



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Twenty-Seventh Session
28 November – 1 December 2022

C-27/NAT.102
29 November 2022
ENGLISH and RUSSIAN only

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR A.V. SHULGIN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE
OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE STATES PARTIES IN EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF REPLY
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 8**

The countries in the Euro-Atlantic bloc, in spite of all the appeals, continue their unfounded politicisation of the agenda of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. They are concealing facts of violations of the Chemical Weapons Convention that are inconvenient for them, while intentionally misleading the States Parties.

We categorically reject the continued insinuation regarding the alleged involvement of the Russian Federation in the use of nerve agents dubbed “novichoks” by the West. It is no secret that the two stories—“the Skripal affair” and “the Navalny affair”—are links in the same chain, a propaganda campaign, the goal of which is to exert continued political and economic pressure on Russia.

London continues to refuse to have a substantial discussion on or a joint investigation into what took place in Salisbury, where Russian citizens were victims, and in Amesbury. One of many of our notes on this matter was sent in September 2022 and, as was the case with the others, it was demonstratively ignored.

A similar situation is developing with the tale being spun by the United States and its allies about the ostensible poisoning of Mr Navalny. Russia has taken a position that is as transparent as possible. In response to our efforts to arrange a substantial dialogue to establish what truly happened, NATO countries have essentially, from the very first day, resorted to “megaphone diplomacy”. For more than two years now, Berlin, London, Paris, and Stockholm cannot—or more likely, are afraid and do not want—to extend any clear response to the questions we have posed about this incident. We are still waiting for the 45 “concerned” States to reply to the questions we have asked. On our part, we have provided actual facts regarding the Navalny affair.

Russia’s position on these two matters has not changed: we strongly intend to establish the truth behind both incidents. In this regard, we once again confirm our readiness for substantive cooperation among law enforcement and other relevant experts, and we will continue to request exhaustive official information from the United Kingdom and Germany within this context, as well as their fulfilment of their international legal obligations.

I request that this statement be distributed as an official document of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties and published on the OPCW’s website and the Catalyst platform.

--- 0 ---

