

**GUATEMALA****STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GUATEMALA
AT THE FIFTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

Guatemala is grateful to the Director-General for updating the information on the actions taken by the Technical Secretariat after receiving from the United Kingdom the request for technical assistance under Article VIII, subparagraph 8(e) of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Guatemala repeats its support for, and commitment to, the Technical Secretariat, its technical staff, and the Convention, with its principles, norms and procedures.

We were pleased with the announcement that the United Kingdom is prepared to share the results of the analysis currently being conducted by the Technical Secretariat. We look forward to receiving them.

Guatemala rejects and condemns the use of chemical weapons, and of chemicals as weapons, under any circumstances.

Guatemala is extremely concerned by the use of a neurotoxic agent in the United Kingdom. A grave matter in and of itself, it is all the more so because it is one link more in a chain of terrible events around the world which are eroding the system of total prohibition which all of the States Parties have committed themselves to observe.

We believe that, in this case just as in all the others, we should make every possible effort to make sure that the investigations are exhaustive, methodical, incontrovertible and transparent in order to clarify each incident. The final objective is to bring those responsible to justice.

Guatemala respectfully requests the Technical Secretariat, through the Director-General, to inform the States Parties in a timely manner as to whether this incident – which involves the use of a substance not included in the Annex on Chemicals - might drive us to use the procedure specified in Article XV, paragraphs 1, 4 and 5 directed at minimising the possibility of it being used again.

Guatemala appeals to the parties most closely involved in this particular incident to act in good faith, on the basis of concrete, verifiable, impartial evidence, with a view to resolving the current difficulty, while avoiding any risk to world peace and security. The international community has set up mechanisms and bodies to avoid paths that might lead dangerously towards confrontations which were experienced in the past and which no one wants to repeat.



Any effort to surmount a crisis is useful and worthy of praise. For that reason, Guatemala recognises the wish of the Russian Federation, in calling this special meeting, and welcomed the notice to convene. Dialogue and co-operation are fundamental to a return to normality, and contribute to the solutions before, during and after any process that may be used.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, and I should be obliged if this statement could be considered an official public document of this meeting, and placed on the appropriate information dissemination media.

--- 0 ---