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**COMMITTEE:** DISEC

**COUNTRY:** Azerbaijan

**AGENDA ITEM:**The Regulation of Chemical Weapon Posession and Usage

 Located in the region of the southern Caucasus Mountains, our beloved country Azerbaijan borders the Caspian Sea to the east, Georgia and Russia to the north, Iran to the south, and Armenia to the southwest and west. A small part of the city Nakhchivan also borders Türkiye to the northwest. With over the population of 10.1 million and a total land area of 86,600km2, Azerbaijan is known as “The Land of Fire”, thanks to our vast supplies of oil and natural gas.

 Chemical weapons have been a great concern since when it first started being used in China in 1000 BC for incapacitating enemies by using Arsenical smoke. When we take a look in the more modern era of chemical weapons, first usage of modern chemical warfare agents was made by Germans on 15 April 1915, by releasing 160 tons of chlorine gas near the Belgian village of Ypres, allegedly killing 5000 soldiers. The first usage of mustard gas, which is amongst the most popular chemical warfare agents, was also made by Germans 2 years later. After the WW1, more states such as England, Russia, United States of America started pioneering the industry of chemical agents. In the 1925 Geneva Conference on arms control, The USA suggested that a universal prohibition of chemical weapons should be in place, which was then backed up by the Polish, saying that this prohibition should also cover biological weapons. This protocol wasn’t really succesful though, since even The U.S., the state that originally came up with the idea of a prohibition didn’t ratify the protocol. The research and production of the chemical warfare agents grew even bigger. During the Second World War, the rate of production of chemical weapons grew at an unbelievable rate which ended up by the states such as the U.S. and Germany produced tens of thousands tons of chemical agents during the time period.

 The effects of the WW2 divided the globe in half, starting the Cold War. Although immense quantities of chemical warfare agents were disposed publicly, neither side of the Iron Curtain stopped their development on chemical agents. states of Canada, U.S. and the UK formed the “Tripartite Agreement”, which was an alliance created in order to enhance the techniques of chemical warfare with the newly discovered German nerve agents. During the time period, the UK discovered the most lethal chemical agent ever known to mankind, “VX”, which’s secret was then shared with America who had a better financial state then the UK. More kinds of chemical agents were found and more cases of unfiltered usage of chemical weapons were created by both sides of the Iron Curtain and other countries such as Iraq during the post WW2 period which made states realise that there should be a better protocol in place. Then the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) was born, what later proved itself to be a succesful convention, going on to be signed by 193 states.

 Our country Azerbaijan was falsely and baselessly accused by the delegation of the Republic of Armenia, alleging that Azerbaijan used incendiary weapons, containing “probably white phosphorus” in the Karabakh region Azerbaijan. These accusations were later proved to be untrue and that it was the Armenian side who actually used munitions containing white phosphorus, which didn’t fall under the Chemical Weapons Convention in the first place.

 We, as the Republic of Azerbaijan, support and fully back the Chemical Weapons Convention and agree that the usage of chemical warfare agents should be prohibited for all the states. If there were to be another convention, succesor to the CWC, we would expect that all the states, no matter if they faced any accusation about the topic or not, should agree and sign the new convention which will forbid any nation from using, developing or producing a chemical weapon ever again.

**REFERENCES:**

Azerbaijan (OPCW)

<https://www.opcw.org/about-us/member-states/azerbaijan>

<https://www.opcw.org/our-work/what-chemical-weapon#:~:text=A%20Chemical%20Weapon%20is%20a,the%20definition%20of%20chemical%20weapons>.

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