



REGERINGSKANSLIET

Ministry for Foreign Affairs Sweden

**National statement by Sweden
One Hundred and Nineth Session of the Executive Council
of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
Ms. Dominika Brott
Permanent Mission of Sweden to the OPCW
The Hague, 7-11 July 2025**

Sweden is aligned with the statement of the European Union. I would like to add the following points in my national capacity.

Chair,

Sweden once again thanks the Director General and the Technical Secretariat for their active engagement with a view to make progress on the Syrian file. We welcome the participation by interim foreign minister al-Shaibani at the last meeting of the Council, which sent a positive signal about Syria's renewed commitment to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

In recognition of these positive developments, I am pleased to announce that the Swedish government decided, last week, on a further extrabudgetary contribution amounting to almost 700 000 Euros to the OPCW's Voluntary Fund for Syria Missions. We hope that this will contribute to early progress in the verified dismantlement of the remaining parts of the chemical weapons programme of the Assad regime. We look forward to an updated inventory of chemical weapons and chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) and the elaboration of a plan for their destruction or conversion, and are ready to consider any request for further support.

We look forward to the Director General continued reporting to States Parties on this important work.

Chair,

Sweden reiterates its condemnation in the strongest terms of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and reaffirms its unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We take note of the third technical report issued by the OPCW last month, confirming once more the use of riot control agents as a method of warfare in Ukraine.

The findings are in keeping with Ukraine's alarming reports of daily Russian attacks with such banned ammunitions, which, as stated by the Director-General, constitute chemical weapons pursuant to the Convention. The use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anyone, under any circumstances, is unacceptable and unlawful. As I mentioned during the last meeting of the Council, it would be appropriate to move from confirmation of use to attribution and accountability for those responsible for use of such chemical weapons. Accountability remains an important priority to Sweden. We therefore support that the Secretariat take necessary steps with regard to identification as requested by Ukraine.

In the meantime, we are still awaiting responses from Russia to calls for clarifications regarding the use of RCA ammunitions and to provide credible answers regarding the poisoning by use of a nerve agent of Sergey and Yulia Skripal in 2018 and opposition leader Alexey Navalny in 2020. We once again call on Russia to respond to States Parties' legitimate questions rather than resorting to evasion and disinformation.

Chair,

New and emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence hold promise for the OPCW's verification work, but also give rise to some potential challenges. Sweden therefore once again welcomes the addition of an agenda item on "Emerging Technologies" on the agenda of the Council. Moreover, we are looking forward to the recommendations of the Temporary Working Group on Chemical Forensics on how newly developed forensic tools may contribute to the implementation of the Convention.

In conclusion, Sweden looks forward to the elaboration of the OPCW's budget for 2026-2027, and to the appointment, in the coming months, of a new Director General to take office next year.

I would kindly ask that this statement be issued as an official document and placed on the public website.

Thank you.