

Statement by Poland
at the 111th session of the Executive Council
(The Hague, 10-13 March 2026)

**Agenda item 6(c): Elimination of any Remnants of the Assad-Era Syrian
Chemical Weapons Programme**

Mr Chairperson,

Poland aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. Let me make a few remarks in my national capacity.

Thorough verification of the extent of the Assad-Era Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme and full and irreversible destruction of any of its remnants remains a top priority for the OPCW and its member States. We should all support efforts to close this dark chapter in the history of Syria and help the new Syrian authorities to rebuild its status within the organization as a country fully observing the Chemical Weapons Convention. For our part, Poland at the beginning of this year made a financial voluntary contribution to support OPCW activities in Syria.

Poland has taken note of the release of the fifth report of the OPCW's Investigation and Identification Team, published on January 21, 2026. The report states that there are reasonable grounds to believe the Syrian Arab Air Forces perpetrated a chlorine gas attack in Kafr Zeita on October 1, 2016. This is yet another report confirming that Assad's regime used chemical weapons against their own people. Poland supports the efforts to ensure accountability for the perpetrators of these heinous acts. There must be no impunity for the use of chemical weapons.

Poland has learned with concern about the incident with unauthorized destruction of 75 Category 3 chemical weapons cylinders in the Aleppo region that happened at the end of January. We have taken note of the explanations provided by the Syrian Representative to the OPCW and look forward to hearing about the outcomes of the ongoing Syrian investigation into the matter. The incident should be fully clarified, but it should not overshadow the overall positive and constructive co-operation between the new Syrian authorities and the Technical Sekretariat.

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