

\*\*\*\*\*

**STATEMENT OF THE NORDIC STATES TO THE  
One Hundred and Seventh Session of the Executive Council  
(The Hague, 8 October – 11 October 2024)**

\*\*\*\*\*

**AGENDA ITEM 6G – ADDRESSING THE THREAT OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE**

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr Chairperson,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Nordic States Parties Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and my own country, Denmark.

Mr Chairperson,

The Nordic States Parties condemn the Russian Federation's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine. These unlawful actions not only flout international law including the most fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter but also jeopardize the fabric of European and global security. As we reflect on more than two years of Russia's full-scale war, we stand unwavering in our commitment to Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, as well as its fundamental right to self-defense.

We call on Russia to halt its military operations and withdraw its troops from all Ukrainian territory without delay. In this regard, we are increasingly alarmed by Russia's use of chemical weapons in Ukraine, as evidenced by numerous reports, including by Russian sources. Along the same vein, the Nordic States Parties are profoundly alarmed by the disturbing reports regarding the alleged use by Russia of the choking agent chloropicrin 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, and raises serious ethical and humanitarian concerns. We call on Russia to fully comply with its obligations and cease any such practices immediately.

Furthermore, Russia's relentless attacks on civilian industrial facilities significantly heightens the risk of exposing the Ukrainian population to toxic chemicals. Such reckless actions not only endanger

innocent lives but also reflect a blatant disregard for international humanitarian norms and the safety of civilians.

The Nordic Countries support the twelve States Parties that requested the Executive Council to assist in clarifying the situation pursuant to Article IX (3) of the Convention. We must confront violations head-on and ensure that those responsible are held accountable. The time to act is now, and our resolve must be unwavering. Therefore, we count on the Secretariat to closely monitor the situation in Ukraine and be ready to take action as needed. It is important for the Secretariat to remain responsive to any developments and uphold international standards.

Mr Chairperson,

In 2020, the world was shocked by the attempted assassination by use of a “Novichok” type nerve agent, of Alexei Navalny, who died in a Russian prison facility in February this year. We once again call on the Russian Federation to provide answers to the inquiries made by 45 States Parties under Article IX (2) of the Convention, as requested on October 5, 2021.

Mr Chairperson,

In closing, the Nordic States Parties reiterate their unwavering commitment to the Convention’s prohibitions against chemical weapons. Impunity for the illegal use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, at any time and under any circumstances will not be tolerated, and those responsible will be brought to justice.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document of this session and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

\*\*\*\*\*