



## **IRELAND**

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Ann Derwin,  
Permanent Representative of Ireland to the Organisation for the Prohibition  
of Chemical Weapons**

**At the One Hundredth and Seventh Session of the Executive Council**

**8 – 11 October 2024**

Chairperson, Director-General, Deputy Director-General, Distinguished delegates,  
Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

I will add the following in my national capacity.

I would like to begin by thanking Chairperson, H.E. Ambassador Andrés Teran Parral of Ecuador and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council for their leadership in guiding the preparatory work for this session.

Chair,

We meet once again against the backdrop of alarming threats to international peace and security and a growing disregard for the norm on the prohibition of chemical weapons use. It is very concerning to hear reports indicating the alleged use of chemical weapons by both States and non-States Parties in various ongoing conflicts across the globe.

Chair,

Ireland finds it extremely concerning the rise in reports alleging the use of Riot Control Agents as well as the choking agent chloropicrin by Russia in Ukraine. We still await a credible response by Russia to multiple requests made by States Parties under Art. IX to clarify these potentially very serious violations of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The responses received to date have deflected responsibility instead of directly addressing the allegations concerned. The international community also still awaits a credible response from Russia on the poisoning of Alexei Navalny in August 2020.

We call upon Russia to respond appropriately to the requests and engage with the TS to enable an impartial, comprehensive and, transparent investigation into these serious treaty violations.

Chair,

It has been more than ten years since the Syrian Arab Republic acceded to the Chemical Weapons Convention, and yet the accuracy of their initial declaration is still far from being complete. We are deeply concerned to see that Syria's declarations remain marred with errors, inconsistencies, and unreported chemicals. Furthermore, we wholly reject repeated statements made by Syria that seek to discredit the TS' work.

We thank the TS for their technical briefing on 1 October. We recall that facilitating visits of the TS and engaging in consultations is the minimum that a State Party can do. True cooperation is measured by providing full and complete declarations. The addition of two outstanding issues to Syria's chemical file in July this year points to the contrary. We urge Syria to comply with the CWC and provide the TS the information it needs to make credible progress in closing the Syrian chemical file once and for all.

Ireland once again stresses its condemnation in the strongest terms of all usages of chemical weapons anywhere and by anyone.

We also commend the professionalism and impartiality of the TS, including the DAT, FFM, and IIT.

Chair,

Ireland reiterates the importance of enhancing the OPCW's engagement with civil society organisations. We commend Germany and Costa Rica's dedicated work on this issue and the open consultations held with States Parties to date. Civil society organisations in their diversity and scope provide valuable contributions to the TS and enrich our understanding of the disarmament fora. We welcome all efforts to streamline the accreditation process and provide much-needed clarity to the guidelines for the benefit of us all.

Chair,

Incorporating a gender lens in the TS' work remains a priority for Ireland. We welcome the consideration that has been made to advance gender equality within the organisation. This includes, among other things, training more females as first respondents. We encourage the TS to continue with such practices and provide regular briefings to States Parties on progress made.

Chair,

Ireland expresses its full confidence in the work of the TS, and the effective leadership of the Director General Arias. We fully support the TS' ongoing work in Syria and its engagement in and monitoring of other situations that have potentially been subject to chemical weapons attacks, among them Ukraine and Gaza.

Lastly, we would like to highlight that the Chemical Weapons Convention binds us all to the commitment of working towards a world free of chemical weapons. This includes, inter alia, condemning and rectifying instances of non-compliance by States Parties. Ireland reiterates its call for all States Parties to adhere to the provisions of the CWC as to not undermine its integrity and comply fully with the work of the OPCW. We often forget that the consequences of a lack of meaningful and effective cooperation are borne most tragically by innocent civilians. Therefore, it is the duty of each and every one of us to stand firmly behind the work of the organisation.

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

Thank you.