

Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the
States Parties (CSP-27) to the Chemical Weapons Convention

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NGO Statement ArglQ

Dealing With Mis- and Disinformation

Mister Chairman, Director-General, Distinguished Delegates, CWC Coalition
Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:

ArglQ is a non-profit organisation with the objective of spreading, through academic
activities, the Information Quality methodology to Argentina and other
Spanish-speaking countries.

Information and data quality as disciplines focus on checking how good the input is to
the decision-making process or any other activity that uses data as raw material.

To start with, let's differentiate misinformation from disinformation. The former is
when false, misleading, or out-of-context information is spread without an intention
to cause harm or deceive; the latter has a negative connotation and an intent to
damage.

Misinformation is mainly associated with the spread of non-checked, wrong
information, with translation issues or spelling mistakes; one clear example is political

propaganda. On the other hand, disinformation is a text (or speech) deliberately developed to deceive and negatively affect the reader and condition his/her reaction afterwards. So, most countries suffer from misinformation, and some deliberately orchestrate disinformation campaigns.

Those campaigns can be organised following different strategies, but in the end, what we need to remember is that, since information is data in a given context and that data is the reflection of an object or a fact, by tracing back the facts/objects separately from the narrative, we could arrive to an assessment of the situation as close to the real world as possible.

By approaching the news (reports, papers, statements, etc) from this analytical perspective, it is possible to identify if there is a problem with the accuracy of the data. Understanding if there is an intention to cause harm by distributing certain information is possible but difficult.

Living in the information age for many years has taught us to be careful when in front of any document or speech. The different actors in the international scenario play their game using their tools. We just must be careful.

In the context of chemical weapons, there were and are some problems with the information. Still, with careful analysis, it is possible to discriminate mis- from disinformation and get closer to the facts. It takes time and effort, but it is possible, and this is what we always shall remember.

Participating in the CWC Coalition allows us to grow and to combine our experience with other representatives of the NGO community. Unfortunately, this year it was not

possible to join in person. Thank you for allowing us to be part of this and to present our work, however briefly, to you.

Thank you for your attention, and I request this statement be part of the final CSP record.