



**STATEMENT BY H.E. JURAJ PODHORSKÝ,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
TO THE OPCW,
AT THE 110th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
(The Hague, 7 to 10 October 2025)**

Agenda item 5 – General debate

Mr. Chair,

Slovakia aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

In my national capacity, I wish to make some additional comments and observations.

I would like start by commending the Chairman of the Executive Council, H.E. Mr. Thomas Schieb of Germany on ably guiding the work of the Council both at its formal meetings and intersessionally. Several important processes are taking place, including the selection of the new Director-General of the Organisation. In this regard, we wish to assure the Chair of Slovakia's full trust and support. We are confident that under the guidance of Amb. Schieb, the Executive Council will recommend to the Conference of States Parties the best candidate, demonstrating leadership, impartiality, determination and commitment to the achievement of the goals of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Mr. Chair,

I wish to underline Slovakia's unconditional commitment to the global norm against chemical weapons. As a responsible and principled Member of the Organisation from its inception, Slovakia has contributed to the furtherance of the goals of the CWC by providing both political and practical support. The practical support includes over 20 trainings for over 600 OPCW inspectors and 15 trainings for over 270 international experts from around 80 OPCW Member States from all

regional groups, at the training facility in Zemianske Kostol'any in Central Slovakia. Slovakia, therefore, wishes to build on its track-record and further contribute to the work of the OPCW by serving on the Executive Council. For this reason, we have submitted our candidacy for the term 2026-2028 and respectfully ask for the support of all Members of the OPCW.

Mr. Chair, turning to the challenges to the global non-proliferation regime for chemical weapons, I wish to primarily address the situation in Ukraine and in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Regarding Ukraine, I wish to start by quoting the words of the President of Slovakia H. E. Peter Pellegrini at the meeting of the UN Security Council on 23 September 2025. *“Eighty years ago, the UN Charter was created to prevent anyone from imposing their will on their sovereign neighbours or taking territory by force. We must stand firmly against such actions. [...] We must consistently defend the UN Charter to ensure that such behaviour does not happen again in the future, anywhere in the world. [...] As a country with a war right at our border, Slovakia sees the heavy toll it takes: civilian casualties, destruction of infrastructure, and violations of humanitarian law.”*

The heavy toll of the war includes the reported systematic use of Riot Control Agents as a method of warfare by Russia which is in direct contravention of the explicit prohibition contained in Art. I para 5 of the CWC. There have also been numerous reports on the use of the choking agent chloropicrin by Russian armed forces. Slovakia is deeply concerned by these reports, as well as by the failure of the Russian Federation to provide credible explanations or clarifications in line with Art. IX para. 2 and para. 3 of the CWC.

Turning to the Syrian chemical weapons programme, Slovakia welcomes the willingness of the new Syrian leadership to bring the country back to the path of real cooperation with the OPCW and to uncover the full extent of the Assad regime's chemical weapons programme and verifiably destroy it. It is our sincere hope that the activities of the Technical Secretariat, building on the rich expertise of the Syria Missions (DAT, FFM, IIT) will achieve this goal. At the same time, it is crucial to take all measures to secure the sites relevant for the Syrian CW programme in order to mitigate the risk of proliferation. We are cognizant of the

magnitude of this task, including the financial implications. The destruction of the chemical weapons programme being a core activity of the Organisation, we would have favoured its financing primarily via the most predictable and sustainable source – assessed contributions.

Mr. Chair,

I wish to kindly request the issuance of this statement as an official-series document of the session, as well as its posting on the OPCW public website.

I thank you.