



**Permanent Representation
of Ukraine to the OPCW**

English only

Point 5 General debate

Right of reply

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 108th session of the Executive Council in exercise of the Right of Reply**

Mr Chairperson,

In response to the statement of Russian delegation I was reminded of the quote of the British statesman, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Mr. Winston Churchill, who said “A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on”.

We all here have an opinion about the truth and know that the truth has nothing in common with the speeches of Russian delegation.

Thus, the delegation of Ukraine officially rejects baseless and unfounded accusation of Russia on the so called Ukraine’s violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and conducting “chemical terrorism”. This is yet another portion of disinformation and outright lie.

Let me remind the members of the OPCW Executive Council that:

- it is the Russian Federation that unleashed the brutal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against sovereign state - Ukraine in violation of the UN Charter, principles and norms of international law;
- it is the Russian Federation that continues committing war crimes on the territory of Ukraine;
- it is the Russian Federation that on systematic basis continues to use riot control agents against Ukrainian troops in blatant violation of the paragraph 5 of Article 1 of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Security and Defense Forces of Ukraine do not possess and use the toxic chemical substances, in particular CS and chloropicrin.

Ukraine contributes to the strengthening of the international regime for non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction through, inter alia, proper implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Ukraine closely works with the OPCW Technical Secretariat primarily in documenting Russia’s use of toxic chemical substances for military purposes during its full-scale armed aggression against Ukraine.

Ukraine wishes to underscore that the second OPCW report confirmed the systematic nature of crimes committed by the Russian Federation that deliberately ruins the foundation of the global security architecture and undermines the global efforts aimed at achieving a world free of chemical weapons.

International community should demonstrate the unity in confronting of the aggressor and take decisive steps to hold Russia accountable for violation of its obligations undertaken under Chemical Weapons Convention.

Actions should sound louder than words.

I kindly request you to consider this statement as an official document of the 108th Session of the Executive Council and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you for your attention.