



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

Fourth Special Session  
26 and 27 June 2018

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ENGLISH and RUSSIAN only

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**STATEMENT BY MR G.V. KALAMANOV  
HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
ON THE RESULTS OF THE VOTE ON THE BRITISH DRAFT DECISION  
AT THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

The Russian Federation expresses its categorical disagreement with the decision taken at the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

We find any initiatives aimed at the politicisation of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and its future division inappropriate. At the suggestion of the initiators, among the other things that have been submitted for consideration by the special session of the Conference are the results of investigations by the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM), on which the United Nations Security Council took no decisions. Our Organisation did not have the right to evaluate the work of a structure that it did not establish and that did not report to it.

Neither the Conference, nor the Executive Council, nor the Technical Secretariat has a mandate that would allow it to assign attribution for violating the Convention. The Conference—the main governing body—can act exclusively within the framework of its competencies as ascribed to it by this international treaty. Granting the function of attribution to the Organisation by taking some kind of decisions at a special session of the Conference is not possible, and can only be done by introducing amendments to the Convention as stipulated in Article XV.

The aforementioned circumstances do not allow the Russian delegation to take a decision to legitimise the establishment of a mechanism within the OPCW to apportion blame.

We believe it is important to strengthen the Convention's regime—not destroy it. The establishment of new obligations for States Parties that they had not undertaken themselves upon signing this international treaty is unacceptable.

What has been done today not only does not strengthen the Convention's regime, but leads it to a full range of grave consequences of a political, legal, technical, and administrative nature, which will in turn pose a direct threat to its very existence.

A very dangerous precedent has been created at this Conference, both for the Organisation and for the system of international law as a whole. Only the United Nations Security Council



has the prerogative to take coercive measures when it comes to States, and attribution is one of the most important elements of that competency.

The Russian Federation will examine, from all angles, all of the consequences of taking this damaging and illegitimate decision at the OPCW that was imposed by some States Parties that have ignored the opinion of other members of the Organisation, and in that respect will take the appropriate measures.

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