



Ninety-Fifth Session
6 – 9 October 2020

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LITHUANIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR VIDMANTAS PURLYS
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA TO THE
OPCW AT THE NINETY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA SUBITEM 6(G)**

The poisoning of Mr Alexei Navalny with a chemical nerve agent in Russia on 20 August 2020 is a fact. It is a criminal act and a blatant violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, international law, and human rights.

Poisoning with a “Novichok group” nerve agent of a member of the political opposition is shocking. We, regretfully, have seen the pattern previously, with Salisbury being the latest horrific example.

We join all those who call on Russia to live up to its commitments under the Chemical Weapons Convention, to cooperate with the OPCW, disclose its Novichok programme, and destroy all chemical weapons. We also call on Russia to bring the perpetrators of this heinous crime to justice through a transparent and thorough international investigation. Impunity for such a crime should not be tolerated.

We appreciate efforts by Germany to assist Mr Navalny with medical treatment and recovery. We also welcome the assistance provided by the Technical Secretariat to Germany. We have full confidence in the professionalism and impartiality of the Secretariat in conducting its work.

We reiterate our condemnation, in the strongest possible terms, of the use of chemical weapons by anyone, under any circumstances.

I kindly ask to consider this statement as an official document and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

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