



**REPORT ON THE USE OF A CHEMICAL WEAPON
IN THE DEATH OF A DPRK NATIONAL**

7 MARCH 2017

Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I wish to draw Executive Council's attention to the recent chemical incident that occurred at Kuala Lumpur International Airport 2 (KLIA2), Malaysia. Malaysia is greatly concerned and strongly condemns the use of a toxic chemical that led to the death of a North Korean national on 13 February 2017.
2. The deceased was later identified by Malaysian police as Kim Chol based on the North Korean passport in his possession. A post-mortem was conducted as required under Malaysian law.
3. On 24 February 2017, the Royal Malaysian Police received the preliminary analysis report from the Chemistry Department of Malaysia. The analysis determined that the samples of the chemical substance retrieved from the deceased was *Ethyl N-2-Diisopropylaminoethyl Methylphosphonothiolate* or "VX Nerve Agent", a Chemical Weapon listed under Schedule 1 of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Madam Chairperson,

4. After the incident occurred I, and the National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention of Malaysia, have been in contact with both the Director-General of the OPCW and the OPCW Laboratory. We requested some technical materials from the OPCW to assist in the investigation of the case. The Director General of the OPCW advised the readiness of the Technical Secretariat to assist the Government of Malaysia and to provide the necessary expertise and technical assistance. The technical materials requested have been dispatched to my colleagues in Kuala Lumpur.
5. The Government of Malaysia continues to work closely and is on regular contact with the OPCW on this matter.

Madam Chairperson,

6. On 26 February 2017, an inspection and detection of hazardous chemicals in KLIA2 was conducted by the relevant Malaysian authorities and the results of the inspection confirmed that the airport (KLIA2) was safe and free from any contamination of liquid chemicals or hazardous materials including VX Nerve Agent.
7. The internal investigation of the case is being conducted professionally, objectively, impartially and transparently in accordance to the legal system and laws of Malaysia. The investigation has also been based on all leads available.
8. The Embassy of the DPRK in Kuala Lumpur has been informed on the investigation procedure and was updated on the incident from day one.
9. The post mortem of the deceased has been completed and the Malaysian authorities are still waiting for DNA and other medical records of the next of kin to make a conclusive identification before releasing the body to the next of kin or their designated representatives in accordance to the Malaysian protocols on such matters.

Madam Chairperson,

10. Malaysia strongly condemns the use of such a chemical weapon by anyone, anywhere and under any circumstances. Its use at a public place could have endangered the general public. Malaysia has complied with all its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention and will continue to cooperate with the OPCW on this case.
11. Malaysia wish to reiterate that it does not produce, stockpile, import, export or use any Schedule 1 toxic chemicals including VX, and has made annual declarations to that effect to the OPCW. Regular verifications by International Inspectors of the OPCW have also been undertaken.
12. The Government of Malaysia will fully cooperate with the OPCW and other international organisations to bring the perpetrators to justice.
13. The Government of Malaysia is committed to resolve and find a closure to this unfortunate incident. However, due to the complexity and sensitivity of the case, investigation may take longer than what we hope for. In this respect, Malaysia calls for all States Parties to this Convention for their support and understanding.

As the investigation is ongoing, I will not be able to answer any question related to it at this time.

I thank you all for your kind attention, and may I request that this statement be included as an official document of this meeting and be posted on the website.