

**XXXI**

**TECMUN Jr.**

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Organization for the  
Prohibition of Chemical  
Weapons

XXXI TECMUN Jr.  
**Session Schedule**

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**Wednesday, November 15th**

Registry	8:00 – 9:00 h.
Opening Ceremony	9:00 – 10:00 h.
Recess	10:00 – 10:30 h.
First Session	10:30 – 12:30 h.
Recess	12:30 – 13:00 h.
Second Session	13:00 – 15:00 h.
Meal	15:00 – 16:00 h.
Third Session	16:00 – 18:00 h.

**Thursday, November 16th**

Master Conference	8:30 – 9:30 h.
Recess	9:30 – 10:00 h.
Fourth Session	10:00 – 12:30 h.
Recess	12:30 – 13:00 h.
Fifth Session	13:00 – 15:00 h.
Meal	15:00 – 16:00 h.
Sixth Session	16:00 – 18:00 h.

**Friday, November 17th**

Seventh Session	8:00 – 9:30 h.
Recess	9:30 – 10:00 h.
Eighth Session	10:00 – 12:00 h.
Recess	12:00 – 12:30 h.
Ninth Session	12:30 – 14:40 h.
Meal	14:40 – 16:00 h.
Closing Ceremony	16:00 – 18:30 h.

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**General Agenda**

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*Secretary General: Santiago Gutiérrez Caycedo*

**COORDINACIÓN GENERAL**

Chief of General Coordination: *Lía Naomi Mejía Vargas*  
Coordinating Supervisor for Media Content: *Emiliano Avalos Hernández*

**ASAMBLEA GENERAL**

*Subsecretary General: Monserrat Ríos Fernández*  
*Coordinating Supervisor: Juliette Abby Orihuela Núñez*

**Sesión Plenaria de la Asamblea General**

*Presidente: Regina Covarrubias Rosales*

- A) Medidas para regular la crisis humanitaria en la República de Haití, partiendo de los desplazamientos forzados ocasionados por la violencia por parte de grupos criminales.
- B) Estrategias para regular la crisis social en la República Islámica de Irán y contrarrestar el uso de pena de muerte como medio de represión, partiendo de las protestas antigubernamentales contra las leyes de moralidad de 2022

**Primera Comisión de Desarme y Seguridad Internacional**

*Presidente: Paulo Souto Núñez*

- A) Estrategias para imposibilitar la posesión y desarrollo de armamento nuclear en la República Islámica de Irán garantizando la seguridad internacional.
- B) Estrategias para evitar el uso de armamento y fuerza hostil en el conflicto fronterizo entre la República de Armenia y la República de Azerbaiyán por el enclave del Alto Karabaj en el Cáucaso del sur.

**Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados**

*Presidente: Arantza González de la Peña*

- A) Acciones para reforzar la respuesta internacional con el fin de garantizar la seguridad y el acceso a servicios básicos de los refugiados provenientes del llamado Cuerno de África como consecuencia de la sequía y los conflictos internos en la República Democrática de Somalia.
- B) Medidas para proteger y asegurar el cumplimiento de los derechos humanos de las personas desplazadas internamente, solicitantes de asilo y refugiados como consecuencia de la crisis social en la República Democrática del Congo.

**United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women**

*President: Nuri Valentina Galindo Gutiérrez*

- A) Measures to guarantee the economic empowerment of women in the Middle East with an emphasis on the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan after the ban of work for Afghan women and its consequences.
- B) Procedures to reinforce and protect reproductive rights for women in Africa as a consequence of the HIV and AIDS pandemic.

## **Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente**

*Presidente: Jorge Roel Rodríguez Alcantara*

- A) Mecanismos para frenar la desertificación en el continente africano, con énfasis en la sequía y las prácticas agrícolas no sostenibles en la región del Sahel.
- B) Acciones para mitigar el impacto ambiental de la industria textil en países del sur de Asia, abordando la producción de moda rápida.

## **Histórica Organización de los Estados Americanos**

*Presidente: Abril Victoria Rodríguez Aguirre*

- A) Medidas para conciliar la paz entre las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP) y el gobierno de la República de Colombia con énfasis en salvaguardar los derechos humanos de los ciudadanos.
- B) Estrategias para frenar las hostilidades desencadenadas por el control de las islas Malvinas entre Reino Unido de Gran Bretaña e Irlanda del Norte y la República de Argentina con énfasis en proteger los derechos de soberanía y los intereses de los poblado

## **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**

*President: Valeria Arroyo Jerez*

- A) Strategies to curb and counter migrant smuggling coordinated by criminal organizations, with emphasis on the South and Central America to North America route.
- B) Approaches to prevent and counter the spread of Xylazine and Fentanyl in North America with preeminence in Philadelphia's "Zombie zone".

## **CONSEJO ECONÓMICO Y SOCIAL**

*Subsecretary General: Catherine Romina Espinoza Mora*

*Coordinating Supervisor: Brenda Noreña Mejía*

## **Comisión de Prevención del Delito y Justicia Penal**

*Presidente: Miranda Senties Carmona*

- A) Estrategias para disminuir la actividad del crimen organizado transnacional en la Triple Frontera, entre la República del Paraguay, la República Argentina y la República Federativa de Brasil debido al problema del control territorial ocasionado por la insuficiencia en el imperio de la ley y corrupción.
- B) Acciones para erradicar cualquier sistema de tortura a prisioneros en los centros penitenciarios efectuado por el personal de seguridad en la República Árabe Siria.

## **Organización Mundial de la Salud**

*Presidente: Aranza Michelle Castro Rivero*

- A) Medidas para mejorar la salud mental en adolescentes con énfasis en la eliminación de trastornos psicológicos tras los efectos del confinamiento de la pandemia de COVID-19.
- B) Estrategias para priorizar el acceso a los servicios de salud sexual reproductiva en zonas rurales de Latinoamérica y el Caribe.

## **Human Rights Council**

*President: Regina Lacorte Mariscal*

**A)**

**B)** Actions to ensure the human rights of prisoners after the approval of the Exception Regime in the Republic of Salvador, focusing on the so-called "war against gangs" headed by the government of Nayib Bukele.

## **Comisión Económica y Social para Asia y el Pacífico**

*Presidente: Giovanna Gamboa Molina*

**A)** Estrategias para implementar un desarrollo de proyectos que aumenten el comercio e infraestructura en Asia y el Pacífico debido a que las zonas productivas se han visto afectadas por los desastres naturales.

**B)** Medidas para mejorar la calidad de vida de las personas de bajos recursos en las estructuras institucionales de salud y vivienda debido a los conflictos territoriales entre la República Kirguisa y la República de Tayikistán.

## **United Nations Convention Against Corruption**

*President: William Vázquez Hernández*

**A)** Measures to reinforce and criminalize any act deemed corrupt in Latin America on the police department focusing on the systematic and police-citizens variants.

**B)** Measures to stop the theft of assets executed by the government in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea coming from the oil industry causing a defunding on education and health sectors.

## **Foro Político del Alto Nivel para el Desarrollo Sostenible**

*Presidente: Sara Sofía Govantes Cruz*

**A)** Medidas para detener y prevenir el impacto que tiene la moda rápida en Europa y Asia, con énfasis en las tres dimensiones de desarrollo sustentable.

**B)** Acciones para impulsar el turismo sostenible con énfasis en los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo del Caribe.

## **Commission on Science and Technology for Development**

*President: María José Parra Meza*

**A)** Strategies to replace animal testing with new technological developments in the makeup industry in Latin America, the European Union and the People's Republic of China.

**B)** Measures to improve the challenges of the labor market due to new sciences and technologies, adapting workers to them with an emphasis on Europe and North America.

## **AGENCIAS ESPECIALIZADAS Y ORGANISMOS REGIONALES**

*Subsecretary General: Bruno Ramírez Barcelata*

*Coordinating Supervisor: María Fernanda García Bautista*

## **Organización de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo Industrial**

*Presidente: María Sigaru Alcantara Nieva*

A) Medidas para reducir los efectos adversos por desastres ecológicos a causa de la industrialización química con énfasis en la República de la India, Japón y el Estado de Kuwait

B) Estrategias para impulsar el desarrollo industrial sustentable con el fin de reducir los altos índices de gases de efecto invernadero en América Latina y el Caribe

### **Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons**

*President: María Fernanda Vázquez Trejo*

A) Measures to solve the multiple attacks of chemical weapons on the Syrian Arab Republic, focusing on the chemical problem of Khan Sheikhou in 2017

B) Measures to prevent the usage of neurotoxins as weapons, emphasizing the novichok attacks led by the Russian government

### **International Criminal Police Organization**

*President: Mariana Carolina Guerrero Zárate*

A) Measures to halt the growth of human trafficking networks in Southern Asia, with emphasis on organ trafficking

B) Strategies to cope with the massive firearms trafficking in Latin America, focusing on the triple border between Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina

### **Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja**

*Presidente: Yamir Bandala González*

A) Medidas para proteger a las víctimas y desplazados después de la toma de control del partido Frente de Liberación Popular de Tigré en la República Democrática Federal de Etiopía.

B) Acciones para garantizar el bienestar y salvaguardar la dignidad de los afectados por el conflicto civil en la República Árabe Siria en los campos de refugiados, así como en las rutas utilizadas.

### **Organización del Tratado del Atlántico Norte**

*Presidente: Paulette Mayen Álvarez*

A) Fortalecimiento de estrategias para la protección de civiles en el conflicto armado entre la República de Serbia y la República de Kosovo, con énfasis en el mantenimiento de la paz

B) Estrategias para contrarrestar los ciberataques hacia la República de Ucrania en el ciberespacio; dentro de la problemática de la Federación de Rusia y sus consecuencias, con el fin de salvaguardar la información del Estado y la OTAN

### **Security Council**

*President: Yésika Pamela García Trejo*

A) Actions to mitigate the crisis in Lake Chad Basin, addressing violence, economic recovery and security restoration

**B)** Strategies for the prevention of nuclear accidents with an emphasis on Russia, France and the United States of America

**International Criminal Court**

*President: Manuel Alejandro Grajales Santillán*

**A)** The Prosecutor v. Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi

**B)** The Prosecutor v. Patrice-Edouard Ngaissona Abdel Raheem Muhammad Hussein

*"When one does something with one's heart, one should feel proud."*

*-Fernando Alonso Diaz*

*For you:*

6 years ago I was starting my adventure in the world of Model United Nations. I remember very much my first model, I was the delegate of Guinea Bissau in a UNESCO committee. We were looking for solutions for the theft of marine archaeology. That sixth grader, who almost cried his first time going to the list of speakers, today is the Secretary General of the largest Model United Nations in Latin America, TECMUN.

When I started in Model United Nations it was a world full of uncertainty, but little by little I got deeper, until I got here, it has been a long road, but it has been worth it. Along the way I have met many people who have inspired me, now it is your turn to inspire me. Thanks to you, I am still here, I want to thank you for inspiring me to continue to stand in front and follow a dream.

For you, delegation, embassy, judge, agent or defender; whether it's your first time in a model or your tenth, I hope these 3 days of debate and hard work will pay off. First of all, I would like you to feel **proud** of the work you have done, standing up in a forum is not easy, and you are the **brave** ones who do it. Feel even braver for becoming, even if only in 3 days, agents of change, for daring to raise your placard in moderate caucus, for having **initiative** to negotiate in simple caucus and for making your proposals, that, even if they sound very crazy, try to **change the world**.

I invite you to take advantage of this opportunity, to enjoy these 3 days and not to take this model as just another task or as an obligation of your school, but to **have the initiative and be brave enough to dare to change the world**.

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Santiago Gutiérrez Caycedo  
Secretary General for the  
XXXI TECMUN Jr.



*“Be a lover. Give love. Choose love. Always”  
- Harry Styles*

Dear participant:

I hope these three days will be more than a United Nations model, you have probably heard this at TECMUN before, or if it is your first time here, prepare to hear over and over again that TECMUN will change your life, or at least the following years. Maybe the phrase sounds very cliché, or maybe you think it is not true, but let me tell you that at least for me, it did change my course. You do not realize the great impact that something has on your life until it starts to end, and this being my penultimate TECMUN after two years as part of the Secretariat, I can say that nothing would have been the same without this family.

This United Nations model goes beyond assuming the role of a delegation and maintaining a position, it is also about recognizing alternate realities to our own and being able to recognize the power we have. In such a chaotic world, it is important that we always keep in mind that not all people live in the same reality, unfortunately, some face difficulties day by day, while others live in comfort and luxuries. Today more than ever we must raise our voices as new generations, it is of the utmost importance that we fight for a better world for ourselves and for the generations to come; because this is not about being selfish and looking out only for ourselves, but also taking care of the future of the next people who will be in this world.

It is very easy to hate something or someone, hate something you do, create a hate speech, promote discrimination, but the most difficult thing will always be to love, to love what you do, to love who you do it for, or to love yourself. And when you manage to love yourself, love what you do and for whom and why you do it, then you will have won.

If there is something that I want you to take into account during these three days, I want you to know that there is nothing more valuable than fighting for what you love, be it a cause or a hobby, never allow anything or anyone to take away your love for what you are doing. From my own experience, please never give up on what you are passionate about, because for a reason you have come so far and for a reason you are putting so much effort into what moves your soul and mind every day.

I hope with all my heart that you enjoy these three days of the model to the fullest, I hope that you meet new people, realities that are different from yours, or better yet, that you find that motivation to continue wanting to change the world. Believe me, there is no more satisfying achievement than impacting those around us.

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Lía Naomi Mejía Vargas  
Chief of General Coordination for the  
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Dear participant,

It takes a lot of courage to pass to the front and speak for one minute, to stand up in front of a full committee filled with eyes fixed on you waiting for your delegation's position about a certain topic. However, once you start speaking, information starts flowing and you realize that all the time and effort dedicated to your investigation, to discovering a new topic, to adopting and adapting to a country's position despite possibly not being identified by it completely, all of the interest that you applied on your preparation for those kind of moments become totally worth it. TECMUN is not only a simulation of a United Nations committee, TECMUN goes from discovering new people and making new friends to discovering new abilities that maybe you would not have discovered if it weren't for that first step you took by researching about your delegation and raising your hand to participate and speak to express your delegation's point of view, or even by participating in your resolution projects and leading your fellow companions into various and diverse ideas.

For me, TECMUN has opened many doors to incredible opportunities and fabulous people. I hope it does the same to you, remember the most important thing about this kind of experience is not a meaningless trophy or a distinction that sooner or later will be forgotten. The most important thing is to enjoy this experience and take the best from it in order to grow as an individual. I wish for you to have an amazing experience in this edition, meet new people, participate, and most importantly enjoy the now.

My best regards,

Bruno

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Bruno Ramírez Barcelata  
Subsecretary for the Specialized Agencies and Regional Organisms for the  
XXXI TECMUN Jr.

*“Trabaja mientras ellos duermen, estudia mientras ellos se divierten, persiste mientras ellos descansan y vive lo que ellos sueñan”*

*-Anónimo*

Querido delegado:

Tal vez esta sea la primera o la última vez que participas en un modelo de Naciones Unidas, quiero decirte mediante esta carta que lo disfrutes al máximo, es una experiencia de gran satisfacción y enriquecimiento, al mismo tiempo deseo que te complazcas con todo lo que la vida te ponga enfrente porque nada es coincidencia, todo tiene un propósito.

En los próximos tres días representarás a una nación, mientras se te presenta una problemática internacional que tendrás que resolver en el lapso de los días mencionados, recuerda poner toda tu atención y entusiasmo ya que deberás resolver lo más justo posible el caso que se te presentará, y con un enfoque apegado a Derechos Humanos, procurando siempre que la solución y mecanismos que decidas emplear para tal fin, favorezca a todas luces a la humanidad, al medio ambiente y sobre todo a la paz mundial, que mucha falta hace en estos días. Lo anterior, representa una gran responsabilidad, pero sobre todo un reto y la oportunidad para mejorar las relaciones entre los países, y conseguir vivir en armonía..

Espero como tu presidente, logres ser el cambio que deseas ver en el mundo y no solo luches por ello en este momento, sino que continúes esforzándote para llegar lejos. Recuerda que el camino no es fácil, pues todo el proceso estará lleno de altas y bajas, pero sin lugar a dudas, el resultado valdrá la pena, recuerda que estás un paso adelante al haberte inscrito en este modelo y demostrar que sobresales del resto y aún cuando estés cansado y pienses que no puedes más, siempre existe ese plus que te inspira e impulsa a llegar a lugares a los que nunca imaginaste que estarías.

Si decidiste participar en TECMUN, aprovecha que formas parte de este interesante proyecto tan productivo, y que tienes la oportunidad de aprender, enseñar, aportar y motivar a quien lo necesite. Siempre recordando que cuentas con una red de apoyo que confía en ti para que puedas lograr tus objetivos.

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María Fernanda Vázquez Trejo

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

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# Background

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) was created in 1997. This is an intergovernmental organization established in the city of Hague the Netherlands and has 193 Member States; from there it came the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) whose mission is to completely destroy all existing chemical weapons; the provision of protection and assistance against chemical threats; international security; world economic development and the encouragement of international cooperation for a peaceful approach to chemistry. The world's first international disarmament agreement marked the end of negotiations in the Conference Disarmament and Preparatory Commission meant the birth of a new international administration since in this way the OPCW plans to achieve the elimination of the current existence of these weapons. All within the legitimate protection of national security and proprietary interests.

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## 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:

- The request for precise information in order to fulfill the given responsibility;
- Protection of the confidentiality of civil and military data;
- The pursuit of the outright performance of the Convention;
- Has the power to consider any question or issue, and make recommendations regarding the Convention;

- Conduct formal investigations of any chemical attack;
- Create voluntary funds to help victims;
- Design laws and measures in favor of application of the Convention;
- Create a new organism to deal matters related to the Convention or assign tasks to a organism.

## Topic A

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Measures to solve the multiple attacks of chemical weapons on the Syrian Arab Republic, focusing on the chemical problem of Khan Sheikhoun in 2017.

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*By: María Fernanda Vázquez Trejo  
María José Zárraga García*

## ***Introduction***

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons' mission is to keep the world free of chemical weapons. Throughout the history of humanity there have been significant advances in all fields, such as technology and science, however, the production of chemical weapons has also increased, which affects society and armed conflicts. Derived from the agreement known as the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), most countries stopped producing chemical weapons; however, not all States Parties complied with this consensus, as an example we can mention the Syrian Arab Republic, which has not stopped producing these types of weapons. Circumstance that have lethal consequences for humanity since these weapons are manufactured with chlorine, mustard, phosgene and sarin, among others, these components are the easiest to obtain and therefore the most used. In this case, chlorine and sarin are the agents used by the Syrian Arab Republic; Chlorine is a chemical that is used to sanitize public water systems but in high concentrations it can be used as a weapon that produces: suffocation, irritation, coughing and fluid accumulation in the lungs, on the other hand, sarin is a nerve agent which makes victims gasp for breath. The use of these two agents, among others, as chemical weapons often attacks the central nervous system, as well as the environment. They can cause lacerations on a molecular and DNA level that can also become evident in future generations.

## ***Use of sarin gas as a deadly component of chemical weapons used by the Syrian Arab Republic against humanity***

Sarin gas has been used by the Syrian government on two occasions, causing the largest deadly attacks using chemical weapons since World War II. On August 21, 2013, the first attack using this neurotoxic was carried out in the City of Ghouta in the Syrian Arab

Republic by order of the current president of this nation. When launching the bombs with this gas, approximately 1,400 people lost their lives, including children, since they affected hospitals, schools and homes, there were also a total of 400 people injured. The Bashar al-Assad regime provoked this attack when the city of Ghouta was taken over by rebel groups. The people affected by the bombing requested the intervention of the United Nations (UN) for this event. The wounded were taken to hospitals, but a few months later, these too were bombed, killing 10 children and causing several people to flee Syria. This led to mediation by various UN member states.

***Intervention of the Member States of the OPCW to eradicate the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic***

The Member States were dissatisfied; as they are United States of America, France and Turkey and these in turn requested the resignation of Bashar al-Assad since his government made excessive use of force such as chemical weapons against its citizens and this was considered a crime against humanity. Addition stressing that the use of chemical weapons constitutes a threat to international peace and security. For this reason, the UN requested help from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to examine the non-compliance with the Convention and to be able to take measures in this regard. The OPCW issued an invitation to the Syrian Arab Republic to be part of its Member States and thus this country has been part of the OPCW since 2013, as well as this organization gave the order to destroy all chemical weapons and elements for their manufacture. But they never imagined that the Syrian government would keep the necessary elements to use sarin gas in another attack against its own citizens in 2017.



### ***In 2017 the use of Chemical Weapons causing serious damage was resumed in 2013***

The use of the nerve agent called sarin gas, previously used by the Syrian Arab Republic in 2013, also used in 2017, that is; four years later, where for the second time; The President of the nation Bashar al-Assad, ordered on April 4, 2017, an airborne chemical attack that killed more than eighty people and injured several more, in the northern province of the Syrian Arab Republic called Khan Sheikhoun . The attack was directed from the Shayrat air base located in the same country, since it was mentioned that the city was taken by the rebels days before the event. This attack caused the discontent of one of the greatest world powers, the United States of America, since it was the same neurotoxic agent that was considered in the lethal attack 2013, as a crime against humanity. Which led to the then President of the United States, Donald Trump, directing an attack with 59 missiles launched at the same one that directed the chemical attack on the Syrian population.

### ***Intervention of United Nations Agencies***

This attack was considered the worst chemical attack after 2013. Western countries stated that the Syrian government was fully responsible for this incident in the Syrian Arab Republic as history repeated itself. The United States threatened retaliation because Syria had promised in the earlier attack to destroy all chemical weapons and remove all devices that would enable their manufacture. But in the end the country where the problem took place relented when Assad's main ally, Russia, convinced him to agree to the removal of Syria's chemical arsenal despite the fact that he had already done so years before. In addition to the fact that the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the United Nations destroyed all of the 1,300 tons declared by the Syrian government,. The Security Council

along with the OPCW and the UN continue to seek further solutions to prevent chemical attacks committed by the Syrian government. To date, the UN fears that history will repeat itself and once again end the lives of hundreds of people in the Syrian Arab Republic, which is why the citizens of this country request the intervention of the OPCW Member States to be able to ensure the total destruction of all chemical weapons in the Syrian government as well as eliminate all the elements for the manufacture of these in order to maintain world peace.

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## **Topic B**

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Measures to prevent the usage of neurotoxins as weapons, emphasizing the novichok attacks led by the Russian government

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***Introduction***

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), is an intergovernmental organization 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 exertion<sup>1</sup> 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 the 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 amassing 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, paralyzing the muscles and other diverse consequences. It was believed that the substance had been destroyed and its production halted, 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 in an attempt of assassination in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. As well 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 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, neighboring 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 use and consequences of nerve agents in Chemical Warfare***



Chemical Warfare is defined as a belic conflict which uses substances such as; gasses, smoke or incendiary mixture with burning, choking or poisonous properties to gain a military or political advantage by the Merriam-webster Dictionary . 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 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 functioning properly. Nevertheless,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 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 distressing 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 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.

### ***The invention of the most dangerous neurotoxic agent “Novichok”***

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 halides, 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-agents 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, unveiled 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, the doctor who first revealed the Novichok formula, says it only lasts for a few 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 relocation in 1995. According to the United States of America National Center for Biotechnology 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 NATO, which makes it easier for extremists to find and move them around the globe.

### ***The Salisbury incident that highlighted the existence of the nerve agent called Novichok***

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 Service. Subsequently, he was convicted for treason and imprisoned. Nevertheless, 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 took 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 Baile. Both incidents instigated a dispute between the United Kingdom and the Russian Federation, after British investigators blamed 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 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 origin of the nerve agent ended with the neurotoxin being 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 ordered by the Russian federation using the most dangerous neurotoxic agent*

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, he fell seriously ill, consequently making the plane make an emergency landing in Omsk, city in Russia. 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 to planting poison on his underpants without leaving any trace after Navalny pretended to be a senior figure from the 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 analyses 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. By 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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**Glossary of Forbidden Words**

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***Forbidden Words***

*Defined by the United Nations, are non diplomatic terms participants must avoid to mention during their speeches on the debate and in the writing of resolution projects.*

<b>Forbidden Words</b>	<b>Permitted equivalent</b>
First world countries	Developed countries
Third world countries	Developing countries
Gay	Member of the LGBTIQ+ community

War <sup>1</sup>	Belic conflict
Rape	Sexual Harassment
Terrorist	Extremist
Kill or murder	Deprive someone of their life
Death	Casualties
Assassination	Homicide
Army	Military forces
Money	Economic resources
Poor	Lack of resources
Okay	Yes or agree
Black <sup>2</sup>	African American

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**Glossary for Resolution Projects**

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***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

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<sup>1</sup> The word war can be used in order to refer to historical contexts, such as the Cold War, the First World War, etc. It can only be used in the Security Council to refer to armed conflicts.

<sup>2</sup> The word black, with regard to race, is not forbidden but it is recommended to limit its use and refer to this sector as African American or Afrodescendants.

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 Projects**

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***Operative Clauses***

*Operative Clauses are used at the beginning of every resolution within the Resolution Paper on the debated topic. They 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
Congratulates	Further reminds	Affirms
Considers	Further recommends	Strongly
Declares accordingly	Further requests	condemns
Deplores	Further resolves	Supports
Designates	Has resolved	Takes note of
		Transmits
		Trusts