POSITION PAPER

Country: Norway

Committee: DISEC (Disarmament And International Security Committee)

Agenda Item: Restriction on access and usage of chemical weaponry

Norway is a country located in Northern Europe, also a border neighbour of Sweden's west side. Norway's core territory comprises the western and northernmost portion of the Scandinavian Peninsula. Norway ranks as the second-wealthiest country in monetary value, with the largest capital reserve per capita of any nation. According to the CIA World Factbook, Norway is a net external creditor of debt. The country is considered to be one of the most developed democracies and states of justice in the world. Since 2010, Norway has been classified as the world's most democratic country by the Democracy Index. Norway is a unitary constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system of government, wherein the King of Norway is the head of state and the prime minister is the head of government. Norway is a founding member of the United Nations (UN), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Council of Europe and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). Non-voting participation by Norway has been granted in, for instance, the Union's Common Security and Defence Policy, the Schengen Agreement, and the European Defence Agency, as well as 19 separate programmes. Besıdes being a foundıng member, Norway has been active at the Unıted Natıons since 1945 and has held several historic and important positions in the UN.

In the past, the world has faced wars whether including chemical weaponry or biological weaponry in warfare. They have killed more than 100,000 people and injured more than one million since WW1. Even now in the Isreal- Palestıne war, lives are being taken by the usage of restricted chemical weaponry. In the past, Norway had also shown their commitment towards peace and chemical dısarmament in the civil war of Syria. The work that had been done under the auspices of the UN and the OPCW was to destroy Syrian chemical weapons. The chemical agents and precursors needed to be destroyed as quickly as possible, to prevent weapons of mass destruction from being used to target the people of Syria again. Therefore they had assisted in the transportation efforts, along with other countries. A Chemical Weapon is a chemical used to cause intentional death or harm through its toxic properties. Munitions, devices and other equipment specifically designed to weaponise toxic chemicals also fall under the definition of chemical weapons. To get front thıs, it is important to require to take any national measures necessary to prohibit and prevent the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition or retention of those weapons within a State's territory, under its jurisdiction or its control.

 The Nordic countries are encouraged by the strong focus on non-proliferation of chemical and biological weapons included in the Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament." The Nordic countries unequivocally condemn all use of chemical weapons. The use of chemical weapons is a violation of international law and may amount to a war crime or a crime against humanity. We once again reiterate that the perpetrators of these inhumane and barbaric attacks must be held accountable." Says the Statement on behalf of the Nordic Countries by Ambassador Mona Juul in the Thematic Debate on Other Weapons of Mass Destruction in First Committee, 22 October 2019. Ensuring universal adherence to and full implementation of the Convention on Biological and Chemical Weapons are key tasks that require the active engagement of the state parties. The Nordic countries therefore strongly support the intersessional programme of work, which has allowed for more focused and thorough exchanges on key issues facing the Convention. Meanwhile, the Nordic countries are continuing their engagement to reduce biological weapons threats within the framework of the Secretary-General's Investigatory Mechanism, the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction, UN Security Council Resolution 1540 and the Global Health Security Agenda. The government of Norway fully support the Health-Security Interface programme of the World Health Organization, which aims to improve preparedness for possible outbreaks of communicable disease due to deliberate events, as well as similar initiatives in the OIE and FAO.