

JOINT STATEMENT

On behalf of Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, the Cook Islands, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Republic of Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Monaco, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Vanuatu.

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

On the Support to the Full Implementation of the Provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention, including the Prohibition of the Use of Riot Control Agents as a Method of Warfare

Delivered by H.E. Ambassador Neilas Tankevičius of Lithuania, under agenda subitem 9(D): Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use

We emphasize the importance of the implementation of the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention, to exclude completely the possibility of the use of chemical weapons.

We also underscore the collective belief that the development, production, acquisition, possession, stockpiling, retention, transfer, and use or threat of use of chemical weapons by any actor poses a threat to the object and purpose of the Convention and to the achievement of a world free of chemical weapons.

We emphasize that there is no justification for anyone to develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile or retain chemical weapons, and strongly urge those countries who have not yet acceded to the Convention to do so without further delay.

We also highlight that under Article I of the Convention, the use of riot control agents as a method of warfare is strictly prohibited.

In this light we condemn in the strongest possible terms the use of riot control agents on the battlefield.

We take note of multiple reports of Russian use of riot control agents and other toxic chemicals on the frontlines in Ukraine. Ukraine has separately reported 4,950 incidents of Russian breaches of the Chemical Weapons Convention since February 2023.

We express deep concern regarding the findings of OPCW Technical Secretariat report S/2338/2024, issued on 18 November 2024, which confirms the presence of riot control agents in samples taken from the frontlines in the Dnipropetrovsk region of Ukraine.

We express our full support for the Director General and the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW, in fulfilling the mandate set by the Convention and policy-making bodies of the Organisation which includes identifying the origin of breaches of the Chemical Weapons Convention in compliance with Verification Annex, part XI, paragraph 26.

We emphasize the important role of the provision of assistance in support of capacity building in enhancing national implementation of obligations under the Convention and supporting States Parties' ability to protect their security against the threat of chemical weapons.

This includes ensuring the Secretariat is prepared to provide technical assistance under Article VIII if requested by a State Party and to deploy emergency and other measures under Article X of the Convention at the request of a State Party.

We are committed to supporting continued enhancement of the Secretariat's capacity and readiness to provide technical assistance under Article VIII of the Convention and its ability to deploy emergency and other measures under Article X of the Convention at the request of a State Party.

We emphasize our grave concern about the re-emergence of the use of toxic chemicals as weapons and condemn in the strongest possible terms breaches of the Chemical Weapons Convention by anyone, under any circumstances.