



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Twenty-Seventh Session
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ENGLISH and FRENCH only

ANDORRA

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF ANDORRA TO
THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF
THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, we wish to reaffirm Andorra's support for the work carried out by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the Technical Secretariat ("the Secretariat") towards a world free from chemical weapons and the threat of their use. The work of the OPCW is also essential to strengthen multilateralism through dialogue to help consolidate international peace and security. Indeed, we attach great importance to these principles, since Andorra, as a country small in territory, owes its survival to the existence of and respect for the rules of the international legal system and to multilateralism.

Andorra actively supports the Chemical Weapons Convention ("the Convention") and we will continue to work to enforce it and to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons.

Unfortunately, in recent years, chemical weapons have been used on several occasions. The use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, at any time, and under any circumstances constitutes a violation of the Convention and can be equated with the most serious crimes of international concern—war crimes and crimes against humanity. Andorra therefore strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons.

Andorra voted in favour of the decision presented to the Conference of the States Parties ("the Conference") at its Fourth Special Session in June 2018 following Syria's violations of the Convention, and continues to support the work of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) in regard to this country. Accordingly, we aligned ourselves with the joint statement delivered by the United Kingdom.

Moreover, disinformation campaigns do nothing to prevent the escalation of tension in conflicts—quite the contrary. Russia's allegations regarding the use of chemical weapons or toxic chemicals by Ukraine are unfounded, as no evidence has been presented. In this regard, we aligned ourselves with the joint statement delivered by Germany.

Andorra reiterates its deep concern that the Russian Federation has not responded to international calls, including those made during the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference



in December 2021, for a thorough and transparent investigation into the attempted assassination of Mr Alexei Navalny.

We therefore reaffirm our full support to the Director-General and the Secretariat in implementing the provisions of the Convention in accordance with the highest international standards of professionalism and impartiality.

Andorra is fully committed to the OPCW, and that is why this year we decided to make a contribution of EUR 5,000 to the trust fund for training, which will allow training activities to be carried out at the Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre). Andorra also continues to support the essential work of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons, with a new contribution of EUR 5,000 in 2022.

Andorra also joins the voices that have been raised in favour of the inclusion of the gender perspective in the work of the OPCW. We consider that diversity of views is essential in decision-making mechanisms, and this should help us overcome more effectively the challenges we face.

We request that this statement be considered as an official document of the Conference and that it be published on the OPCW's external server and public website.

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