

Statement by Poland
at the 110th session of the Executive Council
(The Hague, 7 - 10 October 2025)

Agenda item 6(c): Elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme

Mr Chairperson,

Poland welcomes the restoration of co-operation between Syria and the OPCW following the last December's fall of Assad's regime. We support Syria's swift return to full compliance with the Convention. The current window of opportunity for that should be seized by both sides: the new transitional authorities in Damascus and by the OPCW. It is necessary to intensify efforts to verify the current situation on the ground in respect of a possible presence of remnants of chemical weapons in Syria, inspect all locations identified as possible places where the Assad's regime might have continued its secret chemical weapons programme, and offer all necessary support to the new Syrian authorities in meeting Syria's obligations under the convention. Avoiding proliferation and holding the perpetrator of use of chemical weapons accountable remain our key objectives.

In order for the OPCW to be able to play its part in this important endeavor, the Technical Secretariat must have necessary means and resources. In view of the fact that the draft OPCW budget for the years 2026-2027 to be considered by the Council later this week foresees the creation of a very small Special Syrian Fund for OPCW Syria related work, which can cover only a fraction of estimated needs, it will be necessary to continue to rely heavily on extrabudgetary contributions to the Syrian Trust Fund. I am pleased to announce that in the near future Poland will be making a contribution of 50.000 EUR to support the OPCW's activities in Syria. We encourage all States Parties to also consider providing voluntary financial or in-kind contributions.

Poland supports the draft decision on Expedited On-Site Destruction of any Remnants of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic prepared by Qatar and is one of its co-sponsors. We would like to thank Qatar for all efforts invested in preparing the draft.

Thank you.