



**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 6 (e)
ADDRESSING THE THREAT FROM CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE
TO THE 109TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

I am heartened to hear colleagues on this Council take strong positions condemning chemical attacks. This norm is precious. It protects us all. When it is broken, malign actors watch to see what they can get away with and calibrate their actions accordingly.

And this is why we note—with sorrow—the latest reports from the Technical Secretariat, which conclude once again that munitions recovered from the front lines by Ukrainian forces contained riot control agents. This evidence affirms that riot control agents were used as a method of warfare against Ukrainian forces. We commend the Technical Secretariat for its rigor, objectivity, and unrelenting pursuit of the truth.

But if we are to protect ourselves from the scourge of chemical attacks, it is not enough to condemn attacks and hope they stop. To deter the development, use, and proliferation of chemical weapons, which this body exists to eliminate, we must be willing to identify publicly any actor – any actor – that is responsible for violating the Convention. In this regard, we note Ukraine’s request for the Director-General to take steps towards identifying the perpetrators, organizers, and sponsors of the use of any and all chemical agents in Ukraine.

The United States calls on the Russian Federation to end its campaign of chemical attacks against Ukraine. Russia’s violations of the Convention include the extensive use of the chemical weapon chloropicrin, as well as the use of riot control agents as a method of warfare across the frontlines of the battlefield. A U.S. laboratory analysis confirmed the presence of both chloropicrin and the riot control agent CS in a mask filter received from a Russian chemical attack on Ukrainian forces in early November 2024. The findings by The Netherlands and

Germany are consistent with our national assessment. We also condemn Russia's use of Novichok nerve agents in assassination attempts against Mr. Skripal and Mr. Navalny.

If there is anything we have learned from the resurgence of chemical weapons use during the last decade, it is that the perpetrators do not stop unless there are real consequences. Therefore, we have and will continue to levy sanctions against chemical weapons users under our domestic laws.

At the same time, the United States will engage constructively with any state that genuinely desires to declare and destroy chemical weapons under international verification. We are glad Syria can now be counted among those states. The United States has also been engaging with the Government of Sudan to take similar action.

We thank States Parties that are committed to deterrence, the elimination of chemical weapons, and upholding the integrity of the OPCW.