

II TECMUN

en línea

Organization for the
Prohibition of Chemical
Weapons

II TECMUN en línea

Horario de sesiones

Miércoles 14 de abril

Ceremonia de Inauguración	9:30 – 10:00 h.
Receso	10:00 – 10:30 h.
Primera Sesión	10:30 – 12:00 h.
Receso	12:00 – 12:30 h.
Segunda Sesión	12:30 – 14:00 h.
Comida	14:00 – 15:00 h.
Tercera Sesión	15:00 – 16:30 h.

Jueves 15 de abril

Conferencia Magistral	8:30 – 10:00 h.
Receso	10:00 – 10:30 h.
Cuarta Sesión	10:30 – 12:00 h.
Receso	12:00 – 12:30 h.
Quinta Sesión	12:30 – 14:00 h.
Comida	14:00 – 15:00 h.
Sexta Sesión	15:00 – 16:30 h.

Viernes 16 de abril

Séptima Sesión	8:00 – 9:30 h.
Receso	9:30 – 10:00 h.
Octava Sesión	10:00 – 11:30 h.
Receso	11:30 – 12:00 h.
Novena Sesión	12:00 – 14:00 h.
Comida	14:00 – 15:00 h.
Ceremonia de Clausura	15:00 – 16:30 h.
TECMUN GLOOM ¹	18:00 – 19:00 h.

¹ TECMUN GLOOM es una experiencia únicamente para los delegados donde habrá actividades en las que los delegados y las mesas se podrán conocer.

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Agenda

Secretaria General: Nuria Vidal Castillo

ASAMBLEA GENERAL

Subsecretaria General: Aiko Valeria Aguilar Jiménez

Reunión del Alto Nivel para la Asamblea General

Presidenta: Vanessa Arroyo Jerez

- A) Estrategias para contrarrestar la expansión territorial del Ejército de Liberación Nacional en la República Bolivariana de Venezuela
- B) Medidas para poner un fin al bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero impuesto por los Estados Unidos de América a la República de Cuba

Asamblea de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Presidenta: Daniela Mejía Salgado

- A) Estrategias para contrarrestar la pérdida de biodiversidad a causa del tráfico ilegal de especies con énfasis en el Sudeste Asiático
- B) Medidas para reducir y revertir la desertificación y la degradación de las tierras en América Latina y el Caribe

Sexta Comisión Jurídica de la Asamblea General

Presidenta: Samaria Sánchez Ramírez

- A) Derechos de los pueblos indígenas en la Unión Europea: cuestión territorial y la propiedad de la tierra
- B) Medidas para prevenir violaciones al derecho internacional en respuesta a la anexión ilegal de Crimea y las intervenciones militares rusas sobre el Estrecho de Kerch y el Mar de Azov

Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados

Presidenta: Rebeca Ávila Delgado

- A) Medidas para hacer frente a las migraciones masivas de Centroamérica a los Estados Unidos Mexicanos y a los Estados Unidos de América
- B) Medidas para hacer frente al desplazamiento masivo de Yemén como resultado de la crisis humanitaria

United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Presidente: José Mateo González Almanza

- A) Continued threat posed by falling space debris from developing space programs and further action to prevent civilian danger
- B) Elimination of the digital divide between developed and developing countries regarding internet access through the use of satellite constellations, focusing on Latin America and the Caribbean

Banco Mundial

Presidente: Elías Dávila Martínez

- A) Estrategias para evitar repercusiones económicas dentro de la economía venezolana a causa de la implementación de su criptomoneda: El Petro
- B) Estrategias para la reconstrucción económica en Latinoamérica tras el cierre económico a causa de la pandemia de COVID-19, enfocado en la República de Argentina y la República de Brasil

Historical Trusteeship Council

Presidenta: Andrea Michelle Martínez Lozano

- A) Strategies to avoid the conflict between Argentina and the United Kingdom caused by the sovereignty of the territory of the Falkland Islands (1982)
- B) Division and territorial changes after World War II, focusing on Europe and Africa (1945)

CONSEJO ECONÓMICO Y SOCIAL

Subsecretario General: Armando Daniel Navarro Sánchez

Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia

Presidente: Manuel Alejandro Rosales Portillo

- A) Medidas para prevenir el involucramiento de infantes con el crimen organizado en América Latina y el Caribe
- B) Acciones para garantizar la protección y el bienestar de niños huérfanos de madres y padres víctimas de homicidio y feminicidio con enfoque en América Latina y el Caribe

Entidad de las Naciones Unidas para la Igualdad de Género y el Empoderamiento de las Mujeres

Presidenta: Paola González Zapata

- A) Estrategias para combatir la menstruación como un obstáculo para el desarrollo integral de niñas y adolescentes en las zonas rurales de Sudamérica
- B) Medidas para erradicar las violaciones a los derechos humanos de trabajadoras domésticas en Asia y el Pacífico

United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

Presidente: Germán Osvaldo Nuñez Benitez

A) Measures to counter the use of children by extremist groups in the Republic of Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, focused on protection, and rehabilitation, and the standard-setting of procedures to protect victims

B) Measures to combat the distribution of child pornography in the Republic of India, focused on the enhancement of standards for the investigation of producers, distributors, and possessors of illicit electronic material

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Presidenta: María Fernanda Anaya López

A) Measures to eliminate and prevent the spread of Novichok agents in the European Union

B) Strategies to develop arrangements for the fulfillment of the Chemical Weapons Convention in countries with recent breaches with emphasis in the Syrian Arab Republic

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura

Presidenta: Mariana Cortés Gallardo

A) Estrategias para recuperar las industrias culturales y creativas afectadas por la pandemia de COVID-19 en Europa

B) Medidas contra las afectaciones sociales provocadas por la falta de inversión en el desarrollo científico y de nuevas tecnologías en América Latina

Conseil de l'Europe

Presidenta: Lianny Hernández Pérez

A) La menace de la traite des êtres humains et l'évolution des mesures de lutte contre ce phénomène en la Roumanie, la République de Bulgarie et au le Royaume d'Espagne

B) Élaboration de propositions pour l'éradication des "zones libres de toute idéologie LGBT" en la République de Pologne et la prévention de la propagation de ces pratiques à d'autres pays européens

AGENCIAS ESPECIALIZADAS Y ORGANISMOS REGIONALES

Subsecretaria General: Montserrat Olivas Ramos

United Nations Human Rights Council

Presidenta: María Fernanda Casillas Monrroy

A) Preventive mechanisms towards the enforced disappearance of Nigerian citizens caused by the extremist group Boko-Haram

B) Measures to prevent discrimination against Muslims under the new policy of the Indian Citizenship Amendment Bill

League of Arab States

Presidenta: Sofía Victoria Solís Uribe

A) Measures to ensure State and territorial protection to the State of Palestine to combat the humanitarian crisis as a result of extremists attacks by the Israeli army with special emphasis on violent military interventions in West Bank and the Strip of Gaza

B) Strategies for the Arab League to reinforce the partnership to help promote and support the flourishing of democracy of the the Republic of Tunisia and the State of Libya's governments

Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja

Presidente: Javier Márquez Saucedo

A) Medidas para mejorar la calidad de vida de los desplazados y prisioneros de guerra en Sudán del Sur a causa de la reciente crisis humanitaria del conflicto entre las etnias Dinka y Nuer con énfasis en la reconstrucción de lazos familiares y sociales

B) Medidas para extender el impacto de la metodología "Acceso Más Seguro" en territorio brasileño, con enfoque en las medidas ISO 31000

Security Council

Presidenta: Alejandra Bañuelos González

A) Strategies to address the violence and insecurity in the Central African Republic, focused on rebel coalitions' attacks towards the government and the possible restoration of State authority

B) Measures to prevent current Ethiopia's Tigray conflict from becoming a threat to international peace and security

Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos

Presidenta: Fernanda Valeria Martínez Reyes

A) Masacre de la Aldea Los Josefinos vs. República de Guatemala (2019)

B) Mujeres Víctimas de Tortura Sexual en Atenco vs. Estados Unidos Mexicanos (2016)

International Court of Justice

Presidenta: Carolina Elizabeth Vásquez Regalado

A) Opposition on territorial claims under the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf Act (Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Brunei v. People's Republic of China)

B) Application of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)

“Vision without action is just a dream, action without vision just passes the time, and vision with action can change the world”.

-Joel Arthur Barker.

Participante,

En nuestras manos está el destino de la humanidad, es cierto. Suena como una tarea grande, pero no lo es para el gran grupo de jóvenes que somos. Te darás cuenta de eso en estos tres días. El cambio nunca se logra gracias a un individuo, se necesita a un colectivo con individuos con distintos talentos, oportunidades y capacidades inspiradxs por hacer un cambio real, y eso es lo que somos: personas inspiradas por otras personas motivadas a realizar cambios en el mundo. Lo único que te quiero pedir en este modelo es que esa chispa no se quede en este foro y en estos tres días; te pido que no acabe en un premio, un diploma, o una experiencia. Te pido que salgas y hagas un cambio por ti y por todxs nosotrxs.

Esta no va a ser una carta positiva, ni una carta que te diga que todo estará bien y que des lo mejor de ti, porque eso ya lo deberías de saber. Lo que quiero que saques de este texto es un incentivo para cambiar las cosas, porque el mundo está muy mal. Tan solo ponte a leer algunos de los tópicos que existen en este modelo y trata de abrir tu mente y ser empácticx con las personas que están pasando por esas situaciones tan complicadas. Ahora pregúntate ¿Qué querría que hicieran por mi si estuviera en sus zapatos? ¿Ya? Muy bien, aplícalo. Aplícalo dentro y fuera del Modelo, predica con el ejemplo. Sé extraordinario. Cambia el mundo y ve un paso más allá.

Deja de postergar las cosas, de ver todo tan lejano. Mientras tú lloras y piensas acostadx en tu cama que el mundo está muriendo y que nadie está haciendo nada para detenerlo, hay gente haciendo vacunas, campañas, limpiando las calles y los océanos, haciendo máquinas de energía renovable o bañándose en menos de 5 minutos. Levántate y haz algo, no esperes resultados distintos si sigues haciendo las cosas exactamente igual todos los días. Este modelo representa una mínima parte de tu potencial, úsalo como una prueba contra ti mismo, supérate aquí y ahora. Finalmente, participante, te pido que nunca te conformes, que nunca dejes de tomar pasitos hacia hacer un mejor tú, un mejor nosotros. Y gracias, porque tú que estas leyendo esto, aunque aún no tenga el placer de conocerte en persona, ya cambiaste mi vida.

Nuria Vidal Castillo
Secretary General for the
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For my friends, my presidents, my High Secretariats, my delegates, the Secretariat, and each one of the persons that have been part of TECMUN; this journey lasts more than three days, it perpetuates itself in the mind and in the soul. Un, dos, tres, TECMUN.

Delegate, this will be the last time that I write you a letter. First of all, I would like to congratulate you for the challenge that you are about to start off. It is brave to enter yourself on a challenging experience, full of obstacles, drags, and falls with the only purpose of learning and having an effect on the world, as is TECMUN. It does not matter if it is your first time on the model, or the second one, or the umpteenth one; I assure you that each edition is completely different, and the person that you are when the floor is opened for the first time, will not be the same as the one who will vote a motion to pass a resolution paper, the one who will get a trophée, the one who will get a *chafi*, or in a few words, the one who concludes this TECMUN. As it is my last letter I want to give you everything that this experience has gifted to me. I have told you that on each TECMUN there are stumbles and frustrations, but I may also tell you that there are joys that arrive unforeseen between all the chaos that you will live during these three days. Those feelings can come through on the shape of a proposal which is accepted by your president; or in the moment when you meet again that delegate who became your friend on the last model; also in that emotion that you feel just before the winners of your committee are mentioned; and clearly in the adrenaline you have at the beginning of each of the nine sessions. TECMUN gives us the chance to create from our experience, our words, and our minds, a way to save the world, although you already know this and that is why you are here. The one thing that you do not know is that this project was made 36 years ago exclusively thinking about you, thinking about an experience that would change the life of more than 50,000 youngsters like you with the will to change the world. Maybe now you only see a Model of United Nations just like many others, but it is more like that. Behind your chair there are people like you who once felt or not interested in lifting their placard and talking on a Moderated Caucus where they fell in love with TECMUN; behind your president there were sleepless nights writing the Handbooks that now you have the opportunity to read, as well as days thinking on how to save the committee; behind of each member of TECMUN there were more than 20 meetings full of laughs, crying, emotions, and opinions, preparing to give you this once in a lifetime experience; behind me there were all of the above and more. I passed days on which I did not know where does this project would bring me, nights where I taught if you would read the four letters I wrote you, months searching the way to make you fell in love with this project as I did and maybe one day you would write a letter as this one, and years thinking if I would ever meet you and thank you for being part of the best experience of my life. A purpose, fun, thirst for change, friendships, love, insomnia, knowledge, empathy, interest, sleepovers, karaokes, handbooks, badges, signed placards, a trophée, thousands of ushers, a Subsecretary, two committees, three partners in crime, four committee pictures, five members of Chair and six letters... TECMUN has given to me all of this and now I give it all to you. I hope what you learn today, and tomorrow, and the day after takes you to the destiny you desire not just for you, but for the world, the choice is yours. "I don't know what your future is, but if you're willing to take the harder way, the more complicated one, the one with more failures at first than successes, the one that has ultimately proven to have more meaning, more victory, more glory, then you will not regret it. As you commence to your paths, press on with pride and press on with purpose" (Boseman, 2018).

Armando Daniel Navarro Sánchez
Subsecretary General for the Economic and Social Council
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“The secret of making dreams come true can be summarized in four c’s.

They are curiosity, courage, constancy and confidence.”

-Walt Disney.

Dear delegate,

There are plenty of definitions of what dreamers are, for some are just people who fantasize, for others are wake sleepers, but for me, they are world changers. Every change, no matter how small or big, starts with a single wish of making something different. At first it might seem impossible and I won’t lie to you, the path to your dream will be like a roller coaster with ups, downs and flat spaces, but if you learn from your mistakes and work hard, at the end your dream will be just inevitable. Let TecMun be the first step forward to accomplish that dream. Take every experience and turn it in your favor.

If you ever wonder or doubt how a single person can change the world, remember that even the smallest particle can change the entire balance of the universe. Be that change you want to see in the world. Be that rebel particle that breaks the balance and will never stop questioning everything. Be brave enough to dream in this hard life.

Let TecMun inspire you to dream with a brighter future. Let this model make you realize you can solve global problems in three days. Let me inspire you to imagine what you can accomplish in your whole life. Never forget that the future is very uncertain, but I can tell you for sure that destiny is in the hands of those who are courageous, curious, constant and confident, better known as dreamers.

Sincerely,

María Fernanda Anaya López

President of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons for the

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Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Background

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) emerged in 1997 as the result of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the first agreement which contemplates the elimination of a whole armament category which was chemical weapons. Founded as an independent and autonomous international organization, regarding all the negotiations established in the Conference on Disarmament and Preparatory Commission. It cooperates actively with the United Nations seeking for a world free of chemical weapons used for warfare. The OPCW counts with 193 active Member States who work together in order to keep the chemical research for progress, prosperity, and peace. Its headquarters are located in The Hague, Kingdom of the Netherlands. In order to function, it follows the 24 Articles established in the CWC. The ones that intend to eradicate chemical weapons; protect and assist chemical threats; encourage international cooperation for a peaceful approach of chemistry; call for international security; and global economic development.

Faculties

As the OPCW intends to eliminate the chemical weapons, but also promotes chemical research for economic development, progress and prosperity, it has some special capabilities that focus on:

- Making recommendations regarding the Convention;

- Conduct verification labors in time and effectively considering chemical weaponry;
- Request precise information in order to fulfill the given responsibility;
- Protect the confidentiality of civil and military data;
- Attention for victims;
- Trained personnel to manage the situation regarding the management of dangerous material;
- Pursue the outright performance of the Convention

Topic A

Measures to eliminate and prevent the spread of Novichok agents in the European Union

*By: María Fernanda Anaya López
Ixtli Zenit Ramírez García
Valeria Pérez Cortés*

Introduction.

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, (hereinafter referred to as the OPCW), is an intergovernmental organisation that was established in 1997 as the implementing body of the world's first disarmament agreement, the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) adopted in 1992. Its main purpose is to superintend the global exertion² in order to permanently eliminate chemical weapons and the threat of their use by implementing the provisions of the CWC with its 193 Member States. The vision regarding the use of chemical weapons has changed drastically during the past years, however there are still concerns about its use for warfare. During both World Wars and the Cold War, most of the countries involved developed a chemical programme in order to create a chemical stockpile. At the time the OPCW was created, one of its principal objectives was to destroy that armory under supervision and following certain strict rules established within the CWC. Since then, chemistry would only be used for progress, peace and prosperity. However, some countries keep amassing³ and creating some weapons unlawfully.

In 1980 the Soviet Union developed an advanced nerve agent known as *Novichok*. This agent represented a major concern due to its harmful effects such as slowing the heart, paralysing the muscles and other diverse consequences. It was believed that the substance had been destroyed and its production halted⁴, as nowadays its development and use is forbidden by the OPCW. Nonetheless, in 2018 *Novichok* was used against Sergei Skripal, a former Russian military officer who acted as a double agent for the British government, and his daughter Yulia as an attempt of assassination in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Also in August 2020, the main opponent of Vladimir Putin, Alexei Navalny, fell unconscious in a Russian airline due to an attack with the same nerve agent. As a member

² **Exertion:** the use of authority, power or influence to make something happen. (Cambridge Dictionary, s.f.)

³ **Amass:** get a large amount of something after collecting it for a long time.(Cambridge Dictionary, s.f.)

⁴ **Halt:** to stop doing or moving something. (Cambridge Dictionary, s.f.)

of the OPCW, the Russian Federation declared that all production and use of weapons had been stopped. However, it was found that the Federation was behind all the attacks and then refused to give any declaration that ensured the destruction of the *Novichok* agent. Consequently, neighbouring countries and its citizens became worried about the situation as the European Union is the target region, since the United Kingdom; the French Republic; the Kingdom of Sweden, the Russian Federation and the Federal Republic of Germany are the main countries involved in the conflict. For this reason, the international community is trying to discuss different strategies to achieve the complete elimination of this highly lethal weapon and its residuals, as well as ensuring the protection of the population and international peace.

The implication of Chemical Weapons.

According to the definition of the OPCW, a chemical weapon is a chemical that is employed to murder a person intentionally, or distress other devices such as munitions or equipment used to weaponize toxic chemicals which are considered as chemical weapons too. A chemical agent can be used in different modalities whether liquid, gaseous, or solid. "Chemical agents become weapons when they are placed into artillery shells, land mines, aerial bombs, missile warheads, (...), or any other means of delivering the agents to designated targets" (Scheneider, 2020). Their use is forbidden unless it is permitted by the CWC, as it is established in the article VI, subjection 2:

Each State Party shall adopt the necessary measures to ensure that toxic chemicals and their precursors are only developed, produced, otherwise acquired, retained, transferred, or used within its territory or in any other place under its jurisdiction or control for purposes not prohibited under this Convention. (CWC, 1992)

There are several chemical agents that can be labelled as chemical weapons considering the detrimental⁵ effects they have on one's health and some of them have been developed into weapons since the beginning of World War I including herbicides such as picloram⁶, 2,4-D, dimethyl, and arsenic acid, were used as defoliants⁷ to destroy enemy crops in past conflicts such as the Vietnam War. Also, disablings such as lysergic acid diethylamide, methaqualone, and mescaline were developed back then, and they can cause hallucinations and psychotic thinking, as well as make someone sleepy or being slow to respond. Then, choking agents such as chlorine, phosgene, and chloropicrin, whose inhalation can cause the end of a life through oxygen deficiency. There are also blood agents, such as hydrogen cyanide, that were developed with the aim of obstructing the conduction of the oxygen through the cells causing asphyxia. On the other hand, Riot-control Agents such as chloroacetophenone⁸, can cause harm to the respiratory system and aggravation in the eyes. Also, Blister Agents such as sulphur mustard, seldom murder but its inhalation can burn the eyes, the skin and the respiratory tract. Finally, Nerve Agents such as Novichok, Tabun, and Sarin, can paralyse brain centres controlling respiration, causing “(...) intense sweating, filling of the bronchial passages with mucus, dimming of vision, uncontrollable vomiting and defecation, convulsion, paralysis, and respiratory failure” (Scheneider, 2020).

These chemical agents are categorized according to their physical state (gaseous, solid, or liquid), and their physical characteristics such as persistency, lethality, and the effects it causes on the human body. In the category of persistency, some agents evaporate in minutes; like sulphur mustard that was used in World War I to neutralize air bases by denying its use to the adversary. Nerve agents such as Sarin, Soman and *Novichok* fit in the category of lethality

⁵ **Detrimental**: causing harm or damage. (Cambridge Dictionary, s.f.)

⁶ **Picloram**: herbicide used in crops. (UNAM, 2020)

⁷ **Defoliant**: chemical used to make leaves drop. (Cambridge Dictionary, s.f.)

⁸ **Chloroacetophenone**: commonly known as gas CN, use by police for crowd controlling. (Niosh, 2020)

since a few droplets absorbed through the skin can cause death in less than an hour. Chemical agents might be delivered via artillery shells, mines, aerial bombs, aerosols, mortars, or missile warheads because they have their ingredients previously pre-mixed in comparison to binary weapons⁹. Lastly, in the category of effects on the human body, gases such as hydrogen cyanide and chlorine fit together since they are created with the same purpose, affect the sufferer's lungs. There are several treatments to attend victims of chemical weapons attacks such as therapies of atropine, benzodiazepine, and oxime, intubation, the use of nebulized sodium bicarbonate for decontamination purposes, among others. The effects of the attack can be curable depending on the treatment and the type of weapon that was used against the victim, taking into consideration the lethality of the chemical agents.

Nerve agents in chemical warfare.

In the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, chemical warfare is defined as a belic conflict which uses substances such as; gases, smoke or incendiary mixture with burning, choking or poisonous properties to gain a military or political advantage. Chemical warfare has been an ancient practice during human conflicts. Even since prehistory, natives used the poison of toads and snakes to put them in arrows and knives in order to be more lethal. Through the years the chemical weapons have evolved with the humans, becoming more lethal each time. As new chemical agents are discovered yearly, the possibilities to create a new type of chemical weapon increase.

Nerve agents are extremely poisonous substances that have been manufactured for its use in chemical warfare, by disrupting the nervous system, and preventing it from a proper function. However, they were not always used to cause harm to humans. Around the 1930s, in an attempt to create cheaper and better insecticides, the first nerve agent was created. In a

⁹ **Binary weapons:** a chemical weapon consisting of a projectile containing two substances separately that mix to produce a lethal agent when the projectile is fired. (WordReference, s.f.)

German research, scientists created two different compounds with phosphorus that were effective in destroying pests, but soon they discovered that a minimum amount of the compound could cause distressing¹⁰ symptoms when humans were exposed to it. As both chemicals were too toxic for human beings, consequently they were soon discontinued as pesticides, but the research on these continued. Then the investigation was turned over to the Nazi armed forces, who decided to construct plants to manufacture them as weapons; and so those two compounds became known as Tabun and Sarin.

Also, in German laboratories, an extremely dangerous nerve agent named *Novichok* was created. It was specifically designed to avoid international inspections and detections after death, which make it difficult to treat the poisoning. The research continued for many years when the nerve agent VX, which is one of the most dangerous chemicals due to its symptoms, was created in the Imperial Chemical Industries laboratory located in the United Kingdom. Later on the country renounced to weapons, and passed the study to the United States of America. After several years of research, in 1968, its destructive capacity and toxicity were proven, and since then, several nerve agents have been created with the purpose of attacking humans through gas and liquid substances that the body may absorb through the skin, inhale or ingest affecting the body function. As they affect the transmission of impulse between nerves, some symptoms are extremely dangerous and can be manifested in several ways, causing the system to fail. It also shut down the muscles, so life can be ended by asphyxia or the stop of the heart beating.

The Novichok Agent.

The name "*Novichok*" means "newcomer" in Russian, and it refers to a Nerve Agent developed by the Russians during 1970 and 1980. This substance is made out of carbonimidic phosphorus

¹⁰ **Distressing:** upsetting or worrying. (Cambridge Dictionary, s.f.)

halides¹¹, and it was developed under a military program codenamed “Foliant” with the purpose of evading detection by international inspections by skirting the specifications established by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1980 and in the CWC. During the Cold War, Western countries and the USSR competed for the development of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) among other things. After the discovery and development of the V-agents¹² in the United Kingdom and the United States of America, several Soviet scientists started developing independently an isomer of VX agent; Russian VX, a prototype for *Novichok*. Dr. Vil Mirzayanov, a Russian researcher of the State Research Institute of Organic Chemistry and Technology who collaborated with the “Foliant” program developing methods of detecting extremely minute traces of the precursors used, unveiled¹³ *Novichok* for the first time in 1992 through the Russian media and revealed the formula after he defected to the United States of America through his book “State Secret” (2018). Gary Stephens, a pharmacology expert at the University of Reading, declared that *Novichok* was more dangerous and sophisticated than other chemical weapons like Sarin or VX, which were nerve agents that were already used in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and the Syrian Arab Republic. “In fact, it is five to eight times more toxic than VX nerve agent” (Stephens, 2020). Nowadays, scientists cannot agree on whether *Novichok* can last for too long or not. On the one hand, some say it is very stable and if it is kept in containers, it could last for years. On the other hand, Dr. Mirzayanov, doctor who first revealed the *Novichok* formula, says it only lasts for some months. The issue is that *Novichok* has not been studied and understood as other nerve agents which are more frequently used, and Dr. Mirzayanov had his last approach to the agent before his relocation¹⁴ in 1995. According to the United States of America National Center for Biotechnology

¹¹ **Phosphorus halides:** are compounds that a phosphorus forms with a halogen. (Cambridge Dictionary, s.f.)

¹² **V-agents:** organophosphate esters that are used as chemical weapons. They are extremely potent acetylcholinesterase inhibitors. (Hayoun, 2020)

¹³ **Unveiled:** to show it or make it known for the first time. (Cambridge Dictionary, s.f.)

¹⁴ **Relocation:** the process of moving to a different place to work, or of moving employees to a different place to work. (Cambridge Dictionary, s.f.)

Information, only Substance -33, A-230, A-232, A-234, Novichok-5, and Novichok-7 are known to be weaponized and most of the warfare agents are binary, which means that the agent is made up with two other chemicals or precursors that are less toxic, easier to transport, handle, and store. Another of the reasons for which *Novichok* is chosen to be used and developed as a weapon is because the agents used to produce it are not banned by the CWC and the NATO, which makes it easier for extremists to find and move them around the globe.

The symptoms of the agent are provoked by the blocking of the signals sent from the nerves to the muscles, which causes failure of many organs and functions. When exposed to Novichok-5 by air, Andrei Zheleznyakov described “early toxicity consisting of mydriasis¹⁵ and shortness of breath due to bronchorrhea. These symptoms rapidly progress to seizures, respiratory paralysis, bradycardia, coma, and death” (Zheleznyakov, 1987). The treatment that must be followed to save the victim from an air attack with the substance is first, their clothes must be removed because the agent can emit trapped vapours for up to 30 minutes. Then, eyes must be cleaned with water and skin with water and soap. Clinicians must administer intravenous atropine and an additional administration of pralidoxime, but the diverse types of exposure may suppose a different approach from the medical assistance. Antidotes are available to medical professionals and they are usually followed to treat every nerve agent exposure as they attack the same system, the main difference between Novichok and agents like Sarin is the aggressiveness of the agent. Delayed treatment or massive exposure may cause a debilitating neuropathy or even death.

The Salisbury Incident.

Sergei Viktorovich Skripal is a Russian ex military intelligence officer who acted as a double agent for the United Kingdom. In 2004, he was arrested by the Russian Federal Security

¹⁵ **Mydriasis:** excessive or prolonged dilatation of the pupil of the eye. (Merriam-Webster, 2020).

Service. Subsequently, he was convicted for treason¹⁶ and imprisoned. However, without having served his 13-year sentence, he was released under the Russian government. On March 4th of 2018, Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia were found unconscious on a park bench located in Salisbury, United Kingdom. Both were in critical conditions, so they were transported to the Salisbury District Hospital. Soon after, they realized it was not a minor situation, since officers, paramedics, and patients that were near the location were reporting troubling symptoms that coincided with effects of a nerve agent. Authorities quickly take action and discovered they had been poisoned with the *Novichok* agent, which led them to think that it was an attempt of assassination from the Russian Federation, due to Sergei's background with the Russian government. Four months after the attack, two other British civilians were poisoned with the *Novichok* agent. A couple was walking around the location where Sergei and his daughter were poisoned, when they found an abandoned perfume bottle which was employed to contain traces of the chemical agent that had previously been used on the Skripals. The couple was exposed and had contact with the remaining toxins, for which they were seriously injured. When medical services arrived at the scene, they only managed to save the man who was later identified as Nicholas Bailey, permanently losing his sight. Both incidents instigated¹⁷ a dispute between the United Kingdom and the Russian Federation, after British investigators inculcate the Russian government for the attack.

The international community was afraid that *Novichok* could spread around, therefore it started pushing the OPCW to do something. Consequently, the Organisation started strict investigations of the laboratories in the Russian Federation. Also, the pressure was over Theresa May. The culprits were neither found nor punished, so the rumors of the implication

¹⁶ **Treason:** the offense of attempting by overt acts to overthrow the government of the state to which the offender owes allegiance or to kill or personally injure the sovereign or the sovereign's family. (Merriam-Webster, 2020)

¹⁷ **Instigate:** to cause an event or situation to happen by making a set of actions or a formal process begin. (Cambridge Dictionary, s.f.)

of the Russian Government started spreading. The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, accused Vladimir Putin's administration. The case made its way to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for strict violations of the CWC. The debate concluded in a full disclosure of the *Novichok* program; Russia agreed to give OPCW a nerve agent sample as soon as a criminal investigation allows it. The further investigations about the precedence of the nerve agent ended that the neurotoxin was produced in a small chemical plant located in Shikhany, Russia. Novichok has been added to the list of banned chemicals by the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The poisoning of Alexei Navalny.

Alexei Navalny has been the most prominent face of the Russian opposition and has led several nationwide protests against the Russian authorities. He joined the liberal opposition party "Yabloko", one of the leading liberal parties in the newly democratic Russian Federation of 1990. However, he was expelled from it in 2007 because of his controversial comments about immigration and also because he assisted an anti-Putin march. He created the Anti-Corruption Foundation and carried out different investigations on the Kremlin's elite, of which he claims to have obtained information on the Prime Minister, Dmitry Medvedev, and his one billion network of palaces. He tried to run for president in the 2018 election, but he was forbidden to do it by the Central Election Commission. Several legal cases have kept Navalny under investigation, courts and under house arrest even when the European Court of Human Rights declared one of those cases unfair. On August 20th of 2020, when Navalny was on a flight from Siberia to Moscow fell seriously ill in consequence, for an hour he was assisted by a nurse that was on board until the pilot could do an emergency landing in Omsk. He was rushed to a hospital in the city where he was kept in the acute poisoning department for two days, unable to be transferred to Berlin, Federal Republic of Germany. On August 22nd, he was airlifted to the Charite clinic in Berlin, where doctors said that the tests showed he had been poisoned, but

the chief doctor and the chief toxicologist from Omsk insisted they did not find any poisonous substance in his body.

On September 2nd, the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, revealed that Navalny had been unequivocally poisoned with *Novichok*. The tests were conducted in a military lab in Munich, and in two more labs from the French Republic and the Kingdom of Sweden that confirmed the results, but the Russian Federation has given multiple alternative explanations like drug overdose and low blood sugar. After Merkel's Declaration, the United Kingdom Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, said that the Russian Federation needed to explain the incident, and that the United Kingdom would now work with its allies to show there are consequences for those who still use banned chemical weapons. The White House National Security Council in Washington, United States of America also made a statement about the responsibility of the Russian Federation on the incident. The actions of these countries regarding the issue are still unclear as projects involving the Russian Federation, like the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, are still in progress. According to the New York Times, Navalny has already recovered and does not pretend to go into exile in the Federal Republic of Germany, he will go back to the Russian Federation and continue with his mission. On 14 December 2020, Navalny recorded a video of him making a call to the F.S.B agent he suspected was the one responsible for poisoning him; Konstantin Kudryavtsev, who graduated from the Russian Academy of Chemical Defence. The agent confessed planting poison on his underpants without leaving any trace after Navalny pretended to be a senior figure from Russian Federation's National Security Council. The Federal Security Service or F.S.B is a successor agency to the K.G.B. that the president Putin ran before assuming his actual charge. After the accusation, Mr. Putin denied that he was behind the poisoning but according to the New York Times, Bellingcat published an investigation that said that "F.S.B. officers with expertise in poisons had trailed Mr. Navalny

for years and were nearby at the time he was exposed to the military-grade nerve agent that nearly killed him in Siberia” (Troianovski, 2020).

The role of the OPCW and the international cooperation on the Novichok spread.

As it is already known one of the main aims of the OPCW programme is to provide protection and assistance against chemical weapons, as well as preventing their re-emergence. For this reason, the Organisation designated laboratories to investigate allegations of the use of chemical weapons. The OPCW Designated Laboratories were specifically designed for the purpose of performing off-site analysis of chemical samples that should be collected by OPCW inspectors, as well as offer assurance to the Member States that all chemical analysis are carried out in a competent and impartial way, with unambiguous results. These laboratories are chosen according to the quality system, the international accreditation body and the successful performance during the OPCW testing programme. Thanks to its Designated Laboratories, many countries have turned to the Organisation for support related to potentially toxic substances.

Regarding the incident that involved an extremely toxic chemical agent that occurred on March 4, 2018 in Salisbury, the United Kingdom requested technical assistance from the OPCW. The OPCW team decided to work independently and research without getting involved in the national British investigations; they collected samples (biomedical and environmental) and then sent them to four of the Organisation designated laboratories to make analysis, which confirmed the United Kingdom findings in relation to the *Novichok*. The OPCW then shared the report with the State Parties of the CWC. After three months of the accident in Salisbury, another chemical incident related to a toxic agent occurred in the city of Amesbury. So once more, the United Kingdom requested technical assistance from the OPCW, to which the OPCW followed the same protocol to determine the nature of the substance and it was found that the chemical had the exact same properties as the chemical agent used in the Salisbury incident. In

addition to the assistance provided by the OPCW, the Member States cooperated with the United Kingdom's national investigation and made statements about the situation, which were later reviewed by the Executive Council of the OPCW. At the fifty-ninth meeting of the OPCW Executive Council, the ambassador Peter Wilson as the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland declared that the country believes only the Russian Federation had the technical means, operational experience, and the motive to target the Skripals. In technical means, the Russian Federation has previously produced *Novichoks* and would still be capable of producing them today, and the country has further developed some *Novichoks* after ratifying the CWC. In operational experience, the Russian Federation has a huge history of assassinations, during the 2000s the country started a programme to train personnel in the use of chemical weapons, and has produced small quantities of *Novichok* under the same programme. Finally, the motive is very clear given Sergei's background and the betrayal to the government.

The OPCW also played an important role when the poisoning of Alexei Navalny happened, since the Federal Republic of Germany requested technical assistance from the Organization in September 2020. Upon Germany's request, the OPCW sent a team of experts to collect biomedical samples from Navalny after receiving his consent, which were later sent to the designated laboratories in order to analyze them. The results of the analysis showed similar structural toxic chemicals to the *Novichok* agent used in both of the previous attacks. A month later, the OPCW Technical Secretariat sent experts to the Russian Federation in order to obtain Navalny's medical file. The Russian Federation only agreed to this on the condition that they fulfill legal requirements to access the documents and obtain them under special supervision. According to the OPCW, the Russian Federation has proposed more than thirty contradictory and changing fantasies to explain the Alexei Navalny attack, as well as some

actions that the country has taken to confuse and distract that have not worked, but instead show how hard they are trying to hide the truth.

After the three attacks that occurred in the last two years, all related to the *Novichok* agent, the Russian Federation remains the main suspect due to its background and the advanced technology that it possesses. Also, in the mid-2000s, President Putin was closely involved in the chemical weapons programme. However, the country has made statements to the State Parties declaring that all of their weapons were disarmed and that all the accusations are nothing but fiction. But, since the Russian Federation refuses to let the OPCW inspect and ensure there's no chemical weapons re-emergence in the country, the investigations related to the attacks and the spread of the Novichok agent continue. OPCW Member States want the Russian Federation complying with its obligations under the CWC, to end the offensive chemical weapons programme.

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Topic B

Strategies to develop arrangements for the
fulfillment of the Chemical Weapons
Convention in countries with recent breaches
with emphasis in the Syrian Arab Republic

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Introduction.

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) was created on April 29th of 1997, in order to hinder¹⁸ the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer or use of chemical weapons. It has exactly 24 Articles and three annexes that aim to facilitate the supervision of the destruction of each chemical armory. In 1993, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, the Federal Republic of Germany, the People's Republic of China, among others became the first countries to sign it. Ever since then 193 countries have become Member States. Every signatory country made a declaration in which rectified the fulfillment of each article of the Convention. The Syrian Arab Republic signed the CWC in 2013 and made its declaration “the agreement will start working one month after the signature of the CWC. Syria will deliver information of its chemical weapons to international organizations. [...]But it is a both sides cooperation” (ASSAD, 2013), but it was declared as inaccurate and discrepant by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (hereinafter referred as the OPCW) and the Security Council (SC).

The Syrian Civil War started the same year the country signed the CWC. Since then, the Syrian Arab Republic has not given a formal affidavit¹⁹ against the recent accusation about the usage of chemical weapons on its Civil War. The OPCW recalled its Member States to sign and reaffirm the principles of the CWC in 2018, otherwise the Syrian Arab Republic has ignored the calls for the signature. “The OPCW Declaration Assessment Teams was established in 2014 to engage the relevant Syrian authorities to resolve the identified gaps and inconsistencies in the Syrian declaration” (OPCW, 2020). In one of the rounds of the consultations, only three issues from the Syrian initial declaration were covered, meanwhile, 19 others were inconsistent. One of them pertains²⁰ to a chemical weapons production facility

¹⁸ **Hinder:** look for (Cambridge Dictionary, s. f.)

¹⁹ **Affidavit:** declaration (Cambridge Dictionary, s.f.)

²⁰ **Pertains:** related with something (Cambridge Dictionary, s.f.)

declared by Syria's national authority as "never having been used for the production of chemical weapons" (OCHA, 2020), but according to the samples obtained by the Declaration Assessment Teams; production of chemical warfare was made in that facility.

The OPCW is searching for ways to make sure that the Syrian Arab Republic can fulfill the Convention avoiding non-effective resolutions such as, changing some points of the Convention, making exceptions, neither disqualifying the Republic. According to the principal aim of the OPCW, which is to achieve a world permanently free of chemical weapons and to contribute into international security and stability, general and complete disarmament, and global economic development (OPCW, 2020), the Organization can intervene in the development of the correct procedures of elimination of weapons so it will not let residuals that can affect civilians, nature or both.

The Chemical Weapons Convention.

In 1925, as part of a series of measures that intended to prevent the atrocities committed in the World War I from being repeated, the Geneva Protocol which outlaws²¹ the use of chemical and biological weapons on warfare was created. Before World War II, 32 countries ratified the Protocol, agreeing not to use chemical agents for warfare purposes. As a consequence of the unclarity of the Protocol and its limitations while prohibiting the use of chemical weapons in warfare but not its possession, each country interpreted the Protocol in different ways, which generated controversies between countries. A few years after Geneva Protocol entered into force, the countries realized that the treaty was ambiguous and that for it to function properly it had to be far more comprehensive. For this reason, after years of painstaking²² negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament and the Preparatory Commission the decision was made to create the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use

²¹ **Outlaws:** broke the law, illegal (Cambridge Dictionary, s.f.)

²² **Painstaking:** extremely careful and correct, and involving a lot of effort (Cambridge Dictionary, s.f.)

of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, better known as the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). However, in order for the Convention to enter into force it needed 65 countries to ratify, a capable organisation to implement its mandates, and a huge amount of spadework²³ to be done.

The Convention entered into force on April 29th of 1997 after 180 days with all the requirements as established in the Preparatory Commission, and the OPCW, which would be the organisation in charge to fulfil the CWC mandates, emerged. The CWC became the first multilateral disarmament agreement designed to eradicate a whole category of weapons of mass destruction within a period of time by prohibiting the production, acquisition, use, and development of chemical weapons by States Parties. When the CWC was ratified by the 65 different countries, these ones agreed to destroy any stockpile of chemical weapons, to create a verification regime, and to ensure that those chemicals are only used under the Convention's permitted purposes. The CWC consists of 24 articles and three annexes in which the obligations, protocols and procedures to be followed are established. It also includes statements of State Parties, measures implemented at a national level, prohibited and non-prohibited actions and some other important mandates. Among one of the listed articles of the Convention is the Article I - General Obligations. This article declares that no direct or indirect transfer of chemical weapons should be made; the manufacture, acquisition and retention of chemical weapons is prohibited; and no training or preparation can be given in the use of chemical weapons. It also prohibits the assistance, encouragement or induction to other States to take part in CWC-prohibited activities and the application of riot control agents in warfare. The Article III - Declarations "requires each State Party to submit declarations to the OPCW within 30 days after the Convention enters into force for that particular State Party" (OPCW, 2020).

²³ **Spadework:** the uninteresting work that has to be done as preparation before you can start a project or activity (Collins Dictionary, s.f.)

Once a country is part of the CWC it is asked to declare each year in order to have updated and specific information about the chemical weapons stockpiles and production facilities.

As the purpose of the CWC is to disarm chemical weapons and use chemistry for peace, “the Convention encourages trade among States Parties, calling upon them not to maintain restrictions on one another that would hamper²⁴ the trade of chemical-related items to be used for peaceful purposes” (Kimball, 2020). Also the countries that signed and ratified the CWC, and therefore are Member States of the OPCW, must follow specific requirements for the destruction of their chemical armory as well as reporting their remaining stockpiles. Each State Party shall present a detailed plan of action to destroy their chemical weapons not later than 60 days before each annual destruction period begins. According to the Convention, chemical weapons stockpiles are classified in three into what are known as “schedules”, and depending on its classification a specific process will be carried out for its disarmament. The chemicals and their precursors are classified based on the menace they constitute to the Convention: Schedule 1 are those that pose a high risk to the purpose of the CWC as a consequence of its high potential of use in activities under the Convention’s prohibited actions and has no use for peace purposes, this includes all nerve gases. Schedule 2 are those that involve a significant risk to the Convention’s aim as it owns lethal or incapacitating toxicity that could warrant²⁵ it to be used as a chemical weapon, but which are used in little quantities for chemical manufacturing. Schedule 3 possesses otherwise a risk to the object of the CWC and it may be produced in large commercial consignments for permitted purposes under the Convention. Regardless of the process that must be carried out for the destruction of the armory, every State Party ought-to earmark²⁶ the highest priority to ensure the safety of citizens and to protect the environment. All State Parties are requested to destroy “all chemical weapons under their

²⁴ **Hamper:** to interfere with; to impede the natural activity of (Merriam-Webster, 2020)

²⁵ **Warrant:** to give authority to; authorize (Dictionary.com, s.f.)

²⁶ **Earmark:** to keep or intend something for a particular purpose (Cambridge Dictionary, s.f.)

jurisdiction or control, all chemical weapons production facilities under their jurisdiction or control, chemical weapons abandoned on other states' territories, and old chemical weapons" (Kimball, 2020). To ensure that Member States adequately comply with the CWC on-site activities routine inspections, challenge inspections and investigations of presumed application of chemical weapons are carried out by the OPCW.

The OPCW has a governing body which is the Executive Council responsible for promoting the successful implementation of and compliance with the Convention. Among its functions, one of the most important is "to take measures in cases of non-compliance by a State-Party including the submission of recommendations for action to be taken by the Conference" (OPCW, 2020). Also, the OPCW Technical Secretariat aids the Conference of the States Parties and the Executive Council in performing their duties and carries out the verification measures of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Included on its most important functions, the Technical Secretariat prepares the annual reports on the implementation of the CWC and inspects the State Party's on-site conducts. The Convention assigns the Conference of the States Parties several responsibilities among which is to discuss the necessary measures to ensure every State Party compliance by considering and embracing the Programme of Work of the Technical Secretariat. This programme determines the number of chemical weapons destruction inspections as well as the number of industrial inspections that take place annually. If it is found that a State Party does not comply with the regulations that the CWC imposes or is engaged in any action not allowed by the Convention, it will receive a penalty for non-compliance. The penalties will depend on the seriousness of the situation, since they could lead to the OPCW recommending punitive measures to other States Parties. The allegation caused by a non-compliance of the Convention shall be discussed within the Conference of the States Parties. The accused State Party shall take measures to address the issue raised regarding its

compliance with the CWC, and if it does not, the OPCW may restrict or suspend its rights and privileges in relation to the Convention, such as voting and trade rights.

While a State Party cannot be deprived of its membership of the OPCW, the Conference is authorised to take measures necessary to ensure compliance with the Convention. These measures include restriction or suspension of a State Party's rights and privileges under the Convention; the recommendation to States Parties of collective punitive measures in conformity with international law and in cases of serious damage to the object and purpose of the Convention; and, in cases of particular gravity, bringing the issue to the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. (OPCW, 2020)

Chemical stockpile of the Syrian Arab Republic and its usage in the Syrian Civil War.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry spokesman, Jihad Makdissi, declared publicly in 2012 that the Syrian Arab Republic possesses chemical weapons with the purpose of using them only against external aggressions and never for attacks against civilians. After the research and confirmation of the U.S Intelligence Community about the acquisition of the Syrian government of a stockpile composed of nerve agents such as Sarin and VX, and blister agents such as Mustard Gas, the first allegation of the use of chemical weapons in the Republic of Syria was reported. It happened in the city of Homs in which seven people were murdered with a "poisonous gas", better known as Agent 15. In 2013, a secret state department cable in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey established that there was reliable evidence which proves that the Syrian Arab Republic had been using chemical weapons inside of its territory.

Some of the syrian cities whose civilians were victims of chemical attacks were the city of Aleppo, the city of Saraqib, and the city of Ghouta. The syrian government has been found guilty of many attacks, as well as the Islamic State. The Syrian Archive documented 212 chemical attacks in the Republic, the aim of this open source platform is to support media reporters, human rights investigators, among other advocates in their efforts to investigate

visual documentation in conflict areas and human rights violations in the Syrian Arab Republic. On the other hand the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission was able to confirm only 16 of the cases that were documented by the Syrian Archive, this project was created with the objective of establishing statements related to the allegations of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic for hostile purposes. One of those occurred during 2017 when the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission documented Chlorine use which were attributed to both, the Syrian Regime and the Islamic State. The Syrian government also used Sarin, a lethal nerve agent, offtimes in August 2013 and April 2017 according to international investigations. The Joint Investigative Mechanism with the support of the OPCW, discovered that the Islamic State was guilty of using Sulfur Mustard gas against civilians during August 2015 and September 2016.

With the ocured chemical attack using Sarin in the city of Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic in August 2013, in which 1,400 people died, the ex-president of the United States of America Barack Obama, declared the fact that it was a necessity to destroy Syrian chemical weapons by working with independent inspectors and international partners, and ordering a military strike against the Syrian Arab Republic. In order to avoid the military intervention of the United States of America, the Russian Federation proposed an international effort to locate and destroy Syrian chemical stockpiles, which Obama agreed. “The UN Security Council adopted a resolution codifying the plan and reserving the right to resort to military action in the event of Syrian noncompliance” (Sanders-Zakre, 2019). After a week, the Syrian Arab Republic declared 1,308 metric tons of Sulfur Mustard agent which were destroyed by the OPCW. Nevertheless, it’s been determined by the international community that the Syrian declaration for the fulfillment of the CWC is not complete because there were many inconsistencies about the complete destruction of Chlorine stockpiles.

There have been declarations of the supposed acquisition and use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Civil War. This warfare is a conflict that started as a result of the corruption, high

unemployment and lack of political freedom with the influence of the Arab Spring. The controversy of the use of chemical weapons started when the military used weaponized Chlorine as a riot-control agent in the form of dropping gas. “Nerve agents, such as sarin, choking agents, such as weaponized chlorine, and blister agents, such as sulphur mustard, have been used in Syria over the course of the Civil War”(Sanders-Zakre, 2019). The Syrian Civil War started in 2011 and it is still ongoing.

International consequences provoked by the violation of the CWC by the Syrian Arab Republic.

The attacks in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic in 2013 caused boundless²⁷ reactions in the international community, starting with the United States of America. At that moment the ex-president Barack Obama was in the head of the government, he proposed using the U. S. military force located in the Republic to attack strategic points in retaliation²⁸ of the usage of toxic agents against civilians. The French Republic supported it, however the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran, Syrian Republic's closest allies, firmly opposed. The Russian Federation and the United States of America settled an agreement on the “Framework for Elimination of Syrian Chemical Weapons” in order to destroy the chemical amass and its production. Also, the Syrian Arab Republic agreed to sign the Chemical Weapon Convention.

The incidents were left behind because the confirmation of the usage of chemical weapons took a while . Nevertheless, on July 6th of 2018 the OPCW confirmed the usage of the gas Chlorine in Damascus’ attack. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and the French Republic answered by invading the

²⁷ **Boundless:** having no limit (Cambridge Dictionary, s.f.)

²⁸ **Retaliation:** the act of hurting someone or doing something harmful to someone because they have done or said something hurtful to you (Cambridge Dictionary, s.f.)

Syrian Arab Republic through air and water. The Russian Federation called for an emergency meeting of the Security Council which aimed to condemn the attacks, but the resolution did not pass. Instead the countries agreed to provide medical help and safe passage across the Syrian Arab Republic. In the last two years the international community urged the OPCW for an answer. The tension among the countries supporting the Syrian Arab Republic and the ones that are not supporting it has been growing. The United States' last declaration on Syrian chemical weapons was that it was "locked and loaded"(Haley, 2018) to use the military force if Syria used toxic agents again. The Syrian Government has only denied the usage of chemical weapons and claim every facility to produce them is closed or destroyed, despite all the evidence the OPCW reveal.

The role of the OPCW.

After the gruesome²⁹ attack with chemical weapons in the Ghouta area of Damascus that victimized many civilians, the United Nations investigated the incident and confirmed that a large scale of chemical weapons were used in the Syrian Arab Republic. As a consequence, the country decided to eliminate their chemical weapons programme and deposited its instruments of accession to the CWC in 2013, hence the OPCW has been actively involved in Syria. The OPCW created the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) to resolve the gaps and inconsistencies in the Syria declaration about its chemical weapons programme. One month later, in order to supervise the timely elimination of the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic in the safest way possible, the OPCW-UN Joint Mission was established. This mission was successfully completed by the destruction and removal of all chemicals declared by the Syrian Arab Republic in 2014. In the same year the OPCW decided to set up a Fact Finding Mission (FFM), which helped to establish allegations of the use of Chlorine in

²⁹ **Gruesome:** extremely unpleasant and shocking, and usually dealing with death or injury (Cambridge Dictionary, s.f.)

the country. Thanks to the discoveries of the FFM, the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) worked as an independent body to identify the perpetrators of the chemical weapons attacks and later presented its reports to the OPCW, until 2017 when its mandate expired.

The role of the OPCW is to ensure that “the use of chemical weapons by anyone under any circumstances, emphasising that any use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anyone, under any circumstances is unacceptable and contravenes international norms and standards” (OPCW, 2019). For this reason at the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties, each member made the decision to condemn the use of chemical weapons especially in the Republic of Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. A few months later, a chemical weapons-related attack in the Syrian Arab Republic emerged, alarming many countries and drawing the attention of the OPCW. Investigations began, and statements were requested from the country about their stockpiles and chemical weapons facilities. As an implementing measure of the decision made on the Conference of the States Parties and due to Syria's situation, the OPCW Secretariat created an Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) which would be responsible for identifying the perpetrators of the Syrian Arab Republic and informing to the Organisation the origin of the chemical weapons used in the attack. However, with the purpose of strengthening the implementation of the CWC, on 2018 in the Conference of the States Parties, all members decided that the IIT would be able to provide adequate assistance to States Parties that request it to the OPCW Director-General in order to investigate possible chemical weapons use in the country's territory. All information recovered by the IIT is sent to the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW who later shall provide regular reports and investigations to the Executive Council and the United Nations Secretary-General for consideration. The IIT has successfully accomplished two investigation cases of the chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Besides the efforts previously made in the Syrian Arab Republic to disarm their chemical weapons stockpiles and to ensure its compliance with the CWC, the OPCW also provided scientific and technological resources to help the country gain a better understanding of scientific aspects of the Organisation's work and promoting scientific literacy. On the other hand, as a consequence of the attacks on citizens of the Syrian Arab Republic, the OPCW yielded assistance and protection resources, as well as capacitating personnel to recognise signs and symptoms of chemical warfare. To ensure full implementation of the Convention, specifically in the Syrian Arab Republics after the attacks in the past years, the OPCW implemented international cooperation and assistance through capacity building. Furthermore the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW carries out on-site activities routine inspections, challenge inspections and investigations of presumed application of chemical weapons.

The OPCW is dedicated to supporting States Parties in their efforts to fully and effectively implement the Convention. Capacity building programmes have been formulated specifically to facilitate national implementation (Article VII), provide assistance and protection against chemical weapons (Article X), and promote international cooperation in the field of peaceful chemical activities, aimed at enhancing economic and technological development (OPCW, 2020).

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Glossary for Resolution Papers

Preambulatory Phrases

Preambulatory Phrases are used at the beginning of every Resolution Paper in order to give context about the resolutions made for the topic. Preambulatory Phrases must be written in italics followed by a sentence that gives said context. For each Resolution Paper there must be five sentences beginning with a Preambulatory Phrase.

Affirming	Desiring	Noting with deep concern
Alarmed by	Emphasizing	Noting with satisfaction
Approving	Expecting	Noting further
Bearing in mind	Expressing its appreciation	Observing
Believing	Fulfilling	Reaffirming
Confident	Fully aware	Realizing
Contemplating	Further deploring	Recalling
Convinced	Further recalling	Recognizing
Declaring	Guided by	Referring
Deeply concerned	Having adopted	Seeking
Deeply conscious	Having considered	Taking into consideration
Deeply convinced	Having examined	Taking note
Deeply disturbed	Having received	Viewing with appreciation
Deeply regretting	Keeping in mind	Welcoming

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Glossary for Resolution Papers

Operative Clauses

Operative Clauses are used at the beginning of every resolution within the Resolution Paper on the debated topic. It must be written in italics and bold.

Accepts	Endorses	Notes
Affirms	Draws the attentions	Proclaims
Approves	Emphasizes	Reaffirms
Authorizes	Encourages	Recommends
Calls	Expresses its appreciation	Regrets
Calls upon	Expresses its hope	Reminds
Condemns	Further invites	Requests
Confirms	Further proclaims	Solemnly affirms
Congratulates	Further reminds	Strongly condemns
Considers	Further recommends	Supports
Declares accordingly	Further requests	Takes note of
Deplores	Further resolves	Transmits
Designates	Has resolved	Trusts