



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Twenty-Fifth Session
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HOLY SEE

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE HOLY SEE TO THE OPCW
AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

When the Holy See ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”), it reiterated that “dialogue and multilateral negotiation are essential values [in the disarmament field]. Through the instruments of international law, they facilitate the peaceful resolution of controversies and help better mutual understanding. In this way, they promote the effective affirmation of the culture of life and peace”.

The Convention indeed represents a significant tool for advancing multilateral efforts in the field of weapons of mass destruction, and it is a concrete demonstration of what the international community is able to do when it is inspired by the common objective of promoting international peace and security through constructive dialogue. Nevertheless, the challenges for its effective implementation are still significant.

As with many other States Parties to the Convention, the Holy See is very concerned about the situation involving Mr Alexei Navalny and strongly condemns any use of toxic chemicals as instruments of death. The Holy See hopes that investigations into this matter can continue with the full and transparent collaboration of all concerned parties, ascertaining facts and defining responsibilities, as well as guaranteeing the full implementation of the Convention.

The Holy See calls upon all States Parties to the Convention to make every effort to meet the commitments they have collectively assumed by adhering to the Chemical Weapons Convention and to promote justice and peace through compliance with international humanitarian law.

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