



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Ninety-Ninth Session

8 – 10 March 2022

EC-99/NAT.59

8 March 2022

ENGLISH and SPANISH only

**SPAIN**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN TO  
THE OPCW AT THE NINETY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam Chairperson,

Spain aligns itself with the statements that the Chairperson has delivered or will deliver over the course of this Ninety-Ninth Session.

Spain notes with concern the new instances of the use of chemical agents in the conflict in Syria, as confirmed by the Fact-Finding Mission, and condemns outright the regime of said country for the use of weapons prohibited by the Convention, to which the Syrian Arab Republic freely and voluntarily acceded.

At the same time, my country is deeply disheartened by the total lack of cooperation of the Syrian authorities with the OPCW, up to and including the refusal of issuing entry visas to Syrian territory to the teams of the Technical Secretariat.

Once again, Spain expresses its full confidence in the professionalism, scientific competence, and impartiality of the Organisation's Technical Secretariat, and its support for the various reports submitted by the Investigation and Identification Team on the use of chemical weapons in Syria; it will continue to support the Secretariat in this regard.

It will soon be two years since Alexei Navalny was poisoned with a novichok chemical agent in the territory of the Russian Federation. My delegation has always requested that the Russian Federation clarify this incident and cooperate faithfully with the Technical Secretariat towards this end. To date, neither one nor the other has taken place, which is why we reiterate to the Russian Federation the requirement that it meet its obligations under the Convention and respond to the questions addressed to it within the framework of paragraph 2 of Article IX of the Convention.

The world—and Europe in particular—is experiencing moments of great tension and danger. Spain condemns in the strongest possible terms the unjustified aggression from the Russian Federation that Ukraine is suffering. Spain calls upon the military forces of the Russian Federation in particular to abstain from transporting, stockpiling, or using chemical agents that, due to the gravity of the situation, could be used in the theatre of operations.

At the same time, Spain calls for extreme caution to prevent any combat operation from causing—through action, omission, error, or accident—any spillage of chemical elements or a toxic cloud that would put in danger the lives of peaceful persons or the fighters themselves,



which would cause an exacerbation of the tragedy in which Ukraine currently finds itself. In this regard, Spain shares with other States Parties serious concerns surrounding the reports of potential Russian disinformation campaigns meant to attribute responsibility for any incidents with chemical agents to the Ukrainian forces.

I would like to conclude by reiterating Spain's strongest possible commitment to the cause of eradicating chemical weapons, and preventing and punishing their use.

My delegation requests that this statement be considered an official document of the Ninety-Ninth Session of the Executive Council and published on the Organisation's servers and website.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

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