



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

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ESTONIA

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

Mr Chairperson,

Estonia aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. I would like to add some remarks in my national capacity. Estonia wishes to commend the OPCW Technical Secretariat and Director-General Fernando Arias, for their hard work in upholding and safeguarding the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”).

Estonia reiterates its full confidence in the objectivity, impartiality and independence of the OPCW Technical Secretariat and its Investigation and Identification Team and underlines the complementarity of its work with that of the United Nations. They have been under intense scrutiny and targeted by a systematic and State sponsored disinformation campaign but have shown nothing less than integrity and dedication to the task of upholding the norm against the use of chemical weapons.

The re-emergence of chemical weapons is one of the most urgent threats to international peace and security and has to be dealt with firmly and collectively. Impunity for breaches of the global norm against chemical weapons must not be tolerated. The use of chemical weapons by the Syrian Arab Air Force is an illustration of this. Impunity, tolerance and inaction cannot be an option when chemical weapons are used against civilian populations. We urge the Syrian Arab Republic to return to full compliance with the Convention.

The circumstances surrounding the chemical weapon attack on Russian territory against Alexei Navalny continue to remain unclear. The use of chemical weapons by anyone—be it a State or a non-State actor—anywhere, at any time and under any circumstances is a violation of international law and can amount to the most serious crimes of international concern. We continue to call on Russia to cooperate with the OPCW and this Conference of the States Parties to disclose fully and in a transparent manner, the circumstances of the poisoning of Mr Navalny with a chemical nerve agent of the novichok group.

Estonia condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia’s overt and extensive military attack on Ukraine that have no justification. Estonia equally condemns Russia’s systematic violation of international law including the United Nations Charter and in the context of OPCW Russia’s disinformation campaign against Ukraine on alleged use of chemical weapons. We call on Russia to end its war of aggression and withdraw all forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.



Due to Russia's aggression against Ukraine, both Member States of the Eastern European Group (EEG), an overwhelming majority of the group—18 out of 23—does not want to be represented by Russia. We call on all States Parties to vote for the Croatian and Latvian candidates as Vice-Chairpersons from EEG.

Estonia would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

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