



**OPCW**

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**LITHUANIA**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR DARIUS SEMAŠKA  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA  
TO THE OPCW AND HEAD OF THE LITHUANIAN DELEGATION  
AT THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Mr Chairperson, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Lithuania aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and would like to make the following additional point.

Yesterday, H.E. Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü declared that we were “on the verge of reaching “global zero” on chemical weapons”, and that the Third Review Conference was “an occasion to establish a strategic direction that will preserve the effectiveness” of this Organisation. We have a proposal for such a strategic direction. There is a considerable unfinished business, namely, sea-dumped chemical weapons.

The Chemical Weapons Convention does not oblige States Parties to deal with the issue. Nevertheless, the problem is there.

In a joint working paper, Lithuania, Poland, Bulgaria and Luxembourg propose to have this Organisation as a venue for voluntary, and voluntary is a keyword here, sharing of information, raising awareness and cooperation on sea-dumped chemical weapons among the States Parties, academia, industry and NGOs.

How could we proceed?

First, I would echo what was recalled yesterday by the Foreign Affairs Minister of Luxembourg. Let’s actively implement the United Nations General Assembly Resolution of 2010 “Cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea”.

Second, let’s share information on the identified locations of sea-dumped chemical weapons.

Third, let’s spread information on possible hazards of coming into contact with sea-dumped chemical weapons, and let’s cooperate in identifying appropriate actions to mitigate such hazards.



Finally, Mr Chairperson,

May I request that this statement and the working paper by Lithuania, Poland, Bulgaria and Luxembourg on “Broadening international cooperation on sea-dumped chemical weapons and promoting the OPCW as a forum for voluntary cooperation on this issue” are treated as official documents of this session of the Conference.

Thank you.

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