

**STATEMENT BY MR. MOMCHIL NINOV, HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA TO THE 30th SESSION OF THE
CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS
CONVENTION**

(The Hague, 24 – 28 November 2025)

Agenda item 8 – General debate

Chairperson,
Director-General,
Distinguished Delegates,

The Republic of Bulgaria appreciates the efforts and outstanding performance of H.E. Ambassador Almir Šahović of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chairperson of the 29th Conference of States Parties, and H.E. Ambassador Thomas Schieb of Germany, Chairperson of the Executive Council, in fulfilling their duties. We welcome H.E. Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador as the Chairperson of the 30th Conference of States Parties. We assure you of our full support. Let us also congratulate H.E. Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior Matter for her appointment as the next OPCW Director-General.

We highly value and commend the leadership of OPCW Director-General Ambassador Fernando Arias, and reiterate our full confidence in the OPCW Technical Secretariat, its professionalism, impartiality and expertise in all its activities and the continuous and unfailing assistance rendered to States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). I would like to assure you that Bulgaria remains committed to further strengthening the Convention and its full implementation globally.

Mr. Chairperson,

Bulgaria aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union, its Member States and aligned countries. I would like to address the Conference with a few national remarks.

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Geneva Protocol prohibiting the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and 28 years since the entry into force of the CWC, Bulgaria remains of the firm position that any use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anyone, and under any circumstances is a gross violation of international law and absolutely unacceptable. Today's deteriorated global security landscape and the risk of re-emergence of chemical weapons use prove the continued relevance and importance of the Convention for upholding of the norm against the use of chemical weapons.

Bulgaria welcomes the Syrian transitional authorities' commitment to cooperate with the OPCW in order to ensure Syria's return to full compliance with the Convention as soon as possible. This

Check against delivery!

commitment is an essential step toward rebuilding trust, transparency and accountability in a dossier that remains crucial for international peace and security. We encourage swift implementation of the next steps to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons programme for good, to counter proliferation risks and to hold the perpetrators to account.

Mr. Chairperson,

Three and a half years since the beginning of Russia's brutal war of aggression against Ukraine, Moscow's violent attacks against civilians and critical infrastructure continue to inflict a devastating toll on the country and its people. Three OPCW Technical Assistance Visit (TAV) reports confirm the presence of riot control agents (RCA) in samples collected from the frontlines in Ukraine which, together with the ever-growing number of cases registered by the Ukrainian authorities, point to a pattern of systematic RCA use by Russia as a method of warfare. Serious concerns have also been raised about the alleged use of the choking agent chloropicrin by Russian forces. Bulgaria is deeply worried by these developments and calls for a timely attribution of responsibility for these clear breaches of the Convention. Russia still has not provided a credible explanation pursuant to Article IX of the CWC but instead largely employs its disinformation apparatus to spread baseless accusations against Ukraine. We reaffirm our unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders and its inherent right of self-defence.

Mr. Chairperson,

Moscow's blatant disregard for multilateral agreements, including breaches of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and its war against another member of the Eastern European Group make Russia unfit for a leadership position also in our Organisation. Russia has to bear the consequences of its behaviour, including by not being allowed to hold an elected position of responsibility, specifically within the OPCW Executive Council. This is a question that is of concern to all States Parties. We encourage them to respect the will of the EEG majority that cannot accept Russia, an aggressor against another State Party of the same region, as representing them in the Executive Council.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document of the Thirtieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and post it on both the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you.