

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

Agenda item 8 – General debate

Mister Chairperson, Director General, Madam Deputy Director General, Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, let me join others in congratulating you, Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador, on assuming the position of the Chairperson of the 30th Conference of States Parties and assure you of full support of the Polish delegation.

Poland fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. I wish to highlight some points and offer additional remarks in my national capacity.

Mr Chairperson,

Since the Chemical Weapons Convention has entered into force much has been done to free the world of the scourge of chemical weapons and support full implementation and universalisation of the Convention. However, we are deeply concerned that in the recent few years we have been witnessing an attempt to derail all those efforts and undermine the CWC. With the Russian aggression against Ukraine the horrors of war have returned to Europe along with the systematic use of chemical weapons. This is a serious challenge that strikes at the very foundation of our work. The three reports issued by the OPCW Technical Secretariat following Technical Assistance Visits requested by Ukraine have confirmed without doubt the presence of Riot Control Agents on the battlefield along the confrontation lines in Ukraine. This means a serious violation of the CWC, which forbids the use of Riot Control Agents as a method of warfare. Poland calls on the States Parties to take immediate action in defence of the CWC and its principles. The re-emergence of chemical weapons use needs to be univocally condemned in

the strongest possible terms and urgently addressed for the sake of credibility of the CWC and the OPCW. Poland, like many others, has decided to co-sponsor a joint statement in support of full implementation of the provisions of the Convention, urging the Russian Federation to return to the path of full compliance with its obligations under the CWC. However, mere calls for complying with the Convention are not sufficient, taking into account the gravity of the situation. It is necessary to proceed with attribution of confirmed chemical attacks in Ukraine and ensure full accountability. We believe that as in case of Syria, the Technical Secretariat could help with attribution that should be followed with further steps by the States Parties drawing consequences for breaching the Convention. There must be no impunity for the perpetrators.

Mr Chairperson,

We welcome the restoration of co-operation between the Syrian Arab Republic and the OPCW following the fall of Assad's regime. The new transitional authorities in Damascus have sent a strong signal that they are committed to Syria's swift return to full compliance with the Convention. This is an important change, which should be recognized and further supported, especially in view of numerous challenges related to inspection, verification and destruction activities in Syria. We need to make sure that the positive change in Syria is irreversible and that it leads to full elimination of any remnants of the Assad-era chemical weapons programme. Poland welcomes the establishment of a continuous presence of the OPCW in Damascus through its Office for Special Missions. We encourage further verification activities in Syria, stressing that safety and security of OPCW personnel is of foremost importance.

Mr Chairperson,

Poland agrees with the vast majority of the EEG members that political and legal circumstances do not allow for the endorsement of the Russian Federation's candidacy for a seat at the Executive Council for the period 2026-28. Nothing has changed since last year. Moscow continues its illegal, armed aggression against Ukraine, stepping up its efforts to destabilize the security situation in the whole Europe through hybrid warfare and sabotage operations and targeting those who defend the world based on the UN Charter, international law and the inviolability of borders. Russia is a disruptive force that violates the CWC and will not bring anything positive to the Executive Council. Therefore, Poland supports the candidacies of

Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine, responsible members of the Organization and credible and committed partners to other States Parties that support the full implementation of and compliance with the Convention.

Mr Chairperson,

Every year Poland takes stock of the situation in the field of chemical disarmament and non-proliferation through our annual UNGA resolution on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The resolution offers a unique opportunity for the international community to react to latest developments and pressing challenges. We thank the States Parties, which overwhelmingly supported this year's text in the First Committee and ask for your support also during the vote in the General Assembly, expected in early December.

Mr Chairperson,

OPCW remains a key element of the international disarmament and non-proliferation machinery. In view of numerous challenges, we need to keep it fit for purpose and ensure that it has necessary resources. Poland supports the draft Programme and Budget for the next biennium. On top of that, we have decided to provide voluntary contribution in support of OPCW work in Ukraine and in Syria.

Poland thanks the professional and dedicated staff of the Technical Secretariat for their hard work. We commend Director General Ambassador Fernando Arias for his leadership in steering the work of the Technical Secretariat. Poland welcomes the nomination of Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior Matter for the position of the new Director General and wishes her every success.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document of the 30th CSP and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you.