Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine  
73 UN GA First Committee  
Thematic Debate on Other Weapons of Mass Destruction  
(New York, 23 October 2018)

Mr. Chair,

Ukraine aligns itself with the Statement made by the European Union. We also align ourselves with the statement on behalf of the International Partnership against the Impunity for the Use of Chemical Weapons to be delivered by France later today.

I would like to add the following remarks in our national capacity.

As the State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention, Ukraine supports all international, regional and national efforts to achieve our common goal: a world free of chemical weapons. Now we have to admit that this goal is under the serious challenge, as the actual use of chemical weapons is on the rise. Ukraine is gravely concerned over the continued use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, as documented by the Fact-Finding Mission in its several reports.

Ukraine stands firm in condemning, in the strongest possible terms, 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.

The incident in Salisbury is another example of violation of international law and the Chemical Weapons Convention. We offer the United Kingdom our full sympathy and support. Any such act cannot be left unanswered since it undermines not only the basic sense of justice but also leads to the erosion of the non-proliferation and disarmament regime and consequently undermines global security.

In June 2018, the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties with an overwhelming majority adopted a decision that confirms the authority of the OPCW not only to investigate whether chemical weapons were used, but also to determine who was responsible for the use. Ukraine fully supports this decision, which is a substantial step towards accountability and justice. We should not accept acts of chemical weapons use to become normal. We hope that the norm against such use will be restored and upheld.
Mr. Chair,

As the State Party to the Biological Weapons Convention, Ukraine continuously stresses the important role of this indispensable instrument in non-proliferation of WMD. We also consider the Convention as a proper multilateral basis for developing international cooperation in the field of bio-safety and bio-security, including scientific and technological cluster.

Ukraine has substantial scientific and industrial potential in the biological field. In this regard, we attach particular importance to development of international cooperation in the area of biosafety and biosecurity. Ukraine has been several times the author of working papers within the negotiating fora of the BWC, most recently related to awareness raising, education, and outreach.

We also organized several workshops on the BWC implementation. The last one, entitled "Implications of developments in science and technology for the Biological Weapons Convention", was held on 21-22 September 2017 in Kyiv with the participation of Eastern European and Central Asian countries. The event took place in the context of the implementation of European Union Council Decision 2016/51 in support of the BWC within the framework of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Mr. Chair,
The proper implementation of the UN SC Resolution 1540 (2004) and other related resolutions is another priority matter for Ukraine. We consider 1540 as an important tool to address the evolving risk of obtaining WMD by non-state actors.

The outreach activity should be indispensable part of promoting 1540 implementation, and Ukraine makes its own contribution to this process. In particular, the International Workshop "Promoting the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the context of evolving proliferation risks and challenges" was held on 2-3 November 2017 in Kyiv. This event, jointly organized by the Government of Ukraine in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), was an excellent opportunity for deepening practical, operational and enforcement cooperation among the States, international and regional organizations to address current challenges and threats to the non-proliferation regime.

Thank you.