



OPCW

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ENGLISH and RUSSIAN only

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
TO THE OPCW AT THE 100TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 18**

I would like to draw the attention of the Council to the flagrant violation by the Kingdom of the Netherlands of its obligations under paragraph 49, Article VIII of the Chemical Weapons Convention and OPCW Headquarters Agreement.

On 29 March 2022, using a fabricated pretext and without providing any evidence, the Dutch Government expelled three staff members of the Permanent Representation of the Russian Federation to the OPCW from the country. In this regard, we would recall that in line with the aforementioned provisions of the Convention, “[...] representatives appointed to the Executive Council together with their alternates and advisers [...] shall enjoy such privileges and immunities as are necessary in the independent exercise of their functions in connection with the Organization.” Furthermore, in line with paragraph 4, Article 14 of the OPCW Headquarters Agreement, no activity performed by any person in his official capacity with respect to the OPCW shall constitute a reason for his departure from the territory of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The expulsion resulted in the number of staff members of the Permanent Representation from the office of the Russian diplomatic mission to the OPCW being halved. The fact that this step was taken by The Hague against the backdrop of preparations for the Fifth Review Conference also gives rise to serious concern.

In this regard, we were forced to urgently convene the Committee on Relations with the Host Country in April to discuss the problem that arose. However, to our great dismay, the Government of the Netherlands flat out declined to reconsider its decision regarding the three aforementioned diplomats.

Furthermore, after this Committee meeting, we repeatedly ran into situations where the Embassy of the Netherlands in Moscow refused to accept documents for entry visas, particularly for a new member of the Russian Permanent Representation, an expert on the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters, as well as members of the Russian delegation to the policy-making organs of the OPCW. We have brought up this matter on a bilateral basis regularly in our contacts with the Technical Secretariat, as well as with the Chairperson of the Executive Council of the OPCW. In the end, the visas that were requested were issued after all. In this regard, the Russian Federation expresses its gratitude to the Director-General and the honourable Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, Ziad M.D. Atiyah, for their assistance.



We call upon the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to refrain in future from abusing the privileges granted it by the States Parties to host an international organisation on its territory. It is unacceptable to extrapolate a bilateral agenda onto the obligations that The Hague has to the Organisation.

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

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