
**JOINT NORDIC STATEMENT AT THE
One Hundred and Eight Session of the Executive Council
(The Hague, 4 March – 7 March 2025)**

AGENDA ITEM 6F – ADDRESSING THE THREAT OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE

Mr Chairperson,

The Nordic countries fully align themselves with the European Union statement, and I have the honour to make the following additional remarks on behalf of Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and my own country, Denmark.

Mr Chairperson,

The Nordic States Parties unequivocally condemn Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine. These actions constitute a clear violation of international law, including the core principles of the United Nations Charter, and pose a serious threat to European and global security. As we mark three years since the onset of full-scale war, our commitment to Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity remains resolute. We call upon Russia to cease its abhorrent aggression and withdraw its forces from all Ukrainian territory without delay.

Mr Chairperson,

We condemn Russia's use of riot control agents as a method of warfare in Ukraine. This has been corroborated by a number of credible reports including reports from Russian sources. As stated by the Director-General the use of riot-control agents as a method of warfare is tantamount to chemical weapons use. We therefore call upon Russia to fully comply with its legal obligations and to cease such violations immediately.

The Nordic States Parties are profoundly disturbed by the findings presented in the recent second OPCW Technical Assistance Visit (TAV) report. The report confirms the presence of the riot control agent “CS” in battlefield samples collected from three incidents in October 2024. Together with the first TAV report, there is a clear pattern of use of riot control agents as a method of warfare. This reckless practice constitutes a direct violation of the prohibitions outlined in Article I (5) of the Chemical Weapons Convention with enormous ethical and humanitarian ramifications.

Addressing any disregard for the Chemical Weapons Convention is imperative. Those responsible must be held accountable. State Parties cannot ignore evidence from the OPCW on the use of Chemical Weapons. We look to the Secretariat to continue its vigilant monitoring of the situation in Ukraine, ensuring that appropriate measures are taken in response to any further developments. The Secretariat’s role in upholding international standards remains crucial in these efforts.

Mr. Chairperson,

In 2020, the international community was confronted with the attempted assassination of Alexei Navalny through the use of a nerve agent of the “Novichok” group. His death in a Russian prison facility in February of last year only further underscores the ongoing concerns regarding Russia’s violations of international norms. We reiterate our call for the Russian Federation to provide a comprehensive response to the inquiries made by 45 States Parties under Article IX (2) of the Convention, as formally requested on 5 October 2021.

Mr. Chairperson,

The international community must remain steadfast in enforcing the Chemical Weapons Convention and ensuring that violations are met with unequivocal accountability. We reaffirm our collective commitment to upholding the Convention and call on all States Parties to support the continued efforts to address violations of the norm we are set in place to safeguard.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document of this session and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.
