



Permanent Representation
of Ukraine to the OPCW

English only

Agenda item 8: Emerging technologies

Statement by the delegation of Ukraine at the 111th session of the Executive Council

Mr Chairperson,
Director-General,
Excellencies,

Ukraine fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. I would also like to deliver the following remarks in my national capacity.

Ukraine welcomes the continued attention of the Executive Council to the implications of emerging technologies for the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We commend the Scientific Advisory Board and its Temporary Working Group on Artificial Intelligence for their important work in assessing how technological developments may affect the Convention and the activities of the OPCW.

Mr Chairperson,

For Ukraine, the discussion on emerging technologies is not theoretical. Ukraine's experience in the context of Russia's ongoing aggression demonstrates that technological innovation has already transformed the operational modalities of the use of toxic chemicals as weapons.

Russian armed forces have adapted the use of toxic chemicals and riot control agents to modern battlefield conditions by employing unmanned aerial vehicles to deliver them into trenches.

This is a serious and deeply disturbing development.

The use of UAVs allows the Russian Federation to deliver small quantities of toxic chemicals with high precision and immediate tactical effect. In practice, this means using toxic chemicals not necessarily for mass casualties, but to force Ukrainian defenders out of protected positions, making them vulnerable to subsequent attacks with conventional weapons.

Mr Chairperson,

The challenge is compounded by the fact that these methods are specifically designed to complicate detection and documentation. As Ukrainian experts have noted, the use of drones enables highly localised delivery of small quantities of toxic chemicals, often in confined environments, which significantly complicates prompt evidence collection and forensic analysis.

These developments demonstrate why the OPCW must continuously adapt its verification, detection and analytical capabilities, including through the responsible use of emerging technologies.

Ukraine therefore strongly supports the continued work of the Scientific Advisory Board. As Ukraine has already demonstrated its readiness to cooperate with the OPCW Technical Secretariat in other areas, we remain committed to sharing relevant information and practical experience that could contribute to the important and challenging work of the Scientific Advisory Board and help protect people from toxic chemical threats in an era of rapidly evolving technologies. Ukraine firmly believes that emerging technologies must reinforce the global norm against chemical weapons – not enable new methods for circumventing it. Russia’s conduct clearly shows that this challenge is already here.

Thank you for your attention.