



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

Twenty-Fourth Session  
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ENGLISH and RUSSIAN only

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR A.V. SHULGIN  
DEPUTY HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE OPCW  
AT THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES  
IN RESPONSE TO A STATEMENT BY A GROUP OF COUNTRIES  
ON NGO PARTICIPATION**

Mr Chairperson, Mr Director-General, distinguished delegates,

Russia fully supports the participation of representatives from civil society in the work of the main body of the OPCW. This is an imperative.

It is exceptionally important that the opinion of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) invested in the constructive and effective work of the OPCW is heard within these walls.

However there are also those NGOs whose work not only does not help, but also damages our Organisation, bringing in unjustified politicisation to what is primarily technical activity. There are also organisations that deal in the distribution of blatant lies about certain States Parties. And they aren't doing it for free—they are carrying out specific political orders. If one takes the route of unlimited access for all NGOs without filtering them and without listening to their opinions of States Parties, then odious organisations such as the pseudo-humanitarian Syrian Civil Defence and the infamous White Helmets will be able to enter with other representatives of civil society.

The guidelines for procedural aspects of the participation of NGOs in the work of the Conference of the States Parties were just mentioned here, and contain requirements that the activities of these organisations are to be relevant to the object and purpose of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We proceed from the need to meet a certain degree of fastidiousness in this issue and not permit those who are not invested in carrying out the object and purpose of the OPCW to attend the Conference.

I request that this statement be distributed as an official document of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and published on the Organisation's website.

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