**Position Paper**  

**Country:** United States of America

**Committee:** Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)

**Agenda Item:** The regulation of chemical weapons possession and usage.

The United States of America commonly known as U.S. or America, located in North America between Canada and Mexico is a federation of 50 states. The United States is the world's third largest country by area. The U.S. has the population of 331.9 million (2021) and it has a diverse population with a wide range of cultures, ethnicities and religions. The United States has a significant reputation in politics, economics and technology.

Chemical warfare agents identified as; chemical substances capable of manifesting in liquid, gaseous or solid forms, possessing direct effects on man, animals or plants which may cause injuries or death. In World War 1 (WW1) chemical weapons were used occasionally led to banning chemical usage and warfare even so chemical weapon possession persists in battle and beyond. From World War 1 (WW1) until 1968 United States possessed more than 30,000 tons of chemical weapons, according to the sources United States decimated chemical weaponry in the country. However, prior to this act during the Cold War U.S. and USSR (Russian Federation) had extensive stockpiles of chemical weapons. In 1997 the U.S. Senate ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention highly encouraged other nations to follow their lead. Further analysis revealed that U.S. did not stay on the lead and ended up being the last nation to exterminate chemical weapon. Factors that are contributed to U.S. eliminating the chemical agents namely, the handling and disposal of chemical weapons posed significant challenges with many weapons conducting deadly amount of chemicals and explosives. Additionally, chronic underfunding and poor management plagued the programme resulting in duration.

As the specter of a second world war (WW2) loomed, there was an anticipation regarding the potential usage of chemical weapons. In due course of these fears the world witnessed a tragic incident with the atomic bomb over Hiroshima. Atomic bombs are those weapons which possess explosive power resulting in massive energy. The first atomic bomb developed by J. Robbert Oppenheimer in Manhattan Project during WW2. The only atomic bombs used in warfare released by U.S. on two Japanese cities which namely; Hiroshima (6th of August 1945) and Nagasaki (9th of August 1945). The cause of this was the U.S. wanting force a quick surrender by the Japanese. Japan’s and United States relations continued to evolve throughout the Cold War and into the 21st Century. The nations, maintain strong economic ties and Japan is a crucial ally of the United States. The Japanese and U.S. come to an agreement and alliance, Japan-U.S. Security Arrangement, which are the arrangements that are foundation for an alliance between two nations not only in defense but conversing diverse selection of politics, economy and social.

In conclusion, between WW1 and 1968, the United States possessed and stored more than 30,000 tons of chemical agents. Despite their accumulation, these chemical agents' deterrent against their possible usage by other nations. Consequently, these chemical weapons never developed in warfare and became outdated over time. Between 1967-1970 an operation came in force to dispose of the chemical agents which had been, Cut Holes and Sink ‘Em (CHASE). The aim of this operation was to load outdated chemicals onto old ships and sunk them into the ocean. As late as, in 1972, a congress passed the Marine Projection Research and Sanctuaries act of 1972 Public Law 92-532 to prohibit dumping chemical weaponry into the ocean. Finally, in 1997 the United States ratified the United Nations (UN) International Chemical Weapon Convention (CWC), committing to efface its inventory of deteriorating chemical agents by 29th of April 2007. Nevertheless, the deadline was postponed, and the disposal finalized in 2023.

**Bibliography**

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