

Statement by Poland
at the 110th session of the Executive Council
Agenda item 6(f): Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use

Mr Chairperson,

Poland fully supports the statement of the European Union. We also share the concerns about the use of Riot Control Agents by Russia as a method of warfare voiced by numerous delegations that took the floor yesterday.

I believe that Poland has made its position very clear on the matter in the General Debate.

Poland reaffirms its unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within Ukraine's internationally recognised borders. We condemn Russia's full-scale unprovoked aggression against Ukraine. It is a blatant violation of international law, including the UN Charter. It is a senseless aggression that has brought death, destruction, war crimes and enormous suffering. It is a war that strikes directly at the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and our commonly shared ideal of a world free of chemical weapons and their use.

Since the beginning of Russia's full scale aggression, the Ukrainian authorities have documented almost 11000 cases of use of ammunition containing toxic chemicals, resulting in thousands of cases of servicemen suffering from symptoms of chemical injuries. The presence of Riot Control Agents on the battlefields has been independently corroborated by the findings of the OPCW Technical Assistance Visits (TAVs) to Ukraine. It is clear that Russia uses RCAs as a method of warfare on the frontlines in Ukraine, violating the CWC.

We reiterate that for the sake of credibility and integrity of the CWC and the OPCW, the violation of the Convention in the Russia's aggressions against Ukraine must be further investigated, with the aim of identifying perpetrators, organisers, sponsors or otherwise involved and ensuring their full accountability. We support Ukrainian efforts to follow the TAVs with further steps aimed at attribution. There must be no impunity for the use of chemical weapons and violation of the convention.

Thank you.