

**The 111th Session of the Executive Council of
the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
General Debate**

**Statement by Acting Permanent Representative Jeong-A Yu
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the OPCW**

10 March, 2026, The Hague

Mr. Chair,
Mr. Director-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

I would first like to express my sincere gratitude to Ambassador Thomas Schieb for his able leadership as Chair of this Council. My deep appreciation also goes to the Director-General Fernando Arias and all the staff of the Technical Secretariat for their dedication and professionalism in carrying out their responsibilities.

Mr. Chair,

In the face of growing security challenges—from the war in Ukraine to the recent escalation in the Middle East—the need for strengthened multilateral cooperation is greater than ever. At this critical juncture, the Republic of Korea reaffirms its unwavering commitment to upholding the non-proliferation regime and strengthening its effectiveness.

Turning to Syria, we welcome the significant progress made in addressing the outstanding issues related to Syria's chemical weapons programme. It is encouraging to see the OPCW team's continued efforts to advance investigative work in close communication with Syria. Especially, the publication of the fifth report of the Investigation and Identification Team marks Syria's first cooperation with an IIT investigation and represents an important step forward in clarifying the full extent and scope of Syria's former chemical weapons programme.

In this regard, the Republic of Korea contributed 150,000 euros to the Syria Trust Fund in 2025 in support of Syria mechanism. We believe that it could contribute to advancing efforts to eliminate the remnants of Assad-era Syrian chemical weapons programme.

Mr. Chair,

As Russia's invasion of Ukraine enters its fourth year, we remain gravely concerned that it poses a serious threat to international peace and security and to undermine the integrity of the global disarmament regime. Of particular concern are the allegations of the use of toxic chemicals. We take recent findings from the three reports of Technical Assistance Visits(TAV) with due seriousness, which confirmed the presence of Riot Control Agents(RCA) in the battlefield of Ukraine. In light of this, we highlight the need for attribution of confirmed cases through appropriate OPCW mechanisms. We believe that strengthening accountability is essential to safeguarding the integrity of the Convention.

Mr. Chair,

Taking this opportunity, I would also like to commend the Technical Secretariat for its professional efforts across a wide spectrum of activities. In particular, we welcome the Director-General's continued initiative on emerging technologies as well as the work of the Scientific Advisory Board temporary working group on AI.

In this context, the Republic of Korea has taken a leading role in advancing international discussions on responsible application of AI in the military domain. We convened the first UN Security Council High-Level Open Debate on AI and International Peace and Security in September 2025. Also, last month, we co-hosted the 3rd REAIM Summit together with Netherlands and Spain, following the second Conference held in Seoul.

Moreover, within the framework of the OPCW, we are pleased to co-host the Seoul Workshop with the Technical Secretariat under the theme of AI

this year. We look forward to this initiative serving as a platform for Member States to exchange views on the application of AI in the chemical industry.

Mr. Chair,

Before concluding, we reiterate our call on all States not yet party to the Convention to accede without delay. In particular, we once again call upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to join the Convention and to align itself with the universal norm against chemical weapons.

Finally, the Republic of Korea will continue to engage constructively in the work of this Council and reaffirm our shared determination to uphold the object and purpose of the Convention.

Thank you. /END/