



OPCW

Executive Council

105th Session
5 – 8 March 2024

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26 October 2023
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GERMANY

**REQUEST FOR CIRCULATION OF A DOCUMENT
AT THE 105TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

The Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the OPCW has requested that a note verbale addressed to the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (dated 26 October 2023) be circulated as an official document of the 105th Session of the Executive Council.

Annex:

Note Verbale from the Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW
Dated 26 October 2023



Annex

**NOTE VERBALE FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY TO THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT
OF THE OPCW DATED 26 OCTOBER 2023**



Permanent Representation
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the OPCW

File No. CW 370.45/09
Verbal Note No. 44/2023

Note Verbale

The Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) presents its compliments to the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW and, in response to its Note Verbale No. ODG-469/23 dated 17 October 2023 and the request for clarification from the Russian Federation contained therein, has the honour to request it to convey a copy of this Note Verbale to the Russian Federation's Permanent Representation to the OPCW as well as to the Executive Council of the Organisation pursuant to Article IX, paragraph 4b of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (hereinafter "the Convention").

With Note Verbale No. 41/2023 dated 6 October 2023, Germany, together with Canada, France, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America requested the Russian Federation to respond to two questions regarding reports that indicate riot control agents may have been used repeatedly by Russian armed forces in combat operations against Ukrainian armed forces.

Germany takes note of the answers provided by the Russian Federation in its Note Verbale No. 38 dated 12 October 2023, but considers that the explanations given do not provide convincing clarification of the matter.

Technical Secretariat of the
Organisation for the Prohibition of
Chemical Weapons

The Hague

With regard to the request for clarification by the Russian Federation concerning the use of riot control agents as a method of warfare by the Russian armed forces as mentioned in Note Verbales No. 61219/35-196/50-61363 dated 28 May 2023 and No. 61219/35-196/50-107892 dated 11 September 2023 from the Embassy of Ukraine in the Netherlands, Germany notes its astonishment that the Russian Federation returns the question it has been asked. As Germany is not a belligerent in the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine, it does not have information of its own on the incidents mentioned.

Germany reserves its right to react to the Russian Federation's reply to its questions at a later stage.

We would be grateful if the Technical Secretariat could circulate a copy of this Note Verbale to all States Parties and make it available on the OPCW public website and Catalyst as an official document.

The Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the OPCW avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW the assurances of its highest consideration.

The Hague, 26 October 2023

