

**Statement by H E Mr René Miko, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the
OPCW**

at the One-Hundred Tenth Session of the Executive Council

7 – 10 October 2025

AGENDA ITEM [5] – GENERAL DEBATE

Mr Chairperson, Mr Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Czechia fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and wishes to make a few remarks in its national capacity.

At the outset, let me thank you, dear Chair, for your stewardship of the Executive Council, and assure you of our continued support. Czechia fully endorses the way you have guided us through the selection process of the new Director General. You have greatly contributed to its dignity worthy of the importance of the role that this organization and its Director General play in the international system. At the same time, we hope that the selection process will be soon finalized in a consensual way.

Our gratitude extends also to the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, for his steadfast commitment to the mission of the OPCW and for his leadership of the Technical Secretariat whose professionalism, integrity, impartiality, independence, courage and tireless efforts continue to advance the objectives of the Convention. Thank you for your tireless work.

Mr Chairperson,

The Czech government continues to be deeply concerned by the repeated reports of chemical weapons-related incidents in connection with the Russian aggression against **Ukraine**. The samples that were taken in accordance with international standards and within the OPCW-verified chain of custody clearly confirm the presence of the riot-control agents in multiple locations of the Ukrainian battlefield, close to the Ukrainian observation posts.

We commend the OPCW for its swift deployment of the Technical Assistance Visits to Ukraine throughout the past two years. These missions have, above all, provided

critical evidence on prohibited RCAs use. The situation in Ukraine underscores the urgent need for vigilance, accountability, and international solidarity in upholding the Convention. The TAV reports indicate a pattern of RCAs use as a method of warfare in Ukraine. That is deeply disconcerting. We call on Russia to clarify these allegations.

These serious violations of the Convention are happening right now. We emphatically remind everyone that the RCAs use as a method of warfare is strictly prohibited by the Convention. In that vein, the attribution of such prohibited conduct is crucial.

Furthermore, Russia, a country that ratified the Convention, is still to provide clarifications on cases of Alexei Navalny's, the Skripals' and Dawn Sturgess's poisonings and to cooperate fully with the OPCW to ensure an impartial international investigation.

Any use of chemical weapons anywhere by anyone is unacceptable. This applies to Ukraine as well as to any other part of the world.

In Syria, the use of chemical weapons by the Assad regime must be thoroughly investigated. We view positively the cooperation between the OPCW and **Syria's** transitional government, which paves the way for the implementation of the Syrian Declaration.

We also commend Syrian government on engaging with the Secretariat's proposed 9-point Action Plan, a clear roadmap to address unresolved issues, facilitate access to relevant sites, and ultimately restore Syria's standing within the Organization.

One of the important tasks remaining is the destruction of chemical weapons and in this regard, we appreciate Qatar's initiative on establishing the framework for its implementation.

We would like to acknowledge the role played by the Declaration Assessment Team, the Fact-Finding Mission, and the Investigation and Identification Team, whose impartial work has been essential in upholding the integrity of the Convention.

Mr Chairperson,

The OPCW Programme for **Africa** deserves our utmost attention.

Czechia supports Africa both financially and in-kind by providing voluntary contributions earmarked for Africa programme and by conducting trainings under Art X with mostly African participants.

We appreciate the attention given to the **emerging technologies and the AI**. These developments offer both opportunities and risks. The Convention must remain technologically relevant and future-proof. That is why we support the DG's efforts to explore the challenges in this field. We welcome the activities of the SAB temporary working group and look forward to interacting more closely on this agenda.

Let us remember that the work of the OPCW is not just about eliminating weapons - it is about building trust, fostering cooperation, and safeguarding humanity. The challenges we face are real, but so too is our collective resolve.

Every nation, every community, and every individual should be able to live without fear. Together, through dialogue, vigilance, and unwavering dedication, we can ensure that the horrors of the past and unfortunately the horrors of the present are never repeated.

I thank you.