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RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES
EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON AGENDA ITEM 9(D)**

Mr Chairperson,
Distinguished delegates,

Today is truly a black day in the history of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons—an international organisation dedicated to facilitating the achievement of the goals of creating a world free of chemical weapons. We are ashamed by what just took place in this room.

Support for the decision that was taken was in no way dictated by the responsibilities of a State Party in complying with the Chemical Weapons Convention, nor in safeguarding its integrity, as they are trying to assure us.

We have just borne witness to how the norms of international law were trampled upon for the good of the so-called rules of responsible international behaviour imposed by a certain group of countries. The decision that was taken to revoke Syria's rights under the Convention is the manifestation of how certain States are attempting to pass themselves off as the judges called to determine who and how well one is behaving in the international arena, and to dictate their own agenda. This is a profoundly corrupt approach that pulls the rug out from under international order.

Behind these brassy, ostentatious statements on alleged military crimes with chemical weapons—of which there were none in Syria, in fact—we see an attempt to use propaganda-based actions to reinforce the perception that the legitimate authorities of Damascus are at the root of all universal evil and must be demonised and, ultimately, removed.

It is frankly a shame that the OPCW has turned from a technical platform to a political tool orchestrating rigged trials of States Parties—and now it's Syria's turn.

We presume that sooner or later, the truth about the events in Syria will come to light. History will, one way or another, put everything in its place. And then, it will not only be us and the countries that voted against this decision who feel shame at what took place within these walls today, but many of those who supported it as well.

Thank you for your attention.



We request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and published on the Organisation's external server and website.

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