

**Statement of the Republic of Poland  
at the 111<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Council  
(The Hague, 10-13 March 2026)**

Mr. Chairperson, Director-General, Distinguished Delegates,

In addition to the statement of the European Union, I wish to make a few points in my national capacity.

Poland thanks Ambassador Thomas Schieb of Germany for his able and highly professional way of leading the work of the Executive Council. We reiterate our full support for the OPCW Director General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, and his team. Poland commends the OPCW Technical Secretariat (TS) for its professionalism, impartiality and dedication in assisting States Parties in implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

The 24<sup>th</sup> of February marked four years since the Russian full scale aggression against Ukraine. Recent months have been the most difficult and deadliest as Ukrainian civilian infrastructure and ordinary people were targeted by the Russian forces. Poland has been standing with Ukraine since day one and we will continue to do so for as long as it takes, because we cannot allow the return of the world without rules and order, where only brutal force matters. It is the aggressor who must face punishment not the victim and non-compliance with international obligations must carry enforceable consequences.

The OPCW and States Parties have an important role to play in this regard. With a steadily growing evidence that riot control agents and other toxic chemicals are being used as a method of warfare on the battlegrounds in Ukraine, it is high time we went from simply registering the violations of the CWC to taking steps in order to investigate them, identify the perpetrators and redress the situation, if necessary by enforcing compliance with the Convention.

Poland takes very seriously the recent findings by the UK, Sweden, France, Germany and the Netherlands that Alexei Navalny was poisoned with a lethal toxin while imprisoned in a penal colony in Russia. We share the assessment that the Russian Federation had the motive and means to conduct the assassination.

We support efforts to clarify the circumstances of A. Navalny's death and to hold those responsible accountable. In addition to the use of riot control agents in Ukraine, this is yet another case of Russia using chemical weapons for targeted killings, following poisonings carried out with a "Novichok" group chemical agent in 2018 and 2020. These cases demonstrate Russia's total disregard for the Chemical Weapons Convention and raise suspicions regarding undeclared activities.

Poland noted the release of the fifth report of the OPCW's Investigation and Identification Team, published on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 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 the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2016. This is another proof that Assad's regime used chemical weapons against his own people.

While taking note of the incident with unauthorized destruction of cylinders in the Aleppo region, Poland reiterates its support for resolving all outstanding issues related to the Assad's era chemical weapons programme in Syria and calls on the Syrian Arab Republic and the Technical Secretariat to continue and further strengthen cooperation and engagement aimed at that goal.

Poland is determined to continue to be an active and constructive supporter of the OPCW and the CWC. We promote the implementation of the CWC through our annual UNGA resolution, for years have been facilitating budgetary discussions at the OPCW and always pay our assessed contributions on time. Poland engages in support of all activities organized by the OPCW, be it strengthening verification or fostering International Co-operation and Assistance. Recently Poland has made voluntary financial contributions in support of the OPCW's work related to Ukraine and Syria.

This is our last regular Executive Council meeting as its current member, however, because we care about this organization and its contribution to the world free of chemical weapons and their use, Poland has already signalled its interest to return to the Council for the period 2027-2029. In case there is no clean slate, we will again count on the support of States Parties in securing the seat.

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