

Statement by the United States
Thematic Discussion on Cluster 2- Other WMD
UNGA First Committee
October 22, 2025
TO BE DELIVERED

Chair,

The world faces persistent and growing danger from chemical and biological weapons.

The United States unilaterally renounced biological weapons in 1969 and was a founding member of the Biological Weapons Convention. President Trump's statement at the General Assembly last month was a wake-up call on the threat of biological weapons.

The United States is concerned that some countries and non-state actors are pursuing biological weapons. To protect Americans and the world, President Trump announced last month that the United States will spearhead efforts to strengthen the BWC by applying modern tools—especially AI—to tackle these growing and evolving threats. We urge all to join us in pioneering a suite of trustworthy 21st century tools to strengthen BWC enforcement, verification and implementation.

Chair,

While paving new roads to address biological threats, we also recognize the promising chapter opened by the new Syrian government to address chemical weapons. The United States calls on all nations to step up, share the burden, and seize this opportunity to support the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the Syrian government in turning the page. We fully support Syria and the OPCW's critical mission to identify, secure, and verifiably destroy remnants of the Assad regime's chemical weapons. The new Syrian government's efforts to work with the OPCW are a welcome shift from the former regime's attempts to conceal and mislead.

We cannot ignore the scourge of chemical weapons across the globe. Iran is developing pharmaceutical-based agents as part of a chemical weapons program; and in May, the United States determined the Government of Sudan used chemical weapons in 2024. We remain committed to engaging Sudan on this issue.

In Ukraine, the OPCW has issued three reports concluding munitions recovered from the front lines by Ukrainian forces contained riot control agents. These reports provide further evidence that these agents were used as a method of warfare against Ukrainian forces—a violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The United States is not alone in assessing Russia has repeatedly used chloropicrin [KLOR-uh-pik-rin]—a weapon not seen since World War I.

Chair,

We call on all nations to uphold the obligations established by these conventions and to strengthen the tools to support them. We reiterate our opposition to the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere. We ask all countries to join us and to hold any actor who uses such weapons accountable.

Thank you.