
**JOINT NORDIC STATEMENT AT THE
One Hundred and Eleventh Session of the Executive Council
(The Hague, 10 March – 13 March 2026)**

AGENDA ITEM 6 (f) – 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,

We unequivocally condemn Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Russia's brutal aggression is a violation of international law, including the United Nations Charter. Our commitment to Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity remains resolute.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Nordic States Parties stand behind the assessment of the Governments of the United Kingdom, Sweden, France, Germany and the Netherlands that Mr. Alexei Navalny's death was highly likely caused by poisoning. Traces of epibatidine, a lethal toxin not naturally occurring in Russia, were found in biological samples from Mr. Navalny. Only Russia had the means, motive and opportunity to carry out this act.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Nordic States Parties unequivocally condemn Russia's use of chemical weapons against Ukraine. Findings from three OPCW Technical Assistance Visits have confirmed the presence of the riot control agent "CS" in battlefield samples. These findings establish a clear pattern: riot control agents are being employed as a method of warfare, in direct violation of Article I of the Convention.

Since the outset of Russia's war of aggression, Ukrainian authorities have documented more than 12,500 cases of the Russian Federation using riot control agents against Ukrainian forces. We recognize Ukraine's sustained efforts to collect and submit samples under challenging conditions, and in full compliance with international standards.

Mr. Chairperson,

Russia is repeatably breaching the chemical weapon's convention. We call on the Russian Federation to engage in good faith and address the legitimate concerns raised under the Convention. There can be no impunity for the use of chemical weapons.

This is not a procedural matter – nor a technical ambiguity. What is at stake is the integrity of the Convention itself. When violations go unanswered, the global norm against chemical weapons erodes, and the risk of further use grows. That should concern every State Party. We therefore firmly support the Technical Secretariat's continued engagement with Ukraine and the call for the OPCW to attribute responsibility, without delay, for the Russian Federation's confirmed use of riot control agents as a method of warfare.

[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.]

Thank you
