

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

Agenda item 6(f): Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use

Mr Chairperson,

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

Poland reaffirms its unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. We condemn Russia's unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine. The aggressor must pay the consequences of blatant violation of the international law, including the UN Charter.

Poland is concerned that the number of reports that Russia uses Riot Control Agents (RCAs) as a method of warfare against Ukrainian soldiers is steadily growing. The Ukrainian authorities have documented so far over 12,500 such cases since the beginning of Russia's aggression. This means that the violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) is done on a massive scale, in a systematic and organized manner, and that the perpetrators think that there will be no consequences for their actions.

Poland takes very seriously the recent findings by the UK, Sweden, France, Germany and the Netherlands that Alexei Navalny did not die of natural causes while imprisoned in a penal colony in Russia, but was assassinated with a lethal toxin, and that the Russian Federation had the motive and means to do so. We support efforts to clarify the circumstances of Mr. Navalny's death and to hold those responsible accountable.

The latest information regarding the use of a chemical weapon to kill Alexei Navalny as well as the continued use of RCAs and other toxic chemicals on the battlegrounds in Ukraine point to a pattern of systematic violation and a total disregard for the CWC by the Russian Federation.

It is our joint responsibility to promote the effective implementation of, and compliance with the CWC and to take measures to redress the situation in case of non-compliance. In view of so numerous and so serious violations, States Parties need to take immediate action in defence of the CWC. After all, addressing the threat from chemical weapons use is the core business of the Executive Council.

Thank you.