



ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY

**Statement by Ambassador Erling Rimestad**  
**Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Norway**  
**To the 29th session of the Conference of States Parties of the OPCW**  
**Item 8 - General Debate**

Chair,

Mr. Director-General,

Distinguished Colleagues,

Norway aligns itself with the statements made by Ambassador Stephan Klement on behalf of the European Union. I would like to add the following in my national capacity.

Norway warmly congratulates you, Mr. Chair, on your election. Rest assured that you have our full support and cooperation as you carry out your duties. We wish you and your vice chairs every success!

Chair,

The rules-based multilateral order was developed to end and prevent war, to ensure that atrocities of the past would never be repeated. It is time to remind ourselves that rules must be applied even in conflict, and that they apply to all, and that those violating international law must be held accountable.

Norway has repeatedly condemned the use of chemical weapons in Syria, Iraq, Malaysia, Russia, Ukraine and the United Kingdom in recent years. We must not become complacent. We must continue to work steadfastly – with energy and passion – to uphold the total ban on chemical weapons.

We are alarmed by Russia's use of chemical weapons in Ukraine. Deployment of chemical weapons violates Article I (1b) of the Convention, and raises serious ethical and humanitarian concerns. We must confront these violations head-on and ensure that those responsible are held accountable.

We are disturbed by reports regarding the Russian use of the pulmonary agent chloropicrin as a chemical weapon in Ukraine.

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 the findings of

the report (S/2338/2024), issued on 18 November 2024 by the Technical Secretariat, which confirms the presence of 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, and 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 urge the Secretariat to further examine the evidence through forensic and other means to support possible future attribution, in line with C-SS-4/DEC.3, operative paragraph 20.

A side note: Both laboratories, whose identity is only known by the Secretariat, were in this case not only laboratories designated by the OPCW for the analysis of environmental samples. They were also acting in their capacities as OPCW designated laboratories, i.e. selected by the Director-General for the specific task.

Chair,

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

Chair,

The work of the OPCW's Investigation and Identification Team, the Declaration Assessment Team and the Fact-Finding Mission is of great importance to enable progress in various parts of the Syria file. The Syrian Arab Republic has repeatedly failed to comply with its obligations under the CWC and to cooperate with the OPCW to resolve all its outstanding issues.

We condemn all efforts to undermine the work of the OPWC, including widespread disinformation campaigns.

We are pleased that the Secretariat is monitoring all relevant situations, including in Gaza, and stands ready to assist, in accordance with the Convention. We call on all states who have not done so to sign and/or ratify the CWC.

Norway has condemned Hamas' heinous terrorist attacks on 7 October in the strongest possible terms. We have repeatedly called for an immediate ceasefire, the unconditional release of all hostages, and for the urgent and dramatically scaled up humanitarian access. Humanitarian assistance must be allowed to reach all civilians regardless of where they are. We have clearly stated that Israel has the right to defend itself within the framework of international law.

Chair,

It is our shared responsibility that the OPCW is fit for purpose, both for present and future challenges. We warmly welcome The Global Conference on the Role of

Artificial Intelligence in Advancing the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, held in Marocco in October. It is essential that we adapt to emerging technologies and threats. The Organisation's investigative capabilities, including non-routine inspections, must be maintained and further developed and the schedules of chemicals must be updated to reflect new toxic chemicals, as well as their precursors.

We must 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. This 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 can provide invaluable input to the advancement of the CWC. Norway would like to express our gratitude to the Ambassadors of Costa Rica and Germany for guiding the important discussions on engagement with civil society. This conversation should continue.

Chair,

Norway has full confidence in the professionalism, expertise and impartiality of the Technical Secretariat. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Director-General Fernando Arias and his entire team for their tireless efforts in working towards a world free of chemical weapons.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document of the Twenty-Ninth Session of the conference of the States Parties and post in on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you.