The Permanent Representation of Ukraine to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) presents its compliments to the OPCW's Technical Secretariat and has the honour in addition to the Note Verbal dated on 27 February 2022 Nº 61219/30-196/50-3 to inform that over the past days, the world continues to see unprecedented and brutal aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

According to the intelligence information Russian Federation is going to launch a massive chemical attack on the territory of Ukraine, in the capital of Ukraine city of Kyiv and Kyiv region as well as in temporarily occupied Donetsk using tanks with ammonia and central nervous system acting chemicals.

It is planned to accuse the Ukrainian military of this attack against the civilian population.

We emphasize that Ukraine is a strong supporter of the Convention, which is widely recognised as the first multilateral instrument, banning the entire class of weapons of mass destruction under strict and efficient international control and compliance mechanism.
We reiterate that the use of chemical weapons anywhere, by anyone under any circumstance is a violation of international law.

The Permanent Representation of Ukraine to the OPCW avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW the assurances of its highest consideration.

The Hague, 11 March 2022
No. 01/22

The Permanent Representation of the United States of America to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons presents its compliments to the Technical Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and has the honor to present the following information in response to Note verbale No. 5 of the Permanent Representation of the Russian Federation to the OPCW and its accompanying National Document entitled “About the possible chemical provocations in Ukraine”. The United States kindly asks the Secretariat to make the present document available to States Parties as soon as possible and to publish it both on Catalyst and the OPCW website.

Russia’s war against Ukraine is a violation of Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity enshrined in the United Nations Charter. The United States took note of the Russian Federation’s patently false claims that alleged radical Ukrainian groups under the control of “the representatives of American special services” are preparing for a possible chemical weapons attack in Ukraine.

DIPLOMATIC NOTE
A key component of the Russian Federation’s global disinformation campaign is to blame others for what they themselves may intend to do. Based on a review of recent information, the United States has serious concerns that Russia may be planning to use chemical or biological agents in Ukraine. Russia is the one with the means, motive and track record of using prohibited chemical agents for assassinations, attempting to cover up its chemical weapons use with the most preposterous claims, and then spying on and otherwise undermining the OPCW’s efforts to get to the truth of the matter. We would not be surprised to see this scenario repeat itself in Ukraine.

Indeed, back in December 2021, Russia was already rhetorically setting the scene for possible false flag allegations against the United States and Ukraine by publicly citing false reports that “U.S. mercenaries” and Ukrainian special forces were planning to use chemical agents in Ukraine. Russian official media has also previously falsely claimed that the United States provided the Ukrainian Armed Forces with biological agents to use against Russia-backed separatists.
These previous allegations and the new ones put forward in the Russian Federation’s note are simply preposterous. They are exactly the kind of disinformation operation we have seen repeatedly from the Kremlin over the years in Ukraine and in other countries around the world. Russia’s disinformation operations, nearly identical to the ones presented here, have consistently been debunked in Syria. This false narrative pushed by Russia is consistent with the types of false pretexts we have been warning the Kremlin would invent.

The Russian Federation has a track record of accusing the West of the very crimes that the Russian Federation itself is perpetrating. It is the Russian Federation that has a long and well-documented track record of repeatedly using chemical weapons, including in the poisoning of Russian opposition leader Mr. Aleksey Navalny and in the attempted assassination of Sergei Skripal in the United Kingdom in 2018, which resulted in the death of a UK citizen. It is also the Russian Federation that continues to shield the Assad regime in Syria from accountability for its repeated use of chemical weapons, including by invoking the same tired disinformation tropes we see today. It is Russia that maintains a chemical weapons program in violation of its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention.
These most recent allegations are yet another obvious ploy by the Russian Federation to try to justify further premeditated, unprovoked, and unjustified attacks on Ukraine.

For months leading up to the Kremlin’s further invasion of Ukraine, the Russian Federation told the world that it would not invade Ukraine. Throughout this week’s 99th Session of the Executive Council, the Russian delegation repeatedly stated that the topic of the Russian Federation’s renewed invasion of Ukraine “has nothing to do with the CWC mandate.” Now, just as the EC-99 session concludes, it issues warnings of supposed “provocations” dating as far back as December 2021.

The Russian Federation has lost all credibility.

If the Russian Federation carries out a chemical weapons attack in Ukraine, the reaction of the United States and the international community will be swift, united, and unequivocal: the Russian Federation must answer for any violations of the Chemical Weapons Convention.
The Permanent Representation of the United States of America to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Technical Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons the assurances of its highest consideration.

The United States Permanent Representation to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

The Permanent Representation of the Russian Federation to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) presents its compliments to the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (Secretariat) and has the honour to request to distribute the National Document of the Russian Federation entitled “About the possible chemical provocations in Ukraine”. The Russian side kindly asks the Secretariat to make the document available for States Parties as soon as possible and to publish it both on the Catalyst and the OPCW website.

The Permanent Representation avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

The Hague, « 10 » March 2022
Украинские радикальные группировки под контролем представителей американских спецслужб подготовили несколько возможных сценариев использования токсичных химикатов для осуществления различного рода провокаций. Цель таких акций — обвинить Россию в применении химического оружия против гражданского населения и нарушении своих обязательств, в том числе и по Конвенции о запрещении химического оружия (далее — Конвенция). Разработаны несколько диверсионных сценариев.

- Один из подготовленных вариантов представляет собой диверсию на одном из украинских предприятий химической промышленности путем подрыва значительных по объему емкостей с промышленными химикатами. Планировалось минирование цистерн с аммиаком на объектах Частного Акционерного Общества (ЧАО) «Северодонецкое объединение «Азот»» (г. Северодонецк) и Публичного Акционерного общества (ПАО) «Одесский припортовый завод» (г. Одесса).

- Другой сценарий — подрыв в густонаселенных районах емкостей с токсичными химикатами. В частности, достоверно установлено, что 8-9 декабря 2021 года украинские радикалы доставили на территорию Донецкой области 200-литровые металлические бочки с иностранной маркировкой. В ходе их разгрузки четверо украинских военнослужащих получили серьезные химические ожоги и отравления. Общую же координацию доставки и складирования опасного груза осуществляли сотрудники американской частной военной компании (ЧВК) «Forward Observation Group» (штат Невада).
Для предупреждения этой провокации данная информация без оглашения деталей была озвучена Министром обороны Российской Федерации С.К.Шойгу в рамках открытой части расширенного заседания Коллегии Министерства обороны Российской Федерации 21 декабря 2021 года.

Несмотря на наши предупреждения, украинская сторона не отказалась от подобного рода террористических акций. В частности, в ночь на 9 марта 2022 года в населенный пункт Золочев северо-западнее Харькова украинскими националистами было завезено 80 тонн аммиака. По информации, поступающей непосредственно с места события, радикалы инструктируют гражданское население, как себя вести в зоне химического заражения.

Информируем государства-участники Конвенция о том, что такие приготовления однозначно свидетельствуют о подготовке к применению токсичных химикатов. С учетом пропагандистской кампании, развернутой в странах Запада, не остается сомнений в том, что планирующиеся провокации предназначены для того, чтобы обвинить Россию в использовании химического оружия. В этой связи возрастают риски того, что экстремистски настроенные элементы, действующие в составе так называемых национальных батальонов могут решиться на радикальные шаги, ужасающие последствия которых невозможно предсказать.
RUSSIAN FEDERATION

REGARDING POTENTIAL CHEMICAL PROVOCATIONS IN UKRAINE

Radical Ukrainian groups under the control of the representatives of American special services have prepared several potential scenarios of the use of toxic chemicals in order to carry out various types of provocations. The objective of such actions is to accuse Russia of the use of chemical weapons against the civil population and violating its obligations, including those under the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”). Several diversionary scenarios have been developed.

- One of the prepared variants is a diversion at one of the Ukrainian companies in the chemical industry involving the destruction of large-volume containers holding industrial chemicals. A mine would be planted on a cistern with ammonium at the facilities of the Private Joint-Stock Company (ChAO) “Severodonetskoye ob’yedineniye “Azot”” (city of Severodonetsk) and the Public Joint-Stock Company (PAO) “Odesskiy priportoviy zavod” (city of Odessa).

- Another scenario involves the destruction of containers with toxic chemicals in highly populated areas. In particular, it has been reliably established that on 8 – 9 December 2021, Ukrainian radicals delivered 200-litre metal barrels with foreign markings to Donetsk Oblast. As they were being unloaded, four Ukrainian soldiers received severe chemical burns and poisoning. The general coordination of the delivery and warehousing of hazardous freight was carried out by the staff of the private American military contractor Forward Observation Group (based in the state of Nevada).

As a warning of this provocation, this information, without the disclosure of details, was announced by S. K. Shoigu, the Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation within the framework of an open session of an extended meeting of the Collegium of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation on 21 December 2021.

Despite our warnings, the Ukrainian side did not back out of this type of terrorist attack. In particular, on the night of 9 March 2022 in the settlement of Zolochiv, north-west of Kharkiv, Ukrainian nationalists brought in 80 tonnes of ammonium. According to the
information coming directly from the site of the events, radicals are instructing the civil population on what to do in a chemical contamination zone.

We are informing the States Parties to the Convention that such arrangements indubitably point to preparations for the use of toxic chemicals. In light of the propaganda campaign under way in Western countries, there is no doubt that the provocations being planned are meant to accuse Russia of the use of chemical weapons. In this regard, the risks are growing of extremist-inclined elements acting as part of so-called national battalions that may be set on taking radical steps, the horrific consequences of which is impossible to predict.
La Représentation permanente de la France auprès de l’Organisation pour l’interdiction des Armes Chimiques présente ses compliments au Secrétariat technique de l’OIAC et a l’honneur de porter à son attention les éléments suivants.

La France, au nom des 27 États parties membres de l’Union européenne (Allemagne, Autriche, Belgique, Bulgarie, Chypre, Croatie, Danemark, Espagne, Estonie, Finlande, France, Grèce, Hongrie, Irlande, Italie, Lettonie, Lituanie, Luxembourg, Malte, Pays-Bas, Pologne, Portugal, République tchèque, Roumanie, Slovaquie, Slovénie, Suède), a l’honneur de présenter les éléments suivants :


L’Union européenne condamne dans les termes les plus énergiques l’agression militaire non provoquée et injustifiée de la Fédération de Russie contre l’Ukraine. Par ses actions militaires illégales, la Russie viole de manière flagrante le droit international et les principes de la Charte des Nations Unies et sape la sécurité et la stabilité européennes et mondiales. La Russie porte l’entière responsabilité de cet acte d’agression et de toutes les destructions et pertes de vies humaines qu’elle causera. Elle sera tenue responsable de ses actes.

Nous exprimons de vives préoccupations quant à l’information selon laquelle les forces armées russes pourraient préparer une opération maquillée dans le but d’être mensongèrement attribuée à la partie ukrainienne, en utilisant des produits chimiques, y compris par l’explosion de réservoirs industriels remplis de produits chimiques, impliquant l’exposition des populations à des produits chimiques dangereux.

Nous condamnons toutes les entreprises de désinformation russes, notamment s’agissant d’allégation de provocations à l’aide d’agents chimiques en Ukraine.

De telles provocations ou accusations mensongères de la Russie seraient irresponsables et pourraient avoir de graves conséquences humanitaires, pour la population ukrainienne comme pour l’environnement. En cas d’incident, la Russie, seule, en porterait la responsabilité.

Nous demandons que cette Note verbale soit diffusée à tous les États parties et considérée comme un document officiel de la 99ème session du Conseil exécutif./.

La Représentation Permanente de la France saisit cette occasion pour renouveler au Secrétariat technique de l’Organisation pour l’interdiction des armes chimiques l’assurance de sa haute considération.

La Haye, le 03 mars 2022

Organisation pour l’Interdiction des Armes Chimiques
Secrétariat technique
M. Le Directeur général
Johan de Wittlaan 32
2517 JR La Haye

Copie: Secrétariat des Organes décisionnels
France, on behalf of the 27 States parties members of the European Union (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden) has the honour to present the following elements:

We take good note of the Note Verbale 61219/30-196/50-3 of the Permanent Representation of Ukraine to the OPCW dated 27 February 2022.

The European Union condemns in the strongest possible terms the Russian Federation's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine. By its illegal military actions, Russia is grossly violating international law and the principles of the UN Charter and undermining European and global security and stability. Russia bears full responsibility for this act of aggression and all the destruction and loss of life it will cause. It will be held accountable for its actions.

We express our deep concerns about the information that the Russian military forces may be preparing "false flag" provocations in Ukraine using chemicals, including blowing up industrial tanks with chemicals, involving the exposure of the population to dangerous chemicals.

We condemn all Russian disinformation campaigns, notably regarding allegations of provocations using chemical agents in Ukraine.

Such provocations or false accusations from Russia would be irresponsible and could have grave humanitarian consequences, for the Ukrainian population as well as for the environment. In case of incident, Russia, alone, would be held responsible.

We request this Note verbale to be circulated to all States parties and considered as an official document of the 99th Session of the Executive Council.
The Permanent Representation of Ukraine to the OPCW presents its compliments to the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW and has the honor to inform that over the past three days, the world continues to see unprecedented and brutal aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

According to the intelligence information from the temporarily occupied Donetsk the occupiers are handing out gas masks to local militants and the Russian military. There is a possibility of provocation - blowing up industrial tanks with chemicals.

It is planned to accuse the Ukrainian military of this sabotage against the civilian population. We declare that, unlike the Russian occupiers, Ukraine does not use such methods.

The Ukraine is a strong supporter of the Convention, which is widely recognised as the first multilateral instrument, banning the entire class of weapons of mass destruction under strict and efficient international control and compliance mechanism.

Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

The Hague
We reiterate that the use of chemical weapons anywhere, by anyone under any circumstance is a violation of international law.

The Permanent Representation of Ukraine to the OPCW avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW the assurances of its highest consideration.

The Hague, 27 February 2022