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ROMANIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR LUCIAN FĂTU
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ROMANIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me start by expressing the appreciation of Romania for the outgoing Chairperson, Ambassador José Antonio Zabalgaitia Trejo of Mexico, for his able stewardship at the forefront of the Conference during these difficult times. I would also like to congratulate Ambassador Bård Ivar Svendsen of Norway, on his election as the new Chairperson of the Conference, and to express Romania's support during your mandate.

Romania fully supports the statement of the European Union. At the same time, I would like to briefly address the Conference in my national capacity.

First of all, let me thank the Director-General for his wise leadership of the Organisation throughout this year. We are facing challenging times and the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, with his well-known professionalism, has managed to bring balance to the discussions on the OPCW table. As we need to continue this approach, Romania supports the reappointment of Ambassador Arias for a second term in office. We are convinced that Ambassador Arias will continue to act in the same firm way and he will also continue the projects that have already been started. One of these projects is the establishment of the Centre for Chemistry and Technology—whose implementation Romania fully supports, including financially—which is an essential tool in our approach to a world without chemical weapons.

2021 has been yet another challenging year for the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”). Romania stands firm in condemning the use of chemical weapons by anyone, be it State or non-State actors, anywhere, and under any circumstances, and expresses its conviction that perpetrators must be held accountable. It is outrageous to see it happening on the territories of some States Parties to the Convention. An attack using a chemical warfare agent or, as in this specific case, a nerve agent is a blatant violation of international law and of the Convention. Hence, we must reaffirm the non-negotiable aspect of the norm established by the Convention.



Romania expresses its concern with regard to the remaining gaps, inconsistencies, and discrepancies in the declaration of the Syrian Arab Republic. Therefore, it is among the States Parties requesting the Syrian Arab Republic to cooperate with the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW and clarify these outstanding issues. Furthermore, we have co-sponsored the States Parties' joint statement, willing to send a renewed signal to the Syrian Arab Republic in this vein.

Romania is convinced that all States Parties must act to protect the integrity of the Convention, a key instrument of the international non-proliferation and disarmament regime, and to uphold the global chemical weapons non-use norm.

Hence, Romania reiterates its strong concerns that the Russian Federation has not reacted to international calls to investigate thoroughly and in full transparency the assassination attempt on Mr Navalny by a nerve agent of the novichok group in August 2020.

As a committed advocate of multilateralism, Romania has always had a constructive approach in promoting the Convention's full implementation. Thus, a concrete example is our support for a decision by the Conference of the States Parties stating that the aerosolised use of the central nervous system-acting chemicals (CNS-acting chemicals) is inconsistent with law enforcement purposes as a "purpose not prohibited" under the Convention.

Furthermore, another illustration of our approach is the support demonstrated for business continuity measures, such as convening Executive Council meetings or sessions in emergency circumstances.

Moreover, Romania recognises and supports the important role of the OPCW and its contribution in strengthening the rules-based international order. We would therefore like to express our gratitude to the Technical Secretariat and to all those who contributed to the continuation of the OPCW's work in these exceptional circumstances.

To support this effort, Romania agrees with a multi-annual budget and highlights the need for all States Parties to pay their contributions in due time, allowing the OPCW to function effectively.

Mr Chairperson, I would like to request for this statement to be issued as an official document of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and uploaded on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you.

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