

Conference on Disarmament

18 September 2020

Original: English

Note Verbale dated 16 September from the Permanent Mission of Germany addressed to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and transmitting the Statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Germany, Ambassador Peter Beerwerth, at the 1546th Plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament on 16 September 2020

The Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament presents its compliments to the United Nations Office at Geneva and has the honour to inform the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs that Germany requests that the enclosed statement be circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs the assurances of its highest consideration.



Statement by the Permanent Representative of Germany, Ambassador Peter Beerwerth, to the Conference on Disarmament

Mr. President,

I am taking the floor to speak on the recent use of a chemical weapons agent in the Russian Federation.

Mr. President,

The poisoning of Alexei Navalny with a nerve agent of the Novichok group constitutes a grave violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The analysis of samples taken from Alexei Navalny that was carried out by a specialized laboratory of the German Armed Forces proved beyond any doubt that Mr. Navalny had been poisoned with a nerve agent of the Novichok group.

We therefore immediately informed the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) about the findings with a letter to the Director-General, Ambassador Arias. The OPCW has also taken samples of Mr. Nawalny and is currently analyzing them through the Organisation's designated laboratories network.

In the meantime, our partners France and Sweden have already independently confirmed the German findings through analyses in their own specialized laboratories.

My Government has condemned this attack on Mr. Navalny in the strongest possible terms. Many states as well as the European Union and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) have joined us in this reaction.

I would also like to recall the joint press statement by the Foreign Ministers of France and Germany, dated 4 September 2020, in which they reaffirm that any use of chemical weapons is unacceptable and contravenes international norms, and call upon the Russian authorities to guarantee the exercise of the civil and political rights of their population.

My Government continues to call upon Russia to disclose to the international community the circumstances of the use of a chemical weapon on its territory that has gravely violated international law. The perpetrators must be held to account.

We call upon Russia to work with the OPCW to provide full transparency.

Thank you, Mr. President.
