

STATEMENT BY POLAND
AT THE 30th SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO
THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
(The Hague, 24-28 November 2025)

Agenda item 9(d) - Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use - Russia

Mister Chairperson,

Poland fully subscribes to the statement of the European Union. I wish to add a few points in my national capacity.

Poland reaffirms its unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within Ukraine's internationally recognised borders. We condemn Russia's full-scale unprovoked aggression against Ukraine and its attempts to destabilize security situation in Europe and change borders by force. Russia's actions are a blatant violation of international law, including the UN Charter.

Mr. Chairperson,

The OPCW Secretariat has confirmed the use of riot control agents in the war waged by Russia. This is a serious violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. While the possession of riot control agents is not prohibited, their use in warfare is. This prohibition exists for a clear reason: the use of such agents in warfare is indiscriminate and can cause long-term health effects. The weapon is used to break through defensive lines, gain concrete advantage on the battlefield and undermine morale.

Ukraine has documented more than 11,000 cases of such use by Russia. This repeated and systematic violation undermines and weakens the international norm against chemical weapons, and thereby erodes the very foundation of the Convention itself.

This cannot be ignored. It must be addressed. There must be accountability for these actions. The perpetrators must be identified and brought to justice. Accountability is not an optional element - it is a necessary component of enforcing any international norm, and especially the norm against chemical weapons. We have seen this in Syria, where accountability proved essential in addressing chemical weapons use.

Mr. Chairperson,

The credibility of the Chemical Weapons Convention depends on our collective resolve. We therefore call upon all States Parties to stand firm, to demand accountability. We support Ukraine's efforts to ensure further steps aimed at attribution. Poland decided to make a voluntary contribution to support the OPCW work in Ukraine in accordance with Article X.

Thank you.