

**Statement by Mr. Petr Válek, Director of the Control Policies Department of the Ministry
of Foreign Affairs and the Head of the Delegation of the Czech Republic**

at the Thirtieth Session of the Conference of the State Parties

24 – 28 November 2025

AGENDA ITEM 8 – GENERAL DEBATE

Mr. Chairperson, Mr. Director-General, distinguished colleagues,

Czechia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by Denmark on behalf of the European Union.

We would like to express our appreciation to H.E. Ambassador Almir Šahović of Bosnia and Hercegovina for his stewardship of the 29th Conference of States Parties and warmly welcome his successor, H.E. Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador. We would like to warmly congratulate Ms. Dallafior Matter to her nomination to new Director-General and express our gratitude to the current Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, for his steadfast commitment to the mission of the OPCW and for his leadership of the Technical Secretariat.

We would like to underscore the valuable work the OPCW does in maintaining and overseeing the global ban on chemical weapons, which was recently recognized with the UN General Assembly First Committee's resolution tabled by Poland.

The most egregious and ongoing breach of the Convention is taking place in Europe due to the unprovoked, brutal and unjustifiable **Russian war of aggression against Ukraine**, which constitutes a flagrant violation of international law especially the UN Charter. We urge the Technical Secretariat to take all necessary steps to assist at investigating the chemical attacks identified in the Technical Assistance Visit reports, as requested by Ukraine. Attribution of these breaches of the Convention is part and parcel of their prevention.

At the same time, we continue to call on Russia to fulfil its obligations under the Convention. Russia is still to provide clarifications on poisoning of Alexei Navalny, Dawn Sturgess and the Skripals' by chemical agents, and to cooperate fully with the OPCW to ensure an impartial international investigation.

It therefore comes as no surprise that the overwhelming majority of the Eastern European Group is not comfortable with the idea that Russia should represent them in the Executive Council.

Mr. Chairperson,

Czechia commends the **Syrian** transitional authorities' cooperation with the OPCW, which paves the way for implementation of the Syrian Declaration. Regarding the precarious security environment in Syria, it is crucial that the OPCW and States Parties take action to mitigate the very serious and real risk of proliferation in the region. We commend the Secretariat for establishing the Office of Special Missions and support their sufficient funding.

Mr. Chairperson,

The OPCW Programme for **Africa** deserves our utmost attention. Czechia supports African countries both financially and in-kind by providing voluntary contributions earmarked for the Africa programme and by conducting trainings under Art X. We note with great concern the reports of chemical weapons use in Sudan, and we welcome the OPCW's monitoring of the situation.

We appreciate the attention given to the **emerging technologies and the AI**. The Convention must remain technologically relevant and future-proof and that is why we support the DG's efforts to explore the challenges in this field and look forward to interacting more closely on this agenda.

Thank you.