



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Eighty-Fifth Session  
11 – 14 July 2017

EC-85/NAT.26  
14 July 2017  
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 EIGHTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 6(E)**

Mr Chairperson,

The Russian Federation has reviewed the documents submitted at the Eighty-Fifth Session of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) of the OPCW regarding the destruction of “old” chemical weapons in Panama. We believe it necessary to look into this matter in order to obtain answers to the questions arising in relation thereto. Many of the details related to the elimination of the chemical weapons on San José Island still need clarification.

In particular, clarity is required with regard to how the conclusion was made that the chemical weapons discovered in Panama were manufactured only in the United States. According to a document by the OPCW Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) entitled “Initial Inspection of Old Chemical Weapons Declared by Panama as Abandoned and Located at San José Island” (EC-28/S/3, dated 11 March 2002), three States participated in the tests that were conducted on the island: Canada, Great Britain, and the United States (paragraph 2.11). Moreover, the Secretariat’s inspection established that the discovered chemical weapons “[s]izeable CW fragments were also identified as having been manufactured in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and in the United States of America” (paragraph 2.8).

The question then arises as to whether or not these States, over the past 16 years since the initial visit of Secretariat experts, have submitted any additional information regarding the chemical weapons abandoned in Panama. It is this issue in particular that the above-referenced Secretariat document addresses.

Furthermore, the reasons for Panama changing the status of these chemical weapons from “abandoned” to “old”, in line with sub-paragraph 1(b)(i) of Article III of the Chemical Weapons Convention and paragraph 3 of Part IV (B) of the Verification Annex, give rise to doubts. Questions arise with regard to Panama ensuring the safety of its people and environment during the weapons destruction process in line with the Convention, specifically with regard to the destruction of this type of chemical munition.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

We request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Eighty-Fifth Session of the Council.

--- 0 ---

