



Norwegian statement at the 27th session of the Conference of States Parties, By State Secretary Eivind Vad Petersson

Mr. Chair,

Mr. Director-General,

Distinguished Colleagues,

Norway aligns itself with the statement made by H.E. Ambassador Katerina Sequensova, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the OPCW, on behalf of the European Union. I would like to add the following in my national capacity.

It has been a true honour for Norway to chair the Conference of States Parties this past year. As we now pass the gavel on to South Africa, we wish H.E. Ambassador Madonsela every success. We look forward to cooperating with you and I ensure you of Norway's full support in addressing the tasks before us.

Mr. Chair,

As we mark the 25th anniversary of the Chemical Weapons Convention this year, it is timely to acknowledge the many achievements during that time. The OPCW has played, and continues to play, a crucial role in upholding the rules-based global order, effective multilateralism and international law. Yet, the threat of chemical weapons remains very real, and we must not become complacent. We must continue to work steadfastly – with energy and passion – to do all we can to uphold the total ban on chemical weapons.

To this end, Norway stands ready to speak out forcefully against the malicious disinformation campaign launched by Russia. We condemn Russia's spurious allegations that Ukraine is using or preparing to use chemical weapons. This is merely a smoke screen tactic aimed at sowing confusion, and drawing attention away from Russia's own unprovoked, illegal, and brutal warfare in Ukraine.

Mr. Chair,

The Russian Federation itself has yet to account for its use of chemical weapons, both in the United Kingdom in 2018 and on its own territory in August 2020, against Mr. Navalny. This is totally unacceptable. We reiterate our call on Russia to provide immediate, full and complete disclosure of its Novichok programme to the OPCW.

Mr. Chair,

Norway continues to call on Syria to fulfil its obligations in accordance with the CWC and Security Council Resolution 2118. We urge Syria to engage in full cooperation with the

OPCW to resolve its outstanding issues. Similarly, we urge Syria to complete the necessary measures to lift the suspension of its rights and privileges as a State Party to the Convention. We look forward to the next report by the Investigation and Identification Team.

Mr. Chair,

Norway is committed to international cooperation and collaboration in the field of chemistry. To this end, Norway has actively promoted increased interaction between the OPCW and civil society. External stakeholders, such as chemical industry associations, non-governmental organizations, think tanks, academia and others can provide valuable ideas and input to the advancement of the Convention.

We therefore note with great concern that steps are being taken to prevent the participation of selected non-governmental organisations in the CSP. We urge all States Parties to ensure that our Conference remains open, transparent, and inclusive to civil society groups.

Mr. Chair

Let me end by reiterating my country's confidence in the Technical Secretariat and in Director-General Fernando Arias in particular. We applaud and support your diligence and professionalism.

[Finally, may I request that this statement be treated as an official document of this Conference and published on Catalyst and the public website of the OPCW.]