

Chemical and Biological News

Russia intensifying use of chemical weapons in Ukraine, Dutch intelligence reports

The Kyiv Independent, July 4, 2025

Russia is escalating the use of chemical weapons against Ukrainian forces, the Netherlands Military Intelligence (MIVD) reported on July 4. Russian troops use banned chemical agents as psychological warfare to panic Ukrainian forces, forcing soldiers from dugouts and trenches with gas grenades dropped by drones, making them easy targets for subsequent drone or artillery attacks. According to MIVD report, it was previously known that Russia used tear gas, but now intelligence has confirmed the use of chloropicrin — a substance that can kill in high concentrations in enclosed spaces. Use of chloropicrin, banned under international law, was discovered by the Netherlands Military Intelligence and Security Service (MIVD) and General Intelligence and Security Service (AIVD) together with the German foreign intelligence service BND.

<https://kyivindependent.com/must-not-become-normalized-russia-massively-uses-chemical-weapons-in-ukraine-dutch-intelligence-reports-06-2025/>

Dutch and German Intelligence say Russia increasingly uses chemical weapons in Ukraine

The Moscow Times, July 4, 2025

Dutch and German intelligence agencies said Friday that they had gathered evidence of Russia's growing use of chemical weapons in Ukraine and called for tougher sanctions against Moscow and continued military support for Kyiv. The Dutch military and

general intelligence services, MIVD and AIVD, along with Germany's foreign intelligence service BND, said they had identified the chemical agent chloropicrin, which "can be fatal when used in high concentrations in enclosed spaces." In May, the United States imposed sanctions on Russia for its alleged use of chloropicrin and tear gas in violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Kremlin rejected the accusations as "baseless." The Dutch and German agencies said Russia's military leadership and its radiological, chemical and biological defense forces were "supporting" and "actively facilitating" the use of banned agents on the battlefield. "The use of both teargas and chloropicrin by Russian troops has now become standard practice and commonplace and will highly probably remain a threat in the future," they said in a joint statement.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2025/07/04/dutch-and-german-intelligence-say-russia-increasingly-uses-chemical-weapons-in-ukraine-a89684>

Ukraine urges investigation into alleged Russian chemical weapons use

Reuters, July 8, 2025

Ukraine asked the global chemical weapons watchdog in The Hague on Tuesday to investigate the alleged use of banned toxic munitions by Russia against its forces. A request to establish an investigation was submitted by Kyiv to the governing body of the organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). It followed Dutch and German intelligence agencies on Friday saying they had evidence of widespread use of illegal weapons by Russia along the frontline. Agency chief Fernando

Arias said in a statement to the OPCW's Executive Council that in view of the alleged frequent use of dangerous chemical agents his office would step up monitoring of activity along the Russia-Ukraine conflict line. He invited Ukraine to discuss its proposal with member states, a majority of whom may be needed to support such an investigation. The OPCW created a similar team in 2018 to examine accusations of chemical weapons use in Syria. The Investigation and Identification Team found that Syrian government forces and Islamic State militants had used banned chemical weapons in the civil war that began in March 2011.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/ukraine-urges-investigation-into-alleged-russian-chemical-weapons-use-2025-07-08/>

Republic of Korea contributes •100,000 to support OPCW missions in Syria

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, July 9, 2025

The Government of the Republic of Korea has contributed •100,000 to the Trust Fund for Syria Missions of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)./ The funds will support OPCW's ongoing efforts to uncover the full extent and scope of Syria's Chemical Weapons Programme and ensure its complete elimination amid the country's evolving political landscape. It will also aid in investigating allegations of chemical weapons use and identifying/perpetrators, in line with the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), relevant decisions of the OPCW's policy-making organs and United Nations Security Council resolutions./ The voluntary contribution was formalised on 30 June 2025 in a signing ceremony held between the Ambassador,

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the OPCW, H.E. Mr Seok-in Hong, and the OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, at the OPCW's Headquarters in The Hague./ Ambassador Hong stated: "The recent political developments in Syria present an unprecedented opportunity to resolve the issue of chemical weapons in the country. We commend the OPCW for its continued efforts to address this matter, and we are pleased to make a timely voluntary contribution. The Republic of Korea remains committed to supporting the work of the OPCW moving forward."

<https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/news/2025/07/republic-korea-contributes-eu100000-support-opcw-missions-syria>

Russia's shameful record-breaking attacks on Ukrainian civilians and use of chemical weapons on the front line in Ukraine are a disgrace: UK statement to the OSCE

Government of the United Kingdom, July 10, 2025

Ambassador Holland condemns Russia's latest aerial bombardment of Ukrainian cities, which have killed civilians and damaged civilian infrastructure, and highlights the UK's recent sanctions package in response to Russia's use of chemical weapons in Ukraine.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/russias-shameful-record-breaking-attacks-on-ukrainian-civilians-and-use-of-chemical-weapons-on-the-front-line-in-ukraine-are-a-disgrace-uk-statement>

Strengthening Global Readiness to Investigate Suspected Biological Attacks

Global Biodefence, July 20, 2025

In a world increasingly shaped by geopolitical instability and information warfare, the ability to distinguish natural disease outbreaks from deliberate biological events has become a pressing security concern. A new study published in *Emerging Infectious Diseases* assesses the readiness of the United Nations Secretary-General's Mechanism (UNSGM) for investigating alleged uses of chemical or biological weapons. The study, led by experts from Spiez Laboratory (Switzerland), the Robert Koch Institute (Germany), and other international institutions, provides critical insights into how the global community can respond to ambiguous or suspicious disease outbreaks—especially in conflict zones where misinformation often proliferates. This article draws on findings from a full-scale capstone field exercise conducted in Berlin in 2022, coordinated by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and evaluated by an international team. The exercise tested the UNSGM's ability to rapidly deploy and execute a complex investigation in a high-pressure, simulated scenario involving a fictitious plague outbreak suspected to be the result of a bioweapons attack.

<https://globalbiodefence.com/2025/07/20/strengthening-global-readiness-to-investigate-suspected-biological-attacks/>

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<https://globalbiodefence.com/2025/07/20/strengthening-global-readiness-to-investigate-suspected-biological-attacks/>

United Kingdom contributes £2 million to support OPCW's missions in Syria

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons , July 21

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) has made a voluntary contribution of £2 million to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to support its ongoing work in the Syrian Arab Republic. The funds will support OPCW's ongoing efforts to uncover the full extent and scope

of Syria's Chemical Weapons Programme and ensure its complete elimination amid the country's evolving political landscape. It will also aid in investigating allegations of chemical weapons use and identifying/perpetrators, in line with the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), relevant decisions of the OPCW's policy-making organs and United Nations Security Council resolutions./ The voluntary contribution was formalised on 25 June 2025 in a signing ceremony held between the Director of Defence and International Security at UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Mr Stephen Lillie, and the OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, at the OPCW's Centre for Chemistry and Technology.

<https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/news/2025/07/united-kingdom-contributes-ps2-million-support-opcws-missions-syria>

Marshall Islands seeks to advance legislation to strengthen chemical weapons controls in the Pacific

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, August 13, 2025

A high-level delegation from the Republic of the Marshall Islands visited the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to accelerate efforts toward adopting national legislation that will be crucial for full implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The three-day visit represented a key milestone in the Marshall Islands' efforts to translate the Chemical Weapons Convention's obligations into enforceable national legislation. The OPCW's capacity building programme is supporting this crucial phase through the Influential Visitors Programme, which offers tailored advocacy and legislative guidance to States Parties at a critical stage of adopting national implementing measures.

Organised by the OPCW's International Cooperation and Assistance Division, the Programme provided a focused platform for a high-level Marshall Islands delegation to engage in discussions with OPCW experts and leadership, including Director-General Ambassador Fernando Arias and Deputy Director-General Odette Melono. Conversations centred on key legal and policy considerations anticipated during the legislative process, such as jurisdictional scope, extraterritoriality, and tailored approaches suited to the national context. Dedicated national legislation ensures that any activity prohibited by the Chemical Weapons Convention can be effectively detected, deterred, and prosecuted under the rule of law, while also enabling responsible scientific exchange and the peaceful use of chemistry.

<https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/news/2025/08/marshall-islands-seeks-advance-legislation-strengthen-chemical-weapons>

OPCW Concludes 2025 Regional Meetings of National Authorities

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, August 13, 2025,

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has concluded its 2025 Regional Meetings of National Authorities, bringing together representatives from all regional groups to strengthen implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Held across five regions, the meetings facilitated exchange on practical cooperation mechanisms, emerging technologies and underscored a shared commitment to addressing contemporary chemical security challenges.

<https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/news/2025/08/opcw-concludes-2025-regional-meetings-national-authorities>

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<https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/news/2025/08/marshall-islands-seeks-advance-legislation-strengthen-chemical-weapons>

OPCW trains experts with live chemical agents

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, August 22, 2025

At a secured facility deep in the Slovak countryside, the air is thick with anticipation. Wearing full protective suits, trainees methodically check every strap, every seal, every valve. Under the watchful eyes of seasoned instructors, they prepare to enter the "hot zone" – a high-security area where live chemical warfare agents are handled with utmost precision. This is no simulation. This is one of the few places in the world where experts train with actual chemical warfare agents – deadly substances capable of causing harm or death upon exposure. The stakes are high, and the learning is real. "In chemical emergencies, theoretical knowledge alone is not enough," said Pavel Donoval, Director of Exercise of Live-Agent Training Course for Experts at the NBC Training and Testing Centre. "Training with live chemical agents conditions you to respond under pressure. It builds the muscle memory, judgment, and confidence that can mean the difference between life and death." This immersive training is part of the International Live Agent Training Course for Experts, organised by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in close partnership with the Government of Slovakia. Held annually at the NBC Training and Testing Centre, the programme is one of the few in the world that allows participants to work hands-on with real, highly toxic chemical warfare agents – all within a rigorously managed and secure setting.

<https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/news/2025/08/inside-hot-zone-opcw-trains-experts-live-chemical-agents>

OPCW Director-General receives Qatar's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, September 12, 2025

The Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Ambassador Fernando Arias, met with Qatar's Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al Khulaifi, on 18 September at the OPCW's Headquarters in The Hague. During the meeting, Director-General Arias and Minister of State Al Khulaifi discussed current affairs, including the situation in the Syria Arab Republic, with a focus on the challenges associated with fully eliminating Syria's chemical weapons programme. Both parties reaffirmed their shared commitment to the OPCW's mission and the collective goal of achieving a world free of chemical weapons. Minister of State Al Khulaifi stated: "I was pleased to meet with the Director-General of the OPCW, where we held a constructive meeting to discuss ways of strengthening cooperation between Qatar and the OPCW, in support of its objectives and the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). We also commend the continued efforts of the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat in addressing the Syrian file. Qatar reaffirms its unwavering commitment to supporting the Organisation and actively contributing to its work as a responsible and dedicated State Party."

<https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/news/2025/09/opcw-director-general-receives-qatars-minister-state-foreign-affairs>

Trump dissed world leaders at the UN while asking for their help on a bioweapons prevention plan

Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, September 23, 2025

President Donald Trump listed a lot of complaints about the United Nations during a speech to world leaders at the organisation's headquarters. An escalator stopped "right in the middle" of delivering him and first lady Melania Trump to their destination. Then the teleprompter didn't work. And when it comes to stopping world conflict, Trump said, the UN writes strongly worded letters and doesn't follow through with action. Trump contrasted that dim characterisation of the organisation with a high appraisal of his own effectiveness, repeating much-disputed claims that he's stopped multiple long-running wars and asserting, contrary to recent economic statistics, that he's ushered in remarkable growth in his country. On Tuesday, Trump pledged to tackle yet another complicated challenge by spearheading an effort to use artificial intelligence (AI) to verify compliance with the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC).

<https://thebulletin.org/2025/09/trump-dissed-world-leaders-at-the-un-while-asking-for-their-help-on-a-bioweapons-prevention-plan/>

OPCW Director-General meets with Armenia's Minister of Foreign Affairs

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, September 24, 2025

The Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

(OPCW), Ambassador Fernando Arias, met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, H.E. Mr Ararat Mirzoyan, on 18 September 2025 at the OPCW's Headquarters in The Hague. During their meeting, Director-General Arias and Minister Mirzoyan exchanged views on key challenges related to the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in light of the current complex global security environment and geopolitical dynamics. Director General Arias briefed the Minister on the OPCW's ongoing activities in Syria, aimed at supporting the country in fulfilling its obligations to completely eliminate its chemical weapons programme inherited from the former government. The Director-General also outlined the Organisation's activities related to Ukraine.

<https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/news/2025/09/opcw-director-general-meets-armenias-minister-foreign-affairs>

Spain contributes •75,000 to support OPCW chemical emergency training

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, September 24, 2025

The Kingdom of Spain has contributed •75,000 to the Trust Fund for the Implementation of Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The contribution will support the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)'s 2026 CHEMEX GRULAC exercise, a comprehensive chemical emergency response training tailored for the Latin America and Caribbean (GRULAC) region. The voluntary contribution was formalised on 18 September 2025 in a signing ceremony held between the Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Spain to the OPCW, H.E. Ms María Consuelo Femenía Guardiola, and the OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, at the OPCW's Headquarters in The

Hague. The exercise, targeted at first responders and national emergency teams, will combine training simulations, workshops, and scenario-based activities. It is designed to help participants apply critical response strategies in detection, protection, decontamination, and coordination in addressing a chemical incident. The programme also provides a crucial platform for sharing best practices and strengthening regional capacities.

<https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/news/2025/09/spain-contributes-eu75000-support-opcw-chemical-emergency-training>

Russia says it backs Trump's call for ban on biological weapons

Reuters, September 25, 2025

Russia supports a call by U.S. President Donald Trump for a comprehensive global ban on biological weapons, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. Trump said in a speech to the United Nations on Tuesday that he was "calling on every nation to join us in ending the development of biological weapons once and for all". He proposed that Artificial Intelligence could be used to verify compliance.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/russia-says-it-backs-trumps-call-ban-biological-weapons-2025-09-25/>

Sudan PM urges end to 'political' chemical weapons sanctions

Al Jazeera, September 25, 2025

Sudan's transitional Prime Minister Kamil Idris told the 80th United Nations General Assembly Sudan's civil war has killed 150,000 and displaced 12 million. He urged lifting chemical weapons sanctions he called "political," condemned foreign mercenaries,

and demanded an end to the siege of el-Fasher.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/video/newsfeed/2025/9/25/sudan-pm-urges-end-to-political-chemical-weapons-sanctions>

Estonia contributes •10,000 to support OPCW missions in Syria

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, October 7, 2025

The Republic of Estonia has made a voluntary contribution of •10,000 to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to support its ongoing work in the Syrian Arab Republic./ The funds will support OPCW's ongoing efforts to uncover the full extent and scope of Syria's chemical weapons programme and ensure its complete elimination amid the country's evolving political landscape. It will also aid in investigating allegations of chemical weapons use and identifying/ perpetrators, in line with the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), relevant decisions of the OPCW's policy-making organs, and United Nations Security Council resolutions./ / The voluntary contribution was formalised on 24 September 2025 in a signing ceremony held between the Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Estonia to the OPCW, H.E. Mr Paul Teesalu, and OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias at the OPCW's Headquarters in The Hague.

<https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/news/2025/10/estonia-contributes-eu10000-support-opcw-missions-syria>

Disturbing Reports of Sudan's Military Using Chlorine Gas

Human Rights Watch, October 9, 2025,

The United States government sanctioned General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the head

of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Sudan's de facto head of state, in January 2025, alleging that the SAF had used chemical weapons, but did not publish any evidence for the claim. But a new investigation by France 24, a French broadcaster, provides the first public elements to corroborate the US allegations, indicating that Sudan's military may have used chlorine in two incidents in September 2024. The use of chlorine, a common industrial chemical, as a weapon is prohibited under the Chemical Weapons Convention, to which Sudan is a party. Exposure to chlorine or its compounds can lead to diverse symptoms from reddening and itchiness to shortness of breath and even death. Use of chlorine as a weapon would be a serious violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and is a war crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The France 24 Observers, the network's digital investigation unit geolocated photographs and videos posted in September 2024 at the Garri military base and the nearby Jaili oil refinery north of Khartoum, both at the time under the control of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), the SAF's opponent in the country's armed conflict.

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/10/09/disturbing-reports-of-sudans-military-using-chlorine-gas>

OPCW Director-General meets with Panama's Minister of Foreign Affairs

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, October 13, 2025

The Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Ambassador Fernando Arias, met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Panama, H.E. Javier Eduardo Martínez-Acha/ Vásquez, on 7 October 2025

at the OPCW's Headquarters in The Hague. The Minister was accompanied by Panama's Minister of Employment and Social Development, and other members of his delegation. During their meeting the two officials discussed the OPCW's critical follow-up work in Syria's chemical disarmament process, with the Organisation's ongoing activities aimed at supporting the country in fulfilling its obligations to completely eliminate its chemical weapons programme inherited from the former government. They also discussed the Organisation's fundamental role in chemical security and technical cooperation, as well as the opportunities and challenges related to the responsible use of artificial intelligence.

<https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/news/2025/10/opcw-director-general-meets-panamas-minister-foreign-affairs>

OPCW equips experts from 31 developing and transitioning economies as 'force multipliers' for global chemical safety

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, October 15, 2025

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) successfully concluded the 26th edition of its flagship capacity-building initiative, the Associate Programme, on 25 September 2025, at the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology. The intensive nine-week programme equipped 31 participants from 31 States Parties—including first-time representatives from Bahrain, Kuwait, and the State of Palestine—with advanced technical and managerial skills for the effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The Programme's multidisciplinary approach combined legal, academic, and practical training across multiple locations. Participants began with

education on the legal aspects of the CWC and key functions of the OPCW, with a focus on the verification regime and national authority arrangements. In the academic segment, conducted in collaboration with the University of Surrey in the United Kingdom, participants acquired knowledge and skills essential for chemical industry operations, including material balance, chemical engineering, and health and safety measures.

<https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/news/2025/10/opcw-equips-experts-31-developing-and-transitioning-economies-force>

Ricin poison terror plot busted, Telangana 'doctor', 2 from UP arrested: Gujarat ATS

The Indian Express, November 10, 2025

The Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) Sunday said it arrested three men with "terror links", including a doctor with a "Chinese medical degree", who were allegedly trying to produce Ricin – a lethal toxin on international chemical and biological weapons lists. The accused had allegedly conducted a recce of several sensitive locations in Lucknow, Delhi and Ahmedabad to carry out a "terror attack in the country", a senior ATS officer said. Three pistols, 30 live cartridges and nearly four litres of castor oil were seized from the possession of the accused, the ATS said. The ATS identified the three arrested accused as Dr Ahmed Mohiyuddin Saiyed, 35, a resident of Hyderabad, Telangana; Azad Suleman Sheikh, (20), a tailor from Shamli, Uttar Pradesh; and Mohammad Suhail Mohammad Saleem Khan, 23, a student and a resident of Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/ahmedabad/chemical-agent-ricin->

threaten-two-us-presidents-attack-india-gujarat-ats-arrest-guns-10355822/

India is well-positioned to collaborate and integrate into high-value, technology-intensive chemical value chains: CPX 2025

Indian Chemical News, November 13, 2025

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), with the support of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Government of India, is organising the CII Chemicals and Petrochemicals Expo 2025 (CPX 2025) from 12–14 November 2025 at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The inauguration ceremony was graced by the presence of several key dignitaries, including R. Mukundan, President Designate, CII, Chairman, CII National Committee on Chemicals and Petrochemicals, and Managing Director, Tata Chemicals, Rupark Sarswat, Chairman, CPX 2025, and CEO, India Glycols, Premraj Keshyep, Chairman, CII Gujarat State Council and Founder and Managing Director, Conmat Heavy Industries and Ankur Singh Chauhan, Executive Director, CII. Saraswat welcomed the esteemed speakers and delegates and highlighted that India has the opportunity to move beyond being a volume-driven exporter to becoming a partner in high-value, technology-intensive chemical value chains. He aligned his vision with trade realignment, technological transformation, and regulatory evolution.

<https://www.indianchemicalnews.com/chemical/india-is-well-positioned-to-collaborate-and-integrate-into-high-value-technology-intensive-chemical-value-chains-cpx-2025-28153>

Secret U.S. Memo Authorising Drug-Boat Strikes Cites Chemical Weapon Threat

The Wall Street Journal, November 14, 2025,

A classified Justice Department brief authorising strikes on drug-smuggling boats describes fentanyl as a potential chemical weapons threat, according to a House member and another person familiar with the memo. The lengthy document by the department's Office of Legal Counsel outlines the Trump administration's still-secret legal justification for the continuing military operation, which has sparked sharp criticism from Democrats and some Republicans since the strikes began in September. The mention of fentanyl is one of many points in the brief, which was drafted over the summer to justify the use of military force against drug traffickers. It notes that fentanyl has been weaponised in the past. In 2002, Russia used aerosolised fentanyl to quell a hostage crisis at a Moscow theater, killing more than 100 of the roughly 700 people being held in the rescue attempt.

<https://www.wsj.com/politics/national-security/justice-department-drug-boat-strike-memo-83711582>

Chemical Weapons Convention implementation discussed at Annual Meeting of National Authorities

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, November 21, 2025

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) held the Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting of National Authorities from 19-21 November at its

Headquarters in The Hague. More than 230 participants from OPCW Member States gathered to strengthen national implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and enhance cooperation in addressing chemical safety and security challenges. Opening the meeting, OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, highlighted the value of bringing National Authorities together, stating: “In today’s degrading international environment where global security is marked by mounting pressure and geopolitical tensions, the OPCW’s mission is now more relevant than ever. The National Authorities Meeting fosters collaboration and dialogue and reinforces the foundation for achieving our shared objective: a world forever free of chemical weapons.” The annual meeting serves as a dynamic platform for communication and collaboration between National Authorities and the OPCW Technical Secretariat. It promotes cooperation at national and regional levels, strengthens partnerships, and provides an opportunity to align capacity-building initiatives with the needs of Member States.

<https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/news/2025/11/chemical-weapons-convention-implementation-discussed-annual-meeting>

2025 OPCW-The Hague Award recipients announced

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, November 24, 2025

The Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Ambassador Fernando Arias, and the Mayor of the Municipality of The Hague, Mr Jan van Zanen, announced the decision of the OPCW-The Hague Award selection panel to honour three recipients of the 2025 OPCW-The Hage Award: Major General

(Ret.) Ichiro Akiyama , Ambassador Kenneth Ward , and Rear Admiral (Ret.) Torben Mikkelsen.

<https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/news/2025/11/2025-opcw-hague-award-recipients-announced>

Sabrina Dallafior appointed as next OPCW Director-General

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, November 27, 2025

Swiss diplomat Sabrina Dallafior was appointed as the next Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) by the Conference of the State Parties today, on the recommendation of the Executive Council, for a term of four years. She will be OPCW’s fifth Director-General and will assume office on 25 July 2026. In her new capacity, Ambassador Dallafior will lead the Organisation in advancing the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). She will be responsible for ensuring that the Technical Secretariat continues to fulfil its mandate independently, effectively and efficiently, while strengthening cooperation with Member States and promoting compliance and universal adherence to the CWC.

<https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/news/2025/11/sabrina-dallafior-appointed-next-opcw-director-general>

OPCW Director-General receives Russia’s Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, November 28, 2025

The OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, met in The Hague with the Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of

the Russian Federation, Mr Kirill Lysogorsky, on the margins of the Thirtieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CSP-30). The meeting focused on the importance of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the commitment of all 193 States Parties to the complete and permanent elimination of chemical weapons. Director-General Arias reaffirmed that all States Parties to the CWC must adhere to their obligations under the Convention and reinforcing the global norm against chemical weapons remains essential for international peace and security. Director-General Arias outlined the Organisation's efforts to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons, noting that emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence pose both new challenges and opportunities. He emphasised the growing role of the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology in enhancing the Organisation's capacity to detect, analyse, and respond to potential chemical weapons threats.

<https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/news/2025/11/opcw-director-general-receives-russias-deputy-minister-industry-and-trade>

SIPRI hosts workshop on technological opportunities for the biological weapons regime

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, December 1, 2025

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) held a closed-door workshop on 20–21 November to examine how emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), could support and strengthen the biological weapons prohibition regime. As part of a project funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, the meeting brought together government officials and experts from academia, the private sector, civil

society and international organisations for two days of discussions. The workshop focused on how new tools and digital systems are already being used—and may be used in the future—to reinforce core functions of the regime, including biosafety laboratory operations, export control implementation, and approaches to compliance and enforcement. Across thematic sessions, participants discussed export controls in an era of digital trade, oversight of high-containment laboratories, responsible innovation and the use of digital platforms for traceability, screening and access control. Smaller group discussions examined practical cases involving AI-assisted gene screening, laboratory governance and digital traceability systems.

<https://www.sipri.org/news/2025/sipri-hosts-workshop-technological-opportunities-biological-weapons-regime#:~:text=The%20Stockholm%20International%20Peace%20Research,the%20biological%20weapons%20prohibition%20regime>

Director for Strategic Affairs, Security and Disarmament of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, December 2, 2025

General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Ambassador Fernando Arias, met in The Hague with the Director for Strategic Affairs, Security and Disarmament of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, Mr Guillaume Ollagnier, on the margins of the Thirtieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CSP-30). The two high-level officials exchanged views on the impact of the current international security environment on global disarmament and non-proliferation efforts, as well as on the

implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Director-General Arias briefed Director Ollagnier on current development related to the activities of the OPCW, including the situation in the Syria Arab Republic, with a focus on the challenges associated with fully eliminating Syria's chemical weapons programme. He also stressed that preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons, enhancing chemical safety and security in Member States, and advancing universality of the Convention remain central to the Organisation's mandate.

<https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/news/2025/12/opcw-director-general-receives-director-strategic-affairs-security-and>

International conference on '50 Years of BWC: Strengthening Biosecurity for the Global South' (December 01 - 02, 2025)

Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, December 1, 2025

The international conference on '50 Years of BWC: Strengthening Biosecurity for the Global South', being organised by the Ministry of External Affairs on 1-2 December 2025 in New Delhi to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the entry into force of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), has commenced today. External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, addressed scientific experts, policy makers and diplomats from over 80 countries and representatives from international and regional organisations, as well as Indian academia and industry during the inaugural session. EAM reaffirmed India's commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and India's well-established non-proliferation record. He urged the

participants to reflect on the new challenges posed by the rapid developments in science and technology in the context of the BWC. He highlighted India's proposal for a National Implementation Framework that covers identification of high-risk agents, oversight of dual-use research, domestic reporting, incident management and continuous training.

https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/40353/International_conference_on_50_Years_of_BWC_Strengthening_Biosecurity_for_the_Global_South_December_01__02_2025

Bioterrorism a serious threat, world not ready: Jaishankar

The Hindu, December 2, 2025

The world is not yet "adequately prepared" to deal with the threat of bioterrorism, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said in New Delhi on December 1, 2025. Speaking at a conference on 50 years of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), Mr. Jaishankar said "non-state actors" can resort to use of biological agents and that the Global South should be at the centre of preparations to deal with bioweapons. "Bioterrorism is a serious concern that the international community has to be adequately prepared for. Yet the BWC still lacks basic institutional structures," said Mr. Jaishankar.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/need-framework-to-deal-with-challenge-of-biological-weapons-jaishankar/article70344571.ece>