukraine, as confirmed in the report by the Dutch and German intelligence services. We firmly support their call for the Organization to advance the issue of attribution.

President Putin's repeated threats and use of chemical agents reveal fear — fear of accountability, of justice, and of international unity. We must stand firm and ensure that this blackmail is defeated. The Kremlin must never be allowed to dismantle the institutions that safeguard global peace.

**A strong and united international response is essential—not only to uphold justice, but to serve as a clear deterrent to future violations.** If we do not act, we risk sending a message

that chemical weapons use, and violations of international law will go unpunished. Such complacency may empower future aggressors.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Russia has a documented history of chemical weapons use, from the poisoning of Alexei Navalny and the Skripals to its support for the Syrian regime's chemical attacks against civilians. Today, in Ukraine, Russia continues to deploy toxic chemicals and riot control agents as weapons of war, violating the Chemical Weapons Convention and international law. I will provide more details under the relevant agenda item.

It is unacceptable that Russia continues to occupy seats within the OPCW's decision-making bodies while committing these crimes. Russian representatives have no moral authority to participate in or influence this Organisation's work. We call on all States Parties to oppose Russia's candidacy for the Executive Council in the 2026–2028 term and prevent it from using this platform to shield itself from responsibility.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Ukraine remains a committed and responsible State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention. We stand ready to cooperate fully with the OPCW to eliminate the threat of chemical weapons and uphold international norms.

The international community must respond decisively and with unity. We must condemn Russia's violations and ensure it is not rewarded with positions of influence. The OPCW's credibility depends on our collective resolve to uphold justice, accountability, and the rule of law. **This resolve must translate into deterrence—by demonstrating that breaches of the Convention lead to real consequences.**

In this regard, Ukraine emphasizes the importance of strengthening international attribution mechanisms to clearly identify those responsible for chemical weapons use. We welcome the work of the OPCW Technical Secretariat and call for further efforts to ensure that perpetrators, organizers, and sponsors of such crimes are identified and held accountable.

Let us be clear: failure to act now will only embolden aggressors worldwide to rewrite borders by force and commit atrocities with impunity.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the Director-General and his dedicated team for the successful conclusion of three OPCW Technical Assistance Visits to Ukraine and for issuing three substantive reports. The Secretariat has also continued its activities under the Convention, providing assistance and protection upon Ukraine's request. This has included several training sessions at the CCT and online courses for Ukrainian specialists.

Today, unity of purpose and action is essential. We must defend the values that the OPCW was founded to protect. Without action, Russia will continue to exploit this Organisation to spread its deceitful and cynical narratives. The final word, however, is ours—and it must reflect our shared commitment to peace, accountability, justice, and effective deterrence.

I kindly request that this statement be considered an official document of the 109th Session of the Executive Council and posted on the OPCW's external server and public website.

**Thank you for your attention.**