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THE NETHERLANDS

REQUEST FOR CIRCULATION OF A DOCUMENT

The Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the OPCW requested on 13 August 2025 that a document setting out the procedure that the Netherlands proposes for the disposal of two old chemical weapons (OCW) be circulated as an official-series document of the 110th Session of the Executive Council.

Annex: Transfer and Destruction of Two Old Chemical Weapons



Annex

TRANSFER AND DESTRUCTION OF TWO OLD CHEMICAL WEAPONS

The Netherlands would like to bring the following to the attention of the Executive Council. On 18 April 2025, two grenades were found amongst onions that were transported from France to an onion factory in 's-Gravenpolder, in the municipality of Borsele, in the province of Zeeland, the Netherlands.

The grenades were visually identified by the Defence Explosive Ordnance Disposal Service of the Netherlands as a French grenade of 75mm and a German grenade of 7.7cm with possible toxic filling.

The Netherlands submitted its declaration, Note Verbale number BZ2516915 (dated 27 June 2025) to the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat), detailing the discovery and subsequent storage of said projectiles.

On 28 July 2025, an OPCW inspection team carried out inspection OCW/15-1F7/25 at Soesterberg Army Barracks.

The inspection team reviewed all documentation on the declared items provided by the Netherlands, confirming the type of the declared items, as well as verifying their specific design features. Furthermore, the Netherlands provided the inspection team with X-ray images that show the internal design of the projectiles. The inspection team compared the internal and external design features with the reference, the OPCW Handbook of pre-1946 Chemical Weapons.

The projectiles were identified to be consistent with pre-1925 French and German manufactured OCW, and thus meet the definition of OCW as specified in Article II, paragraph 5(a) of the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention). However, the type of chemical fill could not be identified.

Pursuant to the assessment of the Secretariat, the Netherlands shall take the necessary measures to have the OCW destroyed, in accordance with paragraph 6 of Part IV (B) of the Verification Annex to the Convention.

In accordance with internal regulations of the European Union, the OCW will be transferred as toxic waste to the specialised chemical dismantling facility in Poelkapelle, Belgium, as the Netherlands does not have a dedicated destruction facility for this type of item. Destruction of the OCW will be carried out by Belgian experts, under the supervision of the Dutch National Authority.

An official report with details about the destruction process will be available in due time after the destruction has taken place.

The Netherlands would like to thank the Belgian authorities for their cooperation in this matter.