

Conference on Disarmament

18 September 2020

Original: English

Note Verbale dated 17 September from the Permanent Mission of Sweden addressed to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and transmitting the Statement delivered by Sweden at the 1546th Plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament on 16 September 2020

The Permanent Mission of Sweden presents its compliments to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and has the honour to forward the Statement of Sweden to the Conference of Disarmament during its plenary session on 16 September 2020 regarding the poisoned Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny as per attachment.

The Permanent Mission of Sweden avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs the assurances of its highest consideration.



Statement by Sweden to the Conference of Disarmament

Thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the floor.

The Swedish Defense Research Agency, FOI, received a bilateral request from the German authorities to carry out an independent analysis of the samples collected from the poisoned Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny.

FOI's analysis — like the one carried out by French authorities — confirms the results published by the German authorities that Navalny had been poisoned by the neurotoxin Novichok. Germany has requested technical assistance from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). Sweden has full confidence in Germany's handling of this matter.

The use of neurotoxins is a violation of the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (CWC). It is thus a violation of international law. It is of the utmost importance that those responsible are held accountable.

We expect Russia to launch a credible investigation as soon as possible and to cooperate in a complete and transparent manner in the OPCW's forthcoming investigation.

I thank you.
