
**STATEMENT OF THE NORDIC COUNTRIES TO THE
29th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons
Convention**

(The Hague, 25 November – 29 November 2024)

AGENDA ITEM 9.d. – ADDRESSING THE THREAT FROM CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE

Chair,

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 Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden, and my own country, Norway.

Chair,

The employment of riot control agents as a method of warfare clearly violates the prohibitions established in Article I (5), of the Convention. We note with serious concern the findings of the report (*S/2338/2024*), issued on 18 November 2024 by the Technical Secretariat, which confirms the presence of the riot control agent CS in samples collected in a trench in the Dnipropetrovsk region of Ukraine. CS was identified through analysis conducted by two OPCW designated laboratories, acting in that capacity on the basis of a specific task set by the Director General, separately and independently from one another. We note from the Technical Assistance Visit (*TAV*)-report that further examination of the collected object can be expected.

We **condemn** Russian use of riot control agents as a method of warfare in Ukraine. The Convention explicitly prohibits the use of riot control agents as a weapon of war on the battlefield. If used as a method of warfare, these agents are considered

chemical weapons. The deployment of chemical weapons raises serious ethical and humanitarian concerns. We must confront these violations head-on and ensure that those responsible are held accountable.

We are also deeply disturbed by allegations regarding Russian use of the listed pulmonary agent chloropicrin as a chemical weapon against Ukrainian soldiers.

Despite legitimate international concerns, Russia has failed to provide a plausible explanation for its use of RCAs, as required under Article IX of the Convention, and has instead engaged in disinformation campaigns to deflect responsibility.

Russia continues to spread false allegations regarding Ukraine's purported use or plans to use chemical weapons, including as preparations for this conference after publication of the TAV-report. This is merely a smoke screen tactic to camouflage Russia's use of chemical weapons in Ukraine.

In conclusion, Chair, we urge the Executive Council to remain seized with this matter and ask the Secretariat to remain prepared to examine the evidence further through forensic and other means, to support possible future attribution, *in line with C-SS-4/DEC.3, operative paragraph 20.*

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.

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