

Statement by Lithuania at Executive Council 96, agenda item 6(f)

I am making this statement on behalf of 16 States Parties and members of this Executive Council, namely **Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America**

1. As States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and members of the Executive Council we condemn the use of a chemical weapon in the poisoning of Alexei Navalny in the Russian Federation on 20 August 2020.
2. Toxicological analysis by laboratories in Germany, Sweden and France determined that a nerve agent from the 'Novichok' group was used to poison Mr Navalny. Analysis conducted by OPCW designated laboratories reached the same conclusion.
3. Poisoning an individual with a nerve agent is a use of a chemical weapon. The poisoning of Mr Navalny using a chemical weapon is a matter of grave concern for all States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention. States Parties have repeatedly condemned all use of chemical weapons. We have re-iterated our commitment to uphold the Convention's prohibitions of the development, possession and use of chemical weapons.
4. Use of a chemical weapon by a State Party is a violation of its obligations under the Convention. Article VIII, paragraph 31 of the Convention provides that the Executive Council shall promote the effective implementation of, and compliance with, the Convention.
5. We thank the Director-General for publishing the correspondence between the permanent representative of the Russian Federation and the OPCW regarding a possible technical assistance visit under Article VIII, paragraph 38(e) of the Convention. We note that the Russian Federation appears to have withdrawn its request for technical assistance from the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW. We note that other member states, including Germany and UK, have benefitted from such technical assistance.
6. We call on the Russian Federation, on whose territory the attack took place, to disclose in full the circumstances surrounding this confirmed use of a chemical weapon. The perpetrators of this attack must be held to account.
7. We reaffirm our enduring commitment to the full implementation of the Convention and to exclude completely the possibility of the use of chemical weapons at any time, by anyone, under any circumstances.
8. A number of States Parties, not currently members of the Executive Council, have also aligned themselves with this statement: **Albania, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus,**

Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Republic of North Macedonia, Portugal, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine.