
**JOINT NORDIC STATEMENT AT THE
One Hundred and Ninth Session of the Executive Council
(The Hague, 8 – 11 July 2025)**

AGENDA ITEM [6E] – ADDRESSING THE THREAT OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE

Mr Chairperson,

The Nordic States Parties fully align themselves with the European Union statement, and I have the honour to make the following additional remarks on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden, and my own country Norway.

Mr Chairperson,

The Nordic States Parties unequivocally condemn Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, which constitutes a clear violation of international law, including the United Nations Charter, and pose a serious threat to European and global security. Our commitment to Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity remains resolute in this fourth year of the full-scale war. We call upon Russia to cease its abhorrent aggression and withdraw from all Ukrainian territory without delay.

The use by Russia's of riot control agents as a method of warfare in Ukraine, as corroborated by a number of credible reports, including reports from Russian sources, remains a matter of greatest concern to the Nordic States Parties. As stated by the Director-General, the use of riot-control agents as a method of warfare is tantamount to chemical weapons use. We are profoundly disturbed by reports of the use by Russia of the choking agent chloropicrin as a chemical weapon in Ukraine. The use of schedule 3 toxic chemicals is clearly prohibited by the Convention. We call upon Russia to fully comply with its legal obligations and to cease any such violations immediately.

Mr Chairperson,

The Nordic States Parties take note with utmost concern of the findings presented of the recent third OPCW Technical Assistance Visit (TAV) report. Once again, this report confirms the presence of the riot control agent “CS” in battlefield samples. These three TAV reports shows that there is a clear pattern of use of riot control agents as a method of warfare. This reckless practice constitutes a direct violation of the prohibitions outlined in Article I (5) of the Chemical Weapons Convention. It also has serious ethical and humanitarian ramifications. Addressing every breach of the Convention is imperative. Those responsible must be held accountable. The Nordic States therefore supports the Technical Secretariat’s continued engagement with Ukraine on this issue and the European Union’s call for timely attribution of the proven use of riot control agents as a method of warfare. State Parties cannot ignore evidence from the OPCW on the use of Chemical Weapons in breach of the Convention.

In 2020, the international community was confronted with the attempted assassination of Alexei Navalny through the use of a nerve agent of the “Novichok” group. [His death in a Russian prison facility last year only further underscores Russia’s violations of international law.] We reiterate our call for the Russian Federation to provide a comprehensive response to the inquiries made by 45 States Parties under Article IX (2) of the Convention, as formally requested on 5 October 2021.

Mr. Chairperson,

The international community must remain steadfast in enforcing the Chemical Weapons Convention and ensuring that violations are met with unequivocal accountability. We reaffirm our collective commitment to upholding the Convention and call on all States Parties to support the continued efforts to address violations of the norm we are set in place to safeguard.

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