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PORTUGAL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SPAIN,  
SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, TURKEY, UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND  
NORTHERN IRELAND, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

### **USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS**

#### **Introduction**

1. The last five years have seen the use of chemical weapons in Iraq, Malaysia, Syria and the United Kingdom. Any effort to ignore this use undermines the work we have advanced to date, detracts from the extraordinary efforts undertaken by the OPCW and the UN, and constitutes a grave challenge to the CWC.
2. We express our deepest appreciation to the brave women and men of the OPCW for their dedication and professionalism in investigating chemical weapons attacks, when called upon to do so, in Syria and elsewhere where chemical weapons have been used.
3. We must continue to collectively condemn in the strongest possible terms the use of chemical weapons by any State or non-State actor, and to hold all those who would use such weapons accountable. Silence and inaction only further embolden those who seek to use chemical weapons to the detriment of all mankind.

#### **Proposal**

4. We seek the inclusion of the following language in the outcome document of the Review Conference:
  - (a) “The Fourth Review Conference was deeply shocked by the significant number of cases in which chemical weapons have been used since the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Third Review Conference”) and reaffirmed its condemnation, in the strongest possible terms, of the use of or threat to use chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anyone, under any circumstances and expressed its strong conviction that those responsible for the use of chemical weapons must be held accountable.”
  - (b) “The Fourth review Conference noted with grave concern that the years since the Third Review Conference have seen uses of, variously, sulphur mustard,



chlorine, sarin, VX a highly toxic nerve agent, and other agents as chemical weapons by a number of state and non-state actors. The Fourth Review Conference condemned the use of chemical weapons as reported by the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism in its reports of 24 August 2016, 21 October 2016 and 26 October 2017, which concluded that there was sufficient information to determine that the Syrian Arab Armed Forces were responsible for three chemical weapons attacks in 2014 and 2015, and that the Syrian Arab Republic was responsible for the use of the chemical weapon sarin on 4 April 2017 in Khan Shaykhun, the Syrian Arab Republic. Additionally, the Fourth Review Conference noted with concern that the Fact-Finding Mission had identified further uses of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic at Ltamenah on 24, 25 and 30 March 2017 and at Saraqib on 4 February 2018, and continued to investigate the presence of various chlorinated organic chemicals found in samples following allegations of chemical weapons use in Douma, Syria on 7 April 2018, and that the perpetrators of these attacks have still to be identified.”

- (c) “The Fourth Review Conference noted with grave concern that the use of such chemical weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic, by direct implication, establishes that the Syrian Arab Republic failed to declare and destroy all of its chemical weapons and chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) and demanded that the Syrian Arab Republic immediately cease all use of chemical weapons and declare all of the chemical weapons it possesses, including sarin and its precursors, as well as CWPFs.”
- (d) “The Fourth Review Conference expressed grave concern that the Secretariat, as reported by the Director-General, has not been able to resolve all identified gaps, inconsistencies and discrepancies in the declaration of the Syrian Arab Republic, and therefore could not fully verify that the Syrian Arab Republic had submitted a declaration that could be considered accurate and complete in accordance with the Convention or Council decision EC-M-33/DEC.1; and demanded that the Syrian Arab Republic comply fully with its obligations under the Convention, Council decision EC-M-33/DEC.1, and United Nations Security Council Resolution 2118 (2013), including the expeditious resolution of all outstanding issues regarding its initial declaration and related disclosures.”
- (e) “The Fourth Review Conference condemned the use of chemical weapons by the so-called “Daesh” or “ISIL” which had been found by Iraq to have used chemical weapons in Iraq, and found by the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism to have used chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic at Marea on 21 August 2015, and at Um-Housh on 15 and 16 September 2016.”
- (f) “The Fourth Review Conference condemned the use on 4 March 2018 of a nerve agent in Salisbury, as confirmed by the OPCW technical assistance visit report, and that also resulted in casualties in Amesbury in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and condemned that a chemical weapon – a Schedule 1 nerve agent VX – was used in an attack on 13 February 2017 in Kuala Lumpur International Airport 2, Malaysia.”

- (g) “The Fourth Review Conference affirmed the importance of the decision adopted by the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties on ‘Addressing the Threat of Chemical Weapons Use’ (C-SS-4/DEC.3 dated 27 June 2018) and looked forward to full implementation of the Decision.”
- (h) “The Fourth Review Conference reaffirmed the importance of the decision by the Council (EC-86/DEC.9 dated 13 October 2017) on addressing the threat posed by the use of chemical weapons by non-State actors. The Fourth Review Conference expressed grave concern with the continued interest in the development, acquisition, and use of chemical weapons by non-State actors and the potential for this threat to increase over time, and underscored the essential role of the Organisation, with respect to preventing and responding to the threat posed by non-State actors to the object and purpose of the Convention.”

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