

**Statement of Mr. Mindaugas ŽIČKUS,
Charge d'Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in the Netherlands
at the 111th Session of the Executive Council of the OPCW
(agenda item 6f)**

Mr. Chairperson,

Lithuania aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the European Union and wishes to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

Many of the elements that my Delegation wanted to convey have already been mentioned in our national statement under agenda item 5, but let me highlight a few that have not been:

- First, compliments to the Director General and the Technical Secretariat for all the work done to advise and assist Ukraine; this was done in line with the highest standards of professionalism and technical performance.
- Second, compliments to Ukraine for all the work done on their side, to ensure that samples are collected, preserved and transferred under extremely difficult battlefield conditions, while maintaining full compliance with the highest OPCW and international standards.
- Third, strong words of support to both the Technical Secretariat and Ukraine, as they continue to work closely under Articles X and XI of the Convention, as well as in line with the decisions adopted by the State Parties regarding attribution and full accountability.
- Fourth, gratitude to all the anonymous inspectors and investigators, to use the language from 2013, but also analysts, legal advisers, forensic experts, specialized technical experts, logistics and security personnel, working in the field, without whom the work of the OPCW would not be possible.

Mr. Chairperson,

During the three OPCW TAV visits to Ukraine in 2024 and 2025, the TS collected evidence, interviewed witnesses, made sure the chain of custody was maintained. Analyses of the samples conducted by independent OPCW-designated laboratories have confirmed what everybody knows - the presence of riot control agent CS.

Ukraine, in the meantime, has documented more than 12,500 cases of systematic use of chemical agents by Russia. This pattern of systematic use is now an established fact.

At a time when the prohibition of chemical weapons is being openly challenged, it is essential that the Organization uses all instruments at its disposal to establish the facts and identify those responsible.

No need to mention that the OPCW under the leadership of the Director-General possesses not only the mandate but also the full competence, expertise, commitment and technical capacity to carry out attribution of responsibility in relation to the use of chemical agents in Ukraine. Lithuania has full confidence in the independence, professionalism, and authority of the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat to undertake this task impartially and in strict accordance with the Convention.

Mr. Chairperson,

This is the last session of the Executive Council where Lithuania participates as a full member.

Using this opportunity, I want to thank the Director General Fernando Arias, his team of closest advisors and the Technical Secretariat for cooperation in the last two years.

I also want to thank all the State Parties for their cooperation.

Two and a half years ago, when Lithuania was elected to the Executive Council, we felt strong support from the State Parties for our goals and priorities. It was never about inventing and reinventing the wheel, but rather about full and comprehensive support for the Convention. I hope that those countries were not disappointed.

Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine will be taking over as members of EC representing the Eastern European Group in May. Some of them may not be the largest chemical industries in terms of size, but in terms of their focus and commitment – there is hardly anybody, who is larger. We wish them all the best. We also welcome the candidacies of Poland and Estonia for the next term.

Lithuania has always stood by the core principle of international law that the agreements must be kept and the law – upheld: violations of law must not be tolerated, violators must not be rewarded but rather held in contempt and to account.

Mr. Chairperson,

Lithuania reiterates its unwavering commitment to the Chemical Weapons Convention and to its full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation. The use of chemical weapons or toxic chemicals as a method of warfare by anyone, anywhere, at any time and under any circumstances is unacceptable and unjustifiable.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.