



OPCW

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RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR A.V. SHULGIN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO
THE OPCW AT THE 100TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 11(B)**

I would first like to draw attention to the fact that the new revision of the draft decision on amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Board on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF), dated 21 June 2022, did not appear on Catalyst until July. We would like to hear an explanation from the Technical Secretariat as to why the publication of this document was delayed by one week.

In any case, it is clear that due to this delay, the States Parties (including the Russian Federation) did not have the opportunity to fully examine the draft and prepare for a substantive discussion.

Nevertheless, even at first glance, it is clear that even though certain corrections do in fact partially take into account our comments and proposals, a number of points within the Rules of Procedure remain unacceptable for us.

In particular, we strongly believe that the Executive Council should not have the ability to terminate the authorities of any current member of the ABAF (this option was retained by the authors in Rule 3 ter b). This, as we have repeatedly emphasised before, contradicts the provision of a fundamental principle, namely that the members of the ABAF are working in their personal capacity and exercise their functions independently and impartially. By assuming the right to terminate membership in the ABAF, the Council is essentially making the work of experts dependent upon it, its decisions, and the political situation. Both dismissal and even the threat of dismissal from this body does not allow experts to perform impartially.

Moreover, other new aspects, including those aimed at ensuring the “conscientiousness” of the work of ABAF members requires, in our opinion, more work and additional discussion at the expert level.

We would like to emphasise that we still do not see any pressing need to change the ABAF Rules of Procedure. If this new document is to be adopted, then it should be based on a consensus, while taking into account the opinions of all States Parties, based on the advanced experience and practices of international organisations with regard to auxiliary advisory bodies. If it isn't broken, why fix it?

There is one more procedural moment concerning the effectiveness of the use of time at Council sessions. This issue, as we know, has been submitted for discussion by this body over the past two years now. Each time, it is rescheduled to the next session without any decision.



In this regard, I would like to suggest that the Secretariat change the working format and include this matter on the agenda only after the text of amendments is agreed upon by all interested States Parties, i.e., when the Council is ready to take a consensus-based decision. In our opinion, this will help make more efficient use of our working time without overloading the work schedule. If the members of the Executive Council agree, then I would request that this decision be reflected in the final report of this session.

We request that this statement be distributed as an official document of the 100th Session of the Council and published on the Catalyst platform.

Thank you for your attention.

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