



**STATEMENT BY NEW ZEALAND
AT THE ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

AGENDA SUBITEM 6(f) - ARTICLE IX SUBMISSION ON NAVALNY

New Zealand thanks the Permanent Representation of France, as well as the delegations of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Germany and Sweden, for the information they have shared with States Parties, and for their timely submission of questions to the Russian Federation under Article IX of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We will deliver a broader statement later today, in our capacity as CANZ, addressing Russia's continued violations of the Chemical Weapons Convention. However, under this agenda item, we wish to reiterate New Zealand's national position and support for the actions taken by these five States Parties.

The findings that Mr Alexei Navalny was again poisoned in 2024 with a toxic substance now identified as epibatidine are deeply concerning and constitute a serious matter under the Chemical Weapons Convention. In the face of allegations and counterclaims from the Russian Federation, we appreciate the prompt and clear response of the Technical Secretariat in confirming that this toxic chemical falls within the scope of the Convention.

We therefore call on the Russian Federation to respond to the questions posed by these five States Parties promptly, fully and transparently, in line with its obligations under Article IX. We are disappointed with their approach to date, of challenging questions with questions and misinformation which only further demonstrates Russia's non-compliance with the Convention that we are all here to uphold.

Thank you, Chair.