



REGERINGSKANSLIET

Ministry for Foreign Affairs Sweden

National statement by Sweden
One Hundred and Seventh Session of the Executive Council
of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
H.E. Ambassador Johannes Oljelund
Permanent Representative of Sweden to the OPCW
The Hague, 8-11 October 2024

Sweden is aligned with the statement of the European Union. I would like to add the following points in my national capacity.

The use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anyone, under any circumstances, is unacceptable and unlawful. We all share the responsibility to uphold the global norm on the non-use of chemical weapons.

An important aspect of upholding that norm is ensuring that perpetrators of chemical weapons use are identified and held to account. Impunity can never be an option.

Chair,

Russia has still not provided any credible answers regarding the poisoning by use of a nerve agent of Sergey and Yulia Skripal in 2018 and opposition leader Alexey Navalny in 2020. We call on Russia to remedy this situation without further delay.

Sweden reiterates its condemnation in the strongest terms of Russia's unlawful, unprovoked and unjustified full-scale invasion of Ukraine and reaffirms its unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Sweden is deeply concerned about continued reports about the use of use of riot control agents as a method of warfare by Russian forces in Ukraine. Such use constitutes a clear violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and we expect Russia to provide clarifications.

We appreciate the continued assistance provided by the Secretariat to Ukraine with regard to detection and training, and expect that appropriate action in accordance with the Convention is taken in case of a request by a State Party related to assistance and protection.

Chair,

We thank the Investigation and Identification Team for its independent and professional investigations into confirmed cases of chemical weapons use in Syria. In addition to cases attributed to Daesh terrorists, the IIT has concluded, in nine of the instances investigated, that Syrian armed forces used chemical weapons. Syria's violation of the chemical weapons convention is wholly unacceptable.

Sweden reiterates its call on Syria to cooperate with the Technical Secretariat and all of its established mechanisms in order to resolve all outstanding issues and to allow the OPCW to verify the complete end of its chemical weapons program. The responsibility to provide full cooperation lies squarely on Syria.

Chair,

Sweden welcomes the addition of an agenda item on "Emerging Technologies" on the agenda of the Council. We look forward to constructive discussions, for instance, about how artificial intelligence may impact threat development. We encourage further cooperation between the ChemTech centre and the designated laboratories in order to further enhance the development of tools for chemical analysis, and look forward to the recommendations of the temporary working group on chemical forensics on how such tools may contribute to the implementation of the Convention.

In conclusion, Sweden commends the Director-General for his efforts, through the Gender Road Map and other initiatives to promote gender equality and the integration of gender perspectives. We encourage further work in this regard.

I would kindly ask that this statement be issued as an official document and placed on the public website.

Thank you.