



Permanent Representation
of Ukraine to the OPCW

English only

Point 6 (f) Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use

Statement by the delegation of Ukraine at the 111th session of the Executive Council in Exercise of the Right of Reply to the Statement of the Russian Federation

Mr Chairperson,

Ukraine is compelled to take the floor in response to the statement delivered by the delegation of the Russian Federation.

Once again, we have heard a series of accusations against Ukraine that are entirely unfounded and unsupported by credible evidence.

These allegations form part of a broader and systematic disinformation campaign conducted by the Russian Federation in international organisations, including the OPCW, aimed at diverting attention from its own violations of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Let us recall the basic facts.

The international community has clearly established that it is the Russian Federation that launched a full-scale armed invasion of Ukraine.

Through a series of resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, the international community has unequivocally recognised the Russian Federation as the aggressor and Ukraine as the victim of this unlawful war.

Against this backdrop, attempts by the Russian Federation to portray Ukraine as the violator of the Chemical Weapons Convention are both cynical and misleading.

Mr Chairperson,

In the absence of credible evidence to support its allegations, the Russian Federation chooses to disseminate unsubstantiated claims while avoiding the verification mechanisms established by the Convention. This approach speaks for itself.

Mr Chairperson,

At the same time, documented facts concerning Russia's own conduct and disregard for the Convention are deeply alarming.

More than 12,500 documented incidents involving the use of hazardous chemical munitions by Russian forces have been recorded on the battlefield since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion.

Following three Technical Assistance Visits to Ukraine, independent OPCW-designated laboratories confirmed the presence of the riot control agent CS in collected samples. These findings were subsequently reflected in three Technical Assistance Visit reports issued by the Technical Secretariat.

Furthermore, numerous documented cases demonstrate that Russian forces employ munitions containing riot control agents such as CS and CN, including K-51 and RG-Vo grenades, often delivered by unmanned aerial systems to force Ukrainian soldiers out of shelters.

Such practices constitute a clear violation of both: the letter and the spirit of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Mr Chairperson,

These actions form part of a broader and deeply troubling pattern.

Ukraine takes note of the conclusions presented by France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom regarding the poisoning of Alexei Navalny with a highly toxic substance epibatidine while in Russian custody.

We also recall the findings of the OPCW Investigation and Identification Team regarding chemical weapons use in Syria.

Taken together, these cases illustrate a disturbing pattern associated with the Russian Federation's behaviour with regard to the prohibition of chemical weapons.

Mr Chairperson,

We also take note of attempts by the Russian Federation to portray alleged strikes against facilities of its chemical industry as violations of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Such claims are legally unfounded.

The Chemical Weapons Convention prohibits the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons, as well as the use of toxic chemicals as a method of warfare. It does not regulate conventional military operations against industrial infrastructure.

Many facilities within the Russian chemical and petrochemical sector produce dual-use chemicals and materials that are widely used in military production, including in the manufacture of explosives, propellants, rocket fuels and other military materials. These materials directly support Russia's ongoing military campaign, including the large-scale use of missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles against Ukraine. As such, these facilities may constitute legitimate military objectives under international humanitarian law, under Article 52(2) of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions.

It is therefore misleading to suggest that industrial facilities of the chemical sector are protected under the Convention from lawful military operations. Moreover, the issues raised by the Russian Federation clearly fall outside the mandate of the OPCW.

At the same time, the broader context of Russia's ongoing military campaign against Ukraine cannot be ignored. According to Ukrainian authorities, in 2025 alone the Russian Federation launched approximately 55,000 attack drones and nearly 2,000 missiles against Ukraine. During the winter period of 2025–2026, Russia employed almost 19,000 additional attack drones and more than 700 missiles, alongside thousands of guided aerial bombs. These attacks have caused devastating humanitarian consequences. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, more than 12,600 civilians have been killed and over 29,000 injured in Ukraine since the start of the full-scale invasion.

These actions by the Russian Federation constitute a numerous war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Mr Chairperson,

Attempts by the Russian Federation to accuse Ukraine cannot obscure the well-documented record of its own actions.

Ukraine remains a responsible State Party that fully complies with the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We will continue cooperating with the Technical Secretariat and with all States Parties to ensure that the global prohibition of chemical weapons is upheld and that those responsible for violations are identified and held accountable.

Thank you for your attention.