



## IRELAND

Statement delivered by H.E. Ambassador Ann Derwin,

Permanent Representative of Ireland to the OPCW

Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use under Agenda Item 9(d)

At the Twenty Ninth Session of the Conference of the States Parties

25 November – 29 November 2024

Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. I make the following intervention in my national capacity.

Ireland reaffirms its unequivocal support for Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and right to live in peace amidst Russia's brutal war of aggression.

Throughout this war, the threat of chemical weapons use has been omnipresent. We are appalled by increasing reports that Russia has been using riot control agents, as well as the choking agent chloropicrin, as a method of warfare in Ukraine. These allegations, if confirmed true, constitute grave breaches of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The report of the Technical Assistance Visit to Ukraine issued on 18 November is of grave concern. This confirms that riot control agent, "CS" has in fact been used in Ukraine. States Parties must be clear that the use of chemical weapons is wholly unacceptable. We urge the Secretariat to promptly investigate the matter further and make attribution in relation to this serious treaty violation.

We still await responses from Russia to provide credible responses to the request submitted by Germany and 12 other countries under Article IX regarding allegations of the use of riot control agents. Ireland has called on Russia to engage with the Technical Secretariat to enable an impartial, comprehensive, and transparent investigation. However to date, we have only seen a perpetuation of Russia's unsubstantiated claims and distortions to discredit Ukraine; the most recent of which was refuted by the OPCW itself. We condemn such campaigns of disinformation and any attempts to undermine the Convention and the organisations' work.

Ireland reiterates our unwavering support for the Government and people of Ukraine. We call on Russia to end this senseless war.

Thank you.