



Statement by Norway at the 5th Review Conference of the of the Chemical Weapons' Convention. Delivered by Ambassador Bård Ivar Svendsen

Mr. Chair,

Norway aligns itself with the statement made by H.E. Ambassador Oljelund, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the OPCW, on behalf of the European Union. I would like to add the following in my national capacity.

As we review the past five years, it is timely to first acknowledge a key accomplishment: the destruction of 99 % of the world's declared Chemical Weapons stockpile. This is a clear testament to the OPCW's role in upholding a rules-based global order. It is equally a testament to the majority of States Parties' commitment to upholding the total ban on chemical weapons.

Yet, we have seen repeated efforts to undermine this global norm. Not only through the re-emergence of use, but also through widespread disinformation campaigns aimed at sowing confusion or discrediting the OPCW.

Norway condemns the blatant use of chemical weapons in Syria, Iraq, Malaysia, Russia, and the UK. We also condemn Russia's unsubstantiated allegations regarding Ukraine's purported plans to use chemical weapons. This is merely a smoke screen tactic aimed at drawing attention away from Russia's own unprovoked, illegal, and brutal warfare in Ukraine.

Mr. Chair,

Russia has yet to account for its use of chemical weapons, both in the United Kingdom in 2018 and on its own territory in August 2020, against Mr. Navalny. We reiterate our call on Russia to provide immediate, full and complete disclosure of its Novichok programme to the OPCW.

Mr. Chair,

We continue to call on Syria to fulfil its obligations in accordance with the CWC and Security Council Resolution 2118, and to cooperate with the OPCW to

resolve its outstanding issues and to complete the necessary measures to lift the suspension of its rights and privileges as a State Party to the Convention.

Mr. Chair,

It is our shared responsibility that OPCW is fit for purpose, both for present and future challenges.

It is essential that we adapt to emerging technologies and threats. The Organization's investigative capabilities, including non-routine inspections must be maintained and schedules must be updated to reflect new toxic chemicals.

Mr. Chair,

We must also ensure that women are part of decision-making bodies at all levels, and that the rights and needs of women are recognized, in line with Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. It is not only the right thing to do, but also the smart thing to do.

We must also facilitate interaction between civil society, private sector and the OPCW. External stakeholders, such as chemical industry associations, NGOs, think tanks, academia and others can provide invaluable input to the advancement of the CWC.

Norway notes with great concern that steps are being taken to prevent the participation of selected NGOs engaged in issues relevant to the convention. We must ensure that the guidelines for participation are revised, to safeguard transparency and predictability.

By making progress on a few of these key issues in the coming days, we have a real opportunity to strengthen the Convention and further its implementation.

Mr. Chair

Let me end by reiterating my country's confidence in the Technical Secretariat and in Director-General Fernando Arias in particular. We applaud and support your diligence and professionalism. It is our responsibility as States Parties to ensure that the Technical Secretariat is sufficiently funded and that contributions are paid in full and on time.

Finally, may I request that this statement be treated as an official document of this Conference and published on Catalyst and the public website of the OPCW.