

**Statement of Mr. Neilas Tankevičius, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Lithuania to the OPCW
OPCW EC-110, Agenda Item 5 (General Debate)**

Mr. Chairperson,

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

Lithuanian delegation commends H.E. Ambassador Thomas Schieb for his effective and thoughtful leadership of the Executive Council and assures him of our full support. We also reaffirm our confidence in OPCW Director-General Ambassador Fernando Arias and in the professionalism of the Technical Secretariat.

Mr. Chairperson,

Lithuania strongly condemns Russia's unjustified and illegal full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine. This barbaric war constitutes a flagrant violation of international law, most importantly the United Nations Charter. Lithuania will never recognize any attempt to undermine Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, or territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. We remain steadfast in our support for Ukraine and its people. Together with our EU and international partners, we will continue to provide political, financial, economic, humanitarian, military, diplomatic and any other assistance to Ukraine whatever it takes for as long as necessary.

We are deeply concerned by thousands of reports of Russia's use of Riot Control Agents as a method of warfare, which is explicitly prohibited under the Chemical Weapons Convention. Equally alarming are the reports regarding the use of the choking agent chloropicrin against Ukrainian military personnel. Instead of addressing legitimate international concerns, Russia refuses to provide a credible explanation under Article IX, paragraphs 2 and 3 of the CWC. Instead, it resorts to propaganda, disinformation and denial, despite the rapidly growing body of evidence. It includes three TAV reports that point to a systematic pattern of RCA use by Russia on the battlefield. Such actions represent a grave breach of the Convention, and Lithuania continues to call for timely attribution of responsibility as well as for the full accountability of the perpetrator. Let me be very clear, Mr Chairman: unless the international community identifies the perpetrator and holds it fully accountable, the global norm prohibiting the use of chemical weapons will be seriously undermined.

This is why Lithuania calls on Russia to withdraw its candidacy for election to the Executive Council for the period of 2026-2028. The overarching majority of countries within the Eastern European Group support three candidates, which best represent the value-based principled approach within the group. We call on other regional groups to respect the Group's choice and not to support the Russian candidacy.

Mr. Chairperson,

Lithuania reiterates its support for a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political transition. We welcome the cooperation of the Syrian transitional authorities with the OPCW and encourage further progress towards full compliance with the Convention. We commend the Secretariat's information notes and updates on its deployments, and emphasize the importance of swift action to ensure the complete elimination of Syria's chemical weapons program. Consequently, we wish to offer our sincere gratitude to Qatar, for its initiative to draft a Council decision on Syria. We are pleased to join the impressive list of co-sponsors and supporters of this important initiative.

This is vital to mitigate proliferation risks and to ensure that those responsible for the chemical weapons use are held fully accountable. A clear Council framework is needed to guide the next steps by the Syrian authorities in cooperation with the Technical Secretariat.

Mr. Chairperson

Lithuania attaches great importance to the issue of chemical weapons dumped at sea. We recall the wide support for United Nations General Assembly Resolution 65/149, initiated by Lithuania in 2010, which highlights the need for international cooperation and greater awareness of the environmental and security risks posed by these munitions.

We encourage all States Parties, and in particular those of the Baltic Sea region, to remain actively engaged in addressing this shared responsibility. Strengthened cooperation is essential to safeguard our marine environment, protect public health, and enhance regional and global security, especially since the risks are magnified by maritime transport, natural degradation, and intensifying human activity at sea and hybrid threats such as undersea infrastructure sabotage, including anchor dragging carried out by the so-called shadow fleet of Russia. In this context we are planning a series of events which highlight the nexus of environmental and security dimensions.

Mr. Chairperson,

We look forward to the successful election of a new Director General of this organization. We note with satisfaction that several highly competent candidates participated in the process, meeting key criteria, including gender and regional representation.

Lithuania commends Ambassador Thomas Schieb for his leadership in organizing the process leading to the election of the new Director General of the OPCW. We hope that this process finishes soon. You have our unequivocal support, Mr Chairman.

Lithuania remains fully committed to the complete elimination of chemical weapons worldwide and to the strengthening of the Chemical Weapons Convention as a cornerstone of international security.

Thank you.