

**SWITZERLAND****STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HEINZ WALKER-NEDERKOORN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SWITZERLAND TO THE OPCW
AT THE NINETY-SECOND SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL****UNDER AGENDA ITEM 17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Chairperson,

As I mentioned in my statement during the General Debate, we have decided, together with Australia and the United States, after more than a decade of efforts to address the issue of the aerosolised use of central nervous system (CNS)-acting chemicals for law enforcement purposes, to initiate now a process with the aim of working towards two decisions to be considered in 2020 by the Executive Council (“the Council”) and the Conference of the States Parties (“the Conference”) respectively that reflect our concerns.

Switzerland believes that addressing the use of CNS-acting chemicals in law enforcement is central to maintaining the integrity of the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”) and avoiding the reemergence of chemical weapons as well as the weakening of the global norm against the use of toxic chemicals for purposes prohibited by the Convention. This belief is widely shared by the scientific community, civil society, and many States Parties to this Convention.

It is therefore my honour to introduce the draft Council decision entitled “Understanding regarding the aerosolized use of central nervous system-acting chemicals for law enforcement purposes” on behalf of Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Finland, Greece, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine, the United States of America, and my own country, Switzerland.

This draft decision, which you all have received, seeks to re-affirm our understanding on the application of the Convention – namely, that the aerosolized use of CNS-acting chemicals is inconsistent with law enforcement purposes as a “purpose not prohibited” under the Convention. This decision does not create new legal obligations for States Parties or impose any restrictions on legitimate medical uses of CNS-acting chemicals.

We are circulating this draft decision now so that all delegations may have enough time to consider it before any action is taken by the Council. We look forward to working with you constructively over the coming months with a view to eventually adopting a decision at the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference in 2020.

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