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**STATEMENT OF DENMARK TO THE  
One Hundred and Eleventh Session of the Executive Council  
(The Hague, 10 March – 13 March 2026)**

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**AGENDA ITEM 5 – GENERAL DEBATE**

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Mr Chairperson,

Denmark fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. I have the honour to make the following additional remarks in my national capacity.

Mr Chairperson,

At the onset, allow me to assure the Chairperson, H.E. Thomas Schieb of Germany, of my delegation's full cooperation during this session. I also wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat for their continued professionalism and dedication.

Mr Chairperson,

We meet at a time of serious challenges to the Chemical Weapons Convention. The global security landscape is increasingly unstable, chemical weapons are re-emerging, and new technologies as well as unresolved legacies continue to test the regime. As a cornerstone of the international disarmament and non-proliferation architecture, the Convention must remain strong, credible and universally upheld. In this regard, Denmark will continue to actively promote its full and effective implementation, as well as its universalisation.

Mr Chairperson,

On 24 February this year, we marked a stark anniversary: four years have passed since Russia launched its unjustified and illegal full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine - a war that continues to inflict immense suffering on the Ukrainian people. Denmark reaffirms its unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders, as well as its inherent right of self-defence.

In this context, Denmark unequivocally condemns Russia's use of chemical weapons in its war of aggression. Three OPCW Technical Assistance Visits have confirmed the presence of the riot control agent "CS" in battlefield samples, demonstrating a clear and deeply troubling pattern: riot control agents are being employed as a method of warfare, in direct violation of Article I of the Convention. Since the outset of the invasion, Ukrainian authorities have documented more than 12,500 instances of such use against their forces.

Mr Chairperson,

Denmark is deeply concerned by credible findings that the Russian Federation does not only violate its obligations under the convention in Ukraine but also within its own borders. Denmark noted with great concern the conclusions of the Governments of the United Kingdom, Sweden, France, Germany and the Netherlands that the death of the former leader of the political opposition in Russia, Mr Alexei Navalny, was highly likely the result of poisoning. In light of these findings, and the circumstances of his imprisonment, the Russian Federation bears a serious responsibility and must address the serious concerns raised. There can be no impunity for the use of chemical agents.

Mr Chairperson,

Amid these serious challenges, it is important to recognise that there are also developments that offer a measure of cautious optimism. Recent developments in Syria present a critical opportunity. The fall of the Assad regime opens the possibility for full compliance with the Convention, including strengthened verification, access to previously restricted sites, and renewed engagement to rebuild trust in the disarmament process. Seizing this moment requires sustained commitment. The OPCW must continue its verification efforts while prioritising capacity-building and technical assistance to ensure Syria's transition towards a future free of chemical weapons.

Mr Chairperson,

The strength of the Chemical Weapons Convention lies not only in its provisions, but in the collective resolve of its States Parties to defend it - consistently, impartially and without exception. At a time when its norms are being tested, our response must be unity, clarity and action. Denmark will continue to stand firmly in support of a rules-based international order and of full accountability for any violation of the Convention.

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

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