

RUSSIA AND THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION – DRAFT

Russia's obligations under the CWC

1. It must not **develop, produce, stockpile and use** chemical weapons; it must not **transfer directly or indirectly** chemical weapons to anyone. It must not use riot control agents as a method of warfare. It must translate the prohibitions of the Convention into domestic criminal law and take steps to ensure that toxic chemicals and their precursors are only developed, produced, otherwise acquired, retained, transferred or used for purposes not prohibited under the Convention.¹

2. Russia is obliged to **declare**:
 - All chemical weapons stockpiles.
 - Any facility used to produce chemical weapons at any time since 1 January 1946.
 - Any facility used primarily in the development of chemical weapon since 1 January 1946.
 - Any facility that produced a Schedule 2² chemical for chemical weapon purposes since 1 January 1946.
 - Whether it has transferred chemical weapons to any other state;
 - Whether it has any old chemical weapons (pre 1925 or 1925-1946);
 - Whether it has abandoned chemical weapons in a third country;
 - Whether it has any facilities producing, processing or consuming Schedule 1, 2 and 3 chemicals; and to make them available for inspection by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Criminal Weapons (OPCW).
 - Whether it has any facilities producing, processing or consuming Schedule 1, 2 and 3 chemicals and to make them available for inspection by the OPCW;
 - Whether it has 'other chemical production facilities' (i.e. those producing discrete organic chemicals) and open them for inspection by the OPCW.
 - What riot control agents it holds for domestic riot control purposes.

¹ These are industrial, agricultural, research, medical, pharmaceutical or other peaceful purposes; protective purposes, namely those purposes directly related to protection against toxic chemicals and to protection against chemical weapons; military purposes not connected with the use of chemical weapons and not dependent on the use of the toxic properties of chemicals as a method of warfare; and law enforcement, including domestic riot control purposes.

² There are three schedules listing chemicals and families of chemicals that are toxic agents or precursors used to make chemical warfare agents; the schedules are for the application of verification measures - declarations and inspections. They do not define the scope of the Convention.

3. Russia is required to **destroy or convert all production facilities** within ten years of entry into force of the Convention (1997); and to **destroy all chemical weapons within ten years**. There was a single five year extension period for chemical weapons available but only to be used in exceptional circumstances.

Russia's history of compliance with the CWC

4. Russia failed to meet the ten year destruction period for CW stockpiles; the CWC allowed one five year extension period. The Russians only completed destruction of its declared stockpile in September 2017 – ten years late on the original deadline and a further five years late on the extended deadline. There was massive Western financial and other assistance to the Russians to help them with their destruction efforts – a fact not always happily acknowledged.

RUSSIA'S PREVIOUS ASSASSINATIONS PROGRAMMES INCLUDE

5. We have information indicating that within the last decade, Russia has investigated ways of delivering nerve agents likely for assassination and as part of/in support of this programme has produced and stocked small quantities of novichoks.
6. The Russian Intelligence Services have a history of assassination on British soil. Alexander Litvinenko was murdered in 2006 when he drank tea laced with highly radioactive polonium-210. The public inquiry into his death concluded there was a “strong circumstantial evidence of Russian state responsibility”.
7. Samir Saleh Abdullah (aka Khattab) was killed in 2002. A New York Times Article reported that he apparently opened a letter laced with what may have been sarin or a derivative. The FSB later announced that Abdullah had been killed in a “special operation”
8. Russian legislation adopted in 2006 formally permits extrajudicial killings abroad of those Moscow accuses of “extremism” or “terrorism”.
9. The KGB used hydrogen cyanide - a chemical warfare agent from WWI – to assassinate exiled Ukrainian nationalists in the late 1950s – this is matter of public record as one of the assassins defected himself, confessed and was then put on trial in West Germany in the early 1960s.