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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 TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
STATES PARTIES UNDER AGENDA ITEM 9(D)**

We are forced to state that the group of countries that are part of an aggressive military bloc engaging in wars in Asia, Africa, and even in Europe, which have led to numerous human deaths, is attempting to turn the floor of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons into an arena for settling political scores. What's more, these countries don't even bother to try to provide any serious evidence. As a result, the members of this military alliance and their closest allies are insulting not only other States Parties, but are displaying their disrespect for the entire Organisation as a whole.

The countries of the so-called Western collective have unleashed an unprecedented slanderous campaign against the Russian Federation. They are pushing false narratives about the events in Ukraine onto the States Parties. At the same time, they are the ones who are directly participating in an armed conflict by financing it, providing weapons, intelligence, military trainers, and contractors. It is Russia that is acting in full compliance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter and recognising its inalienable right to "individual or collective self-defence".

With regard to the confirmations of shelling of industrial chemical facilities, this is being done by Ukrainian nationalists. We have at least two confirmed instances of these types of provocations, about which the Russian Federation issued warnings beforehand. It was the incidents that took place on 21 March 2022 at the Sumykhimprom company, and on 6 May 2022 at the Azot plant (in the city of Severodonetsk). There were also other strikes targeting national economic entities leading to the leakage of chemically hazardous substances.

At the same time, the West remains silent regarding the Ukrainian side's circulation of false information within the OPCW. One specific example is the Note by the Permanent Representative of Ukraine dated 31 May 2022 containing material that has nothing to do with the events described therein, i.e., to put it simply, a sham (the incident on 6 May 2022 at the Azot plant (in the city of Severodonetsk)).

Russia is also being accused of attacking the OPCW Technical Secretariat. Allegedly, we stated that the Ukrainian side is using it as part of military provocations planned by fighters. The truth is that we merely provided a warning about Kyev's plans to use the capability of the OPCW to potentially confirm an instance of chemical poisoning with the objective of placing the blame with Russia. And so the so-called concerned countries are twisting the facts—or, if we are to call things as they are, they are deliberately misleading the delegations. Incidentally, this



appears to be their modus operandi. Just take as an example the accusations being made within the walls of the OPCW claiming Russia intends to use weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in Ukraine.

In this regard, I would draw attention to the statement delivered by the Secretary of Defense of the United States at a briefing held on 24 October this year, at which it was confirmed that there is no data whatsoever indicating that Russia intends to use WMD in Ukraine. As a result, all speculation on this matter is nothing more than a deliberate attempt to create an atmosphere of hostility, distrust, and intolerance on the floor of the OPCW, which seriously undermines the effectiveness of our Organisation's work.

In conclusion, I want to assure you that the Russian Federation, in spite of all the insinuations, confirms its unwavering adherence to its obligations under the Convention.

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 Catalyst platform and on the OPCW website.

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