

**Statement on the occasion of the 110th Session of the OPCW Executive Council
on behalf of the Republic of Estonia by H.E. Ambassador Paul Teesalu
The Hague, 7-10 October 2025
Agenda item: General debate**

Distinguished Chairperson,

Estonia fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

Mr. Chair,

Estonia is an active State Party to the OPCW and will continue to promote the full and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The CWC is the cornerstone of global disarmament and arms control regime, which must be firmly adhered to in an ever-changing international environment. I extend my appreciation to the Director-General Ambassador Fernando Arias and to the Technical Secretariat for their tireless work and professionalism, impartiality and expertise in implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention. I expect this Executive Council session to make progress on several important dossiers of this Organisation, under the able leadership of Ambassador Thomas Schieb.

Mr. Chairperson,

Estonia reiterates its resolute condemnation of Russia's unjustified and illegal full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine, which constitutes a violation of international law including the UN Charter. This war has brought with it not only immense human suffering, but also a disturbing return of practices that should have remained in the past. The reports of the OPCW Technical Assistance Visits to Ukraine have documented systematic use of riot control agents on the frontlines, as well as the reported use of choking agent chloropicrin against Ukrainian soldiers. Such use clearly constitutes a blatant violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, undermining the integrity of the Convention and eroding the norms that the international community, under the OPCW, has worked for decades to uphold.

Estonia calls for the rigorous enforcement of the Chemical Weapons Convention to address the re-emergence of chemical weapons and to ensure full accountability for their use. We further

call for the timely attribution of any proven use of riot control agents as a method of warfare. Their use must be investigated, and impunity must not and will not be tolerated.

Estonia also reaffirms its unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. Lasting peace and security in Europe will only be possible when Russia ends its aggression and fully withdraws from all of Ukrainian territory.

Chairperson,

For more than a decade, the OPCW has addressed the challenge of Syrian chemical weapons. Estonia commends the Syrian transitional authorities' cooperation with the OPCW, which is essential to eliminating Syria's chemical weapons programme and ensuring its swift return to full compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention, countering serious proliferation risks and to holding the perpetrators to account. Estonia welcomes the draft decision submitted by Qatar entitled "*Expedited On-Site Destruction of Any Remnants of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic*". Furthermore, we commend the Secretariat for establishing the Office of Special Missions, which integrates the Syria-related mandates and expertise in a way that preserves their full importance. Estonia stresses that ensuring the OPCW has the necessary resources to carry out its Syria mandate effectively remains a priority. Estonia is pleased to support this work through a recent contribution in September of 10 000 euros to the OPCW Syria Trust Fund.

Mr. Chair,

Estonia underscores that the OPCW requires a predictable and solid financial base to fulfil its mandate and carry out its critical mission effectively. In the current challenging environment, strict budgetary discipline remains essential, and the revised draft bi-annual programme and budget for 2026–27 must provide adequate funding to support the OPCW's vital work, including verification, international cooperation, and assistance.

Estonia would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you, Chair.
