

Statement Czech Republic
at the One-Hundred Eleventh Session of the Executive Council
10. – 14. March 2026

AGENDA ITEM [5] – GENERAL DEBATE

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

Czechia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by Cyprus on behalf of the European Union and would like to add some remarks in its national capacity.

At the outset, Mr. Chair, let me stress our profound gratitude for your stewardship of the Executive Council in the entire course of your mandate. Our heartfelt thanks extend also to the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, and also to the Deputy Director General. Your dedication to the mission of the OPCW and the leadership of the Technical Secretariat continues to advance the objectives of the Convention.

Mr Chairperson,

The most egregious and ongoing breach of the Convention is the escalating and systematic use of chemical weapons against Ukraine in the unprovoked, brutal and unjustifiable **Russian war of aggression** which has entered its fifth year. It is important that the Technical Secretariat continues 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.

We call on Russia to adhere to its obligations under the CWC and to cease its disinformation campaigns. Russia is still to provide clarifications on **poisoning of Alexei Navalny, Dawn Sturgess and the Skripals' by chemical agents**. We note with concern the findings reported by Germany, the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, and Sweden to the Director General and support their call for clarification from Russia under Article IX. It is of paramount importance that Russia cooperates fully with the OPCW to ensure an impartial international investigation. We reiterate our clear position that all perpetrators of chemical weapons attacks must be held accountable.

Mr. Chairperson,

We view positively the cooperation between the OPCW and **Syria's** transitional government and encourage its further intensification to create and strengthen the conditions necessary for implementation of the Syrian Declaration.

We took note of the fifth IIT report on the chlorine attack in Kafr Zayta on 1 October 2016. Given the fragile security situation in Syria, it is imperative that the OPCW and all States Parties take steps to reduce the very serious and tangible risk of proliferation in the region.

We also welcome the Executive Council's decision regarding the destruction of the remaining chemical weapon remnants in Syria. Syria must provide a complete declaration of all known stockpiles, fully engage with OPCW teams, and comply with all verification measures.

Mr. Chairperson,

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

We commend the attention given to **emerging technologies and the AI**, and we look forward to the outcome of the Scientific Advisory Board's review.

Mr. Chairperson,

Czechia reaffirms its full support for the OPCW and its vital mandate, and we remain committed to working together to uphold the global norm against chemical weapons.