

LITHUANIA

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR VIDMANTAS PURLYS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES

Agenda item 9 (d) – Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use (Syria)

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Lithuania aligns itself fully with the statement delivered by H.E Bård Ivar Svendsen, Ambassador of Norway to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, made on behalf of 46 countries, and also with the statement delivered by H.E. Ambassador Marjolijn van Deelen, Special Envoy for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, made on behalf of the European Union, both calling for a positive vote on draft decision, “Addressing the possession and use of chemical weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic” and would like to make the following remarks in the national capacity.

Lithuania firmly stands by the notion that any use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anyone, under any circumstances is a violation of international law and completely unacceptable. We must take all necessary action to ensure that the global norm prohibiting the use of chemical weapons is not compromised.

Lithuania strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons by the Syrian Arab Air Force as concluded by the IIT report to the OPCW Executive Council and to the Secretary General of the United Nations on 8 April 2020. We regret to note that the Syrian Arab Republic has not fulfilled its obligations under the Decision of the Executive Council (EC-94/DEC.2), which followed the first IIT report, as it was confirmed by the OPCW Director-General in his report on October 14, 2020. Further appropriate actions must be taken by the CSP-25 and we urge all Member States to vote in favour of the draft Decision suspending Syria’s rights and privileges (C-25/DEC/CRP.10) to ensure that there would be no impunity for the use of chemical weapons.

We would like to reiterate our full support to the IIT and its work. We welcome the second report released on 12 April 2021 and stand ready to work on ensuring the full follow up of all findings.

Lithuania also supports the valuable work of the Partnership Against Impunity for the Use of Chemical Weapons and remains strongly convinced that those responsible for the use of chemical weapons must be brought to justice.

We ask that this statement be made an official document of the Conference and published on the external server and the public website of the OPCW.

I thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR VIDMANTAS PURLYS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES

Agenda item 9 (d) – Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use (Russia)

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Lithuania aligns itself fully with the joint statement delivered by H.E. Katerina Sequensova, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, made on behalf of 59 countries, condemning in the strongest possible terms the use of a toxic chemical as a weapon in the Russian Federation, and also with the statement delivered by H.E. Ambassador Marjolijn van Deelen, Special Envoy for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, made on behalf of the European Union, and would like to make the following remarks in the national capacity.

We are deeply concerned that Russia did not disclose the circumstances of the assassination attempt on Alexei Navalny who was poisoned in Russia by a military grade chemical nerve agent of the “Novichok” group in August 2020. The use of “Novichok” nerve agent in this attack against Mr. Navalny has been confirmed by specialised laboratories in Germany, France and Sweden, as well as by the OPCW. This amounts to the use of a chemical weapon and a blatant violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). On 15 October 2020 under its chemical weapons sanctions regime, the European Union imposed restrictive measures against six Russian individuals and one entity responsible for inducing and providing support to the poisoning of Alexei Navalny with the Novichok nerve agent.

We are also disappointed that on 16 December 2020 Russia has withdrawn its request for a Technical Assistance Visit by the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW. We urge Russia to cooperate with the OPCW and to disclose fully the circumstances of the assassination attempt without further delay and bring the perpetrators to justice.

We ask that this statement be made an official document of the Conference and published on the external server and the public website of the OPCW.

I thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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