

**Joint Statement on behalf of  
Belarus, Bolivia, China, Cuba, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nicaragua,  
the State of Palestine, the Russian Federation, Syria and Venezuela  
at the Twenty-Ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties  
delivered by the Delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**

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

**Mr. Chairperson**

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has the honor to take the floor on behalf of Belarus, Bolivia, China, Cuba, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nicaragua, the State of Palestine, the Russian Federation, Syria and Venezuela.

**Mr. Chairperson**

One year has passed since Israel, the occupying power, commenced a sustained military campaign against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, with flagrant disregard for international law. This campaign has resulted in the widespread and systematic destruction of critical infrastructure and essential civilian facilities at a scale and intensity rarely seen in modern times, constituting severe breaches of international humanitarian and human rights law. The military actions have precipitated the forced displacement of over 90% of the population in Gaza and inflicted extensive civilian casualties, with tens of thousands killed or maimed, the vast majority being women and children. The confirmed death toll now exceeds 42,000, excluding those still buried beneath the rubble, with women and children comprising approximately 70% of the victims.

The documented conduct of the occupying forces encompasses a genocidal aggression related to war crimes, crimes against humanity.

We note with concern the reports regarding unlawful and repeated use of white phosphorus munitions as chemical agent in densely populated civilian areas in Gaza as well as in certain locations in Lebanon. Such use of white phosphorus is in contravention of the rules of distinction and proportionality, as enshrined in the Geneva Conventions, and represents a violation of the international humanitarian law and customary international law. The recurrence of these violations, facilitated by a pervasive culture of impunity, highlights a consistent pattern of unlawful behavior that goes unchecked. The absence of accountability allows for the normalization of atrocities that, by all legal standards, should be deemed intolerable.

The international community has a legal and moral obligation to address this impunity. Failure to hold Israel accountable for its illegal use of white phosphorus and other gross violations of international law risks setting a dangerous precedent that emboldens further breaches. The normalization of such conduct undermines the very foundations of international law, particularly the principles established to protect civilian populations during armed conflict. It is imperative that concrete measures are taken to uphold the rule of law and to ensure justice for the victims, thereby preventing the continuation of these heinous acts.

We urge Israel to adhere to international law, international humanitarian law, and the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention, of which it is a signatory. Furthermore, we call on Israel to fully and promptly implement relevant resolutions of the United Nations which demand an "immediate" cease-fire in Gaza and the cessation of all military operations and acts resulting in the mass casualties of Palestinian civilians.

**Mr. Chairperson**

We underline that the use of riot control agents and chemical weapons as a method of warfare is prohibited under Article I of the CWC and in this context take note of the multiple reports by the Russian Federation on the use and preparation for use of toxic chemicals and riot control agents.

**Thank you, Mr. Chairperson**

We request to circulate this statement as an official document of the 29th session of the Conference of States Parties and publish it on the OPCW external server and public website.