

JOINT STATEMENT

On behalf of Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Vanuatu

at the Thirtieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties

On the Support to the Full Implementation of the Provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention, including the Prohibition of the Use of Riot Control Agents as a Method of Warfare

Delivered by H.E. Ambassador Neilas Tankevičius of Lithuania, under agenda subitem 9(D): Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use

In reference to the Joint Statement delivered at the Twenty Ninth Session of the Conference of State Parties, we emphasize the importance of the full and faithful implementation of the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention, to completely exclude the possibility of the use of chemical weapons.

We underscore that any development, production, acquisition, possession, stockpiling, retention, transfer, or use or threat of use of chemical weapons by any actor directly threatens the object and purpose of the Convention and the goal of a world free of chemical weapons. There is no justification for anyone to acquire or retain such weapons, and we urge those States that have not yet acceded to the Convention to do so without delay.

We also highlight that under Article I of the Convention, the use of riot control agents as a method of warfare is strictly prohibited.

We take note of multiple reports of Russian use of riot control agents and other toxic chemicals on the frontlines in Ukraine. Ukraine has separately reported 11,299 incidents of Russian uses of chemical munitions since February 2023.

The reappearance of toxic chemical agents in conflict zones poses a grave threat to international peace and security and undermines the credibility of the global disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. In this regard, we note with utmost concern the findings of OPCW Technical Secretariat in its three reports,

confirming the presence of riot control agents in samples taken from the frontlines in the Dnipropetrovsk region of Ukraine.

We emphasize the important role of the provision of assistance to enhance national implementation of obligations under the Convention and supporting States Parties' ability to protect their security against the threat of chemical weapons.

This includes ensuring the Secretariat is prepared to provide technical assistance under Article VIII, to deploy emergency and other measures under Article X of the Convention and to provide technical expertise to identify those who were perpetrators, organizers, sponsors or otherwise involved in the use of chemicals as weapons under paragraph 20, CSP Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 if requested by a State Party.

In this regard, we urge the Russian Federation to return to the path of full compliance with its obligations under the CWC. We stand ready to support Ukraine and the OPCW Technical Secretariat in pursuit of effective attribution of confirmed chemical attacks in Ukraine and full accountability.

We reaffirm our common belief that any use of chemical weapons – by State or non-State actors – is unacceptable and must be met with a unified, firm, and principled response. Upholding the CWC is essential for the credibility of the chemical weapons regime and the integrity of the broader disarmament and non-proliferation architecture.