



REGERINGSKANSLIET

Ministry for Foreign Affairs Sweden

National statement by Sweden
One Hundred and Eleventh Session of the Executive Council Session of the Executive
Council
of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
H.E. Julius Liljeström
Permanent Representative of Sweden to the OPCW
The Hague, 10-13 March 2026

Chair,

Let me first thank H. E. Ambassador Thomas Schieb of Germany for his excellent leadership in guiding the work of the Executive Council.

Sweden is aligned with the statement of the European Union. I would like to add the following points in my national capacity.

Chair,

Sweden commends the Director-General's continued leadership and the dedicated work of the Technical Secretariat in upholding the integrity of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

Sweden remains resolute in its commitment to ensure that any use of chemical weapons is met with consequences. We must collectively safeguard the authority of the Chemical Weapons Convention and uphold the global norm against chemical weapons in all circumstances.

We must stand together in defence of the core values of the UN Charter: sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the respect for a rules-based international order. Sweden considers it as imperative that States are held accountable for non-compliance with their Treaty obligations.

Chair,

Sweden reiterates its unequivocal condemnation of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine including Russia's repeated breaches of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Sweden remains steadfast in its support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. We stand firmly behind Ukraine's legitimate pursuit of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in accordance with international law, including the UN Charter, and we will do so as long as it takes. Russia must cease its aggression, withdraw its forces from the entire territory of Ukraine, and respect international law.

We again express our deep concern and condemnation of Russia's ever-growing number of registered cases of Riot Control Agents and the reported use of choking agent chloropicrin against Ukrainian soldiers. Russia's actions constitute a blatant disregard for its international obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention. We reiterate our call on Russia to credibly respond to the requests submitted under Article IX of the Convention.

Chair,

In connection with the Munich Security Conference, the Swedish Foreign Minister – together with colleagues from the United Kingdom, France, Germany and the Netherlands – shared its conclusion that the Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny had been poisoned while in prison in Russia, and that that the poisoning highly likely caused Navalny's death. We, the five countries, reached this conclusion based on chemical analyses of biological samples from Alexei Navalny, performed by national laboratories, that have conclusively verified the presence of the lethal neurotoxin epibatidine in the samples. Only Russia had the means, motive and opportunity to administer this poison to him.

We, the five countries, have jointly informed the OPCW Director-General of this latest Russian breach of the Convention. We thank the Director-General for his reply in NV dated 2nd March 2026, confirming that any use of epibatidine with the intent to kill or harm people falls under Article II of the Chemical Weapons Convention. These recent findings follow Russia's prior uses of Novichok in Salisbury in 2018 and the attempt to poison Navalny in 2020, forming a clear and alarming pattern. We highlight the seriousness of Russia's continued violations of the CWC and underscore the necessity of ensuring accountability.

Chair,

We welcome OPCW's constructive cooperation with the Syrian transitional authorities to complete the full elimination of Syria's former chemical weapons program, destroy any remaining material, and hold those responsible for the chemical attacks accountable.

Sweden commends the OPCW Investigation and Identification Team for its professional work and its recent release of its fifth report. The positive role of the Syrian Transitional Authorities in facilitating the IIT-investigations fifth report is well noted.

The commitment of the Syrian transitional authorities to fully cooperate with the OPCW is key to eliminate chemical weapons in Syria for good. We need to end impunity for the use of chemical weapons and render justice to the victims. To this end the knowledge and expertise

acquired across the Secretariat and to the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) is crucial.

We encourage swift implementation of the next steps to counter the considerable proliferation risks.

Chair,

Sweden is concerned by reports that the Sudanese Armed Forces have used chemical weapons in Sudan. Sudan, like any other State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention, must abide by its obligations.

Sweden calls on Sudan to cooperate fully with the OPCW, cease any use of chemical agents, and take concrete steps towards restoring full compliance with the Convention. We also express solidarity with the civilian population suffering the consequences of any such violations.

Chair,

We look forward to the OPCW's continued reporting to States Parties on its important work across its programmes.

Thank you.