



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 9 (d)

ADDRESSING THE THREAT FROM CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE: RUSSIA

Mr. Chair,

A future free of chemical weapons is under threat. We spoke about chemical weapons that remain unaccounted for in Syria; and we now face Russia's use, in Ukraine, of Riot Control Agents and chloropicrin.

Violations of the Convention require our serious attention. The ramifications of allowing a country like Russia to violate the Convention are profound. Because if left unaddressed, countries will draw the conclusion that they too can get away with violating the Convention, whether in Asia, the Middle East, or Africa.

Even though Russia is flooding us with disinformation, we all know that Ukraine is the victim of Russia's brutal war of aggression and of its use of chemical agents.

Will we stand by, or will we come together and say, “We will not watch and do nothing as a country violates the Chemical Weapons Convention”?

This Convention protects us all, and it protects future generations from a world of chemical weapons.

During a recent side event at the Executive Council, Russia made a big deal about the fact that countries are shipping triethanolamine or T.E.A. to Ukraine. T.E.A. is one of the most commonly traded scheduled chemicals in the world. It’s in shampoo, cosmetics, sunscreen, detergents, paint and much more. Why is it, then, that Russia failed to mention this when it raised T.E.A shipments?

Russia blankets us with propaganda, including allegations that lack documentation on the origin of samples, collection methods and chain of custody.

In contrast, we received last week a Technical Assistance Visit (TAV) report produced in full compliance with the Convention that confirms the use of riot control agents in Ukraine. This report is the result of full compliance with international standards and OPCW requirements for

authentic sample collection, maintaining chain of custody, and independent analysis by two OPCW-designated labs acting in their capacity to support the OPCW.

The report shows a photo of the grenade shell that was analyzed.

There are two numbers on the grenade: the first is the plant code, and it's for a Russian plant; the last number is the year of production. It was made this year.

And when manufacturers produce something, they tend to do so in large quantities.

Not coincidentally, Russia is using large quantities of riot control agents against Ukraine.

Ukraine has reported over 4,900 cases of Russian chemical use, resulting in over 2,000 medical casualties due to chemical exposure.

This non-proliferation regime is only as strong as its implementation. And it is up to us to ensure it is implemented.

How will we respond to Russia's violations? Will we come together to deter Russia from continuing to violate the Convention?

The answer to this question will be *our* legacy when it comes to non-proliferation.

Thank you.