

**ROMANIA: STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. NICOLAE COMĂNESCU,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE OPCW,  
AT THE 30TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES  
PARTIES TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

Agenda item 8 – General Debate

Mr. Chairperson,

1. Allow me to congratulate Your Excellency on your election as Chairperson of the 30th Conference of the States Parties and to assure you of Romania's full support during your mandate. I would also like to express our appreciation to H.E. Ambassador Almir Šahović for his leadership at the 29th session and to H.E. Amb. Thomas Schrieb for his dedicated stewardship of the Executive Council in these challenging times.

Romania endorses the statement delivered by Denmark on behalf of the European Union. In addition, I wish to highlight several aspects of particular relevance from our national perspective.

2. This year marks both the centenary of the 1925 Geneva Protocol, prohibiting the use of chemical and biological weapons, and the 50th anniversary of the Biological Weapons Convention's entry into force. While these milestones deserve recognition, the continued proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery remains a pressing threat to international peace and security.

3. Romania unequivocally condemns the unprovoked and unjustified aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. This blatant violation of the United Nations Charter and fundamental principles of international law undermines the integrity of the global disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. Romania stands in full solidarity with Ukraine and its people in their legitimate defence of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

We are deeply concerned by the findings of the three OPCW technical assistance visits requested by Ukraine, which confirmed the presence of riot control agents in samples collected after Russian attacks. Further assessments by Germany, The Netherlands and The US have indicated that Russia has used both riot control agents and chloropicrin, a choking agent, against Ukraine, which has recorded and documented nearly 11.300 cases of use of hazardous chemicals since the beginning of the invasion. The large number of cases, their spread along the frontlines, and the findings of the Technical Assistance Visits to Ukraine indicate a pattern of systematic use of riot control agents as a method of warfare by the Russian Federation. The Chemical Weapons Convention explicitly prohibits the use of such

substances as method of warfare. Romania supports the attribution of confirmed chemical attacks in Ukraine by the OPCW and calls for accountability for those responsible.

4. Romania is gravely concerned by the unresolved cases involving the use of the “Novichok” nerve agent in Salisbury and the poisoning of Russian opposition figure Alexei Navalny. These incidents constitute serious breaches of international law and of the Convention’s core prohibitions. We urge the Russian Federation to cooperate fully with the OPCW and to ensure accountability. Romania also firmly condemns the use of chemical weapons in Syria, Iraq, and Malaysia—violations that must not go unpunished.

5. Turning to the election of Member States to the Executive Council, the Convention clearly stipulates that political, security, and regional considerations must guide the composition of this body. The aggression against Ukraine, a member of the Eastern European Group, by another member of the same group, represents a significant regional factor. Consequently, Romania—together with the vast majority of EEG members—cannot support the candidacy of the Russian Federation to the Executive Council during this session.

6. Romania concurs with the Director-General’s assessment that all legal obligations under the Convention remain binding upon the Syrian Arab Republic, regardless of any change in government. Syria must address without delay all remaining open questions and implement its obligations under the Convention.

We welcome the progress made in this regard and commend the transitional Syrian government for its commitment to addressing remaining discrepancies, eliminating threats posed by potentially undeclared chemical weapons and related facilities, and pursuing accountability. Romania also values the OPCW’s efforts and the contributions of States Parties providing financial and technical assistance. My country is ready to offer expertise in the field of unexploded ordnance.

7. Romania underlines the need to address both the opportunities and challenges posed by emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence. These developments can strengthen verification and detection capabilities but also entail dual-use risks. We support the continued work of the Scientific Advisory Board and encourage the Secretariat to further explore science-based approaches to ensure the Convention’s continued relevance.

8. Romania recognizes the essential role of the Technical Secretariat in implementing the Convention and maintaining an effective verification regime. We support the adoption of a balanced and sustainable Programme and Budget for 2026–2027, enabling the Secretariat to fulfil its mandate efficiently. We call on all States Parties to meet their financial obligations fully and on time to safeguard the Organization’s operational independence.

**9.** Romania congratulates H.E. Ms. Sabrina Dallafior Matter recommended by the Executive Council to be appointed by the CSP as Director-General and expresses full confidence in her leadership, professionalism, and impartiality. We commend the outgoing Director-General and the Secretariat staff for their dedication and technical excellence in advancing the objectives of the Convention.

**10.** In conclusion, Mr. Chairperson, the Chemical Weapons Convention remains a cornerstone of our collective commitment to eliminate chemical weapons, uphold international law, and protect humanity from chemical warfare. Romania remains steadfast in its support for the Convention's full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation. The use of chemical weapons under any circumstances cannot and will not be tolerated.

At this 30th Session, let us reaffirm our unity of purpose and determination to achieve a world free of chemical weapons – a goal essential to lasting international peace and security. Romania will continue to contribute actively to this shared endeavor.

I kindly request that this statement be considered as an official document of the 30th Conference of the States Parties and that the full text be published on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.