



STATEMENT OF CANADA TO THE 109th SESSION OF THE OPCW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 6(e): Addressing the Threat of Chemical Weapons Use – Right of Reply

Delivered by H.E. Mr. Hugh Adsett, Ambassador of Canada to The Netherlands and Permanent Representative of Canada to The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

I take the floor in right of reply to the remarks of Russia.

Russia remains unwilling or unable to answer the repeated questions put to it regarding article 9 queries on the poisoning of Alexei Navalny and the use of riot control agents by Russian forces in Ukraine.

And once again today, we heard Russia spreading disinformation in order to obscure and confuse. Russia quotes its criminal code's prohibition of WMD development, but apparently these prohibitions do not apply to the Russian Ministry of Defence.

Russia is tactically employing disinformation and spreading false and misleading claims in Ukraine and elsewhere to weaken the international non-proliferation, arms control, and disarmament frameworks, including the Chemical Weapons Convention. This is in large part why Canada has spearheaded the establishment and operation of the Countering WMD Disinformation Initiative on behalf of the G7-led Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction. And in that context and given what we've heard today, I would very much encourage all delegations to make full use of the insightful materials and fact-based materials that are part of this initiative.

Thank you, Chair.