



## **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

### **STATEMENT BY H.E. NICOLE SHAMPAINE AT THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES AGENDA ITEM 9 (d) – UKRAINE**

Chair, distinguished delegates,

Rejecting Russia's bid for the Executive Council continued to be the right decision, but it cannot be our only action.

States Parties must recognize that Russia had, and continues to have, a choice.

It could have backed away from systemic chemical attacks in Ukraine.

It could have declared and dismantled its chemical weapons program that produced the Novichok nerve agents – chemical weapons – that Moscow used to poison the Skripals and Aleksey Navalny.

It could have lived up to its obligations as a party to this Convention.

Russia chose poorly and unfortunately continues to do so.

The United States condemns Russia's ongoing use of riot control agents as a method of warfare and its use of chloropicrin, as confirmed by U.S. Government laboratory analysis.

The United States is not alone in this analysis. Germany and the Netherlands have also reached this conclusion.

Ukraine has reported more than 11,000 chemical attacks over the course of the war. Russian factories are producing chemical grenades at industrial scale so the Russian military can use them on the battlefield. These are not the choices of a State Party interested in its obligations.

These are choices that highlight Russia's contempt for international security and the Convention.

Three OPCW Technical Assistance Visit reports captured images of some of these grenades, and all reports have documented the presence of the riot control agent CS in samples collected by Ukraine following Russian drone attacks.

The Technical Secretariat affirmed that the methodologies and practices applied by Ukraine were in accordance with the international standards followed by the Secretariat.

We commend Ukraine for providing evidence in accordance with these standards, and we commend the Technical Secretariat for the rigor, objectivity, and professionalism demonstrated in these reports.

The United States calls on all States Parties to support attribution of these and any other confirmed chemical attacks through the OPCW.

Every State Party has a role to play in responding to the Russian military's campaign of chemical attacks and in discouraging others from going down the same road.

Failure to act risks our collective security and the credibility of the Convention itself.

Thank you.