

Country: _____

Your position:

National Authority

Business

I prefer not to say

Dear participant,

Thank you for taking the time to complete my short questionnaire.

I am a researcher at Charles University in Prague and I am focusing on the debate on so-called non-lethal weapons (NLWs) in the context of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). I am interested in the debate on two categories of NLWs – riot control agents (RCAs) and incapacitating chemical agents (ICAs). I include a very short description of these two categories below so that it is clear what the subject of my inquiry is. Your answers will help me to understand the positions of stakeholders in the debate and contribute to my better understanding of the stances of National Authorities or private bodies, depending on your background.

Please feel free to include any additional insights or further explanations of your answers. Also, I will be happy to hear more on the topic from you, should you be interested in sharing your experiences and opinions. I include my contact information at the end of the questionnaire.

Hana Martínková

As stated in the Convention, an RCA is “any chemical not listed in a Schedule, which can produce rapidly in humans sensory irritation or disabling physical effects which disappear within a short time following termination of exposure” and needs to be declared by State Parties. ICAs lack an official definition and declaration obligations, but generally speaking, they are chemicals acting on the central nervous system, generally including pharmaceutical chemicals, bioregulators and toxins. Both of these classes of agents are technically permissible under the purposes not prohibited by the Convention, which include, among others, “law enforcement including domestic riot control purposes.”

1. Do you think that the current provisions of the CWC on RCAs are sufficient?

- a) Provisions are insufficient and should be tightened
- b) Provisions are sufficient
- c) Provisions are too restrictive and should be loosened

2. Do you think that the current provisions of the CWC on ICAs are sufficient?

- a) Provisions are insufficient and should be tightened
- b) Provisions are sufficient
- c) Provisions are too restrictive and should be loosened

3. The current regulation of RCAs allows misuse under the CWC

- a) Strongly disagree
- b) Disagree
- c) Neither
- d) Agree
- e) Strongly agree

Why (optional):

4. The current regulation of ICAs allows misuse under the CWC

- a) Strongly disagree
- b) Disagree
- c) Neither
- d) Agree
- e) Strongly agree

Why (optional):

5. Grouping these two classes of chemicals – RCAs and ICAs – together as “non-lethal weapons” is wrong, they are too different to be dealt with together.

- a) Strongly disagree
- b) Disagree
- c) Neither
- d) Agree
- e) Strongly agree

Why (optional):

6. There was a prominent case of ICA use in 2002 in the Dubrovka theatre in Moscow. During a hostage situation, 170 people were killed as a result of an improper use of an incapacitating chemical agent. According to the European Court for Human Rights, the incident lacked planning but was not in conflict with the Convention on Human Rights. Do you think that this action was in accordance with the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)?

- a) Yes, domestic law enforcement is exempt from the CWC.
- b) Yes, but this type of action SHOULD NOT be permissible under the CWC.
- c) No, the CWC General Purpose Criterion was not abided by.
- d) Other:

7. Please assess the terms ICAs and central nervous system (CNS) acting chemicals. Recently, the latter has been used to refer to anaesthetics, sedatives or analgesics in the context of CWC deliberations and has replaced the term ICAs. According to you, what is the reason for this change?

8. In 2015, a statement was introduced by Australia, later joined by 38 other states, calling for a debate on the dangers of central nervous system (CNS) acting chemicals.

- a) My state supports this action
- b) My state is not against this action, but does not directly support it
- c) My state is against this action

If you are from the private sector or do not want to express the view of your government:

- a) I support this action b) I am not against this action c) I am against this action

9. The national laws of my country fully correspond with the provisions of the CWC (national implementation is complete).

- a) Yes b) No c) I do not know

10. The national laws of my country cover law enforcement use of chemical agents

- 11. Yes b) No c) I do not know

12. RCAs and/or ICAs are part of standard law enforcement practices in my country.

- a) Yes, both b) Only RCAs c) Only ICAs d) Neither of them

Please leave any additional comments here:

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire, you can contact me in the following ways:

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