

**Statement of Dr. Nikolaus J. Korczynski, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to
the OPCW
at EC-110 on 7th October 2025
under agenda item 6 f**

Mr. Chairperson,

It has been revealed more than two years ago, through open sources and also in Russian state-controlled media, that Russia is using riot control agents, widely and systematically, as a method of warfare against Ukraine. These indications were clearly correct - the presence of CS in grenades dropped from drones onto Ukraine's positions has been confirmed by three TAV-reports.

The utilisation of riot control agents in warfare directly violates Article 1 of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and is tantamount to the deployment of chemical weapons. This is because World War 1 has shown that any utilisation of toxic chemicals in warfare paves the way to a normalization of doing so. Any first step in this direction has to be of significant concern for the international community.

We, along with others, have repeatedly called on Russia to provide clarification - but never received a credible response.

In the meantime, Dutch and German intelligence agencies have determined that Russia has progressed to also using chloropicrin, a choking agent. The services note that both the Russian leadership and the Russian Radiological, Chemical and Biological Defence Troops are backing and actively enabling this systematic use of chemical agents in Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

This escalation is worrying and poses a grave threat to the legitimacy of the Convention and the global norm against the use of chemical weapons. If not properly addressed, it will have a harmful effect on all State Parties, and on this Organisation.

We call on Russia to immediately refrain from the utilisation of chemical weapons, and to adhere to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

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In view of what is happening in Ukraine, this Organisation's priorities have to be to officially attribute responsibility, to identify the perpetrators, and to ensure that they will be held accountable.