



**STATEMENT BY H.E. JURAJ PODHORSKÝ,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
TO THE OPCW,
AT THE 30th SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES
(The Hague, 24 to 28 November 2025)**

General Debate

Mr. Chair,

Slovakia aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. In my national capacity, I wish to make some additional comments and observations.

In the beginning, I would like to congratulate H.E. Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador on his election as the Chairperson of the 30th session and assure him of Slovakia's full support.

Slovakia further commends H.E. Ambassador Fernando Arias, Director-General of the OPCW, for his two successful terms at the helm of the Organisation, guided by determination, impartiality and professionalism. We also take this opportunity to congratulate H.E. Sabrina Dallafior Matter and wish her all success in assuming this important position.

Mr. Chair,

Slovakia is unconditionally committed to the global norm against chemical weapons. As a responsible and principled Member of the Organisation from its inception, Slovakia has contributed to the furtherance of the goals of the CWC by providing both political and practical support. The practical support includes the training of over 600 OPCW inspectors and over 270 international experts from around 80 OPCW Member States from all regional groups, at the training facility in Zemianske Kostol'any in Central Slovakia. These trainings represent a tangible contribution of Slovakia to the functioning of the OPCW as a knowledge-based organisation, as well as to the building of capacities of its Member States.

Slovakia wishes to build on its track-record and further contribute to the work of the OPCW by serving on the Executive Council. For this reason, we have submitted our candidacy for the term 2026-2028 and respectfully ask for the support of all Members of the OPCW at the elections to be held later this session.

Mr. Chair,

Now I turn to the main challenges to the global non-proliferation regime for chemical weapons.

The heavy toll of the war of Russia against Ukraine is felt daily by the population of Ukraine and includes the reported systematic use of Riot Control Agents as a method of warfare by Russia which is in direct breach of Art. I para 5 of the CWC. There have also been numerous reports on the use by Russian armed forces of the choking agent chloropicrin. Slovakia is deeply concerned by these reports, as well as by the failure of the Russian Federation to provide credible explanations or clarifications in line with Art. IX para. 2 and para. 3 of the CWC.

Turning to the Syrian chemical weapons programme, Slovakia welcomes the willingness of the new Syrian leadership to genuinely cooperate with the OPCW, uncover the full extent of the Assad regime's chemical weapons programme and verifiably destroy it. Slovakia is willing to assume its part, specifically by offering to host trainings at its facility in Zemianske Kostol'any, should such capacity-building needs be identified by the OPCW and the Syrian authorities. The recent adoption by the Executive Council of the decision on the *Expedited On-site Destruction of any Remnants of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic* is a crucial step. In this regard, we applaud the State of Qatar for its tireless work on the Syrian dossier.

Slovakia closely follows all information on other reported uses of chemical weapons and stresses the need for all States Parties to adhere by our common obligations under the CWC.

I wish to kindly request the issuance of this statement as an official-series document of the session, as well as its posting on the OPCW public website.

I thank you.