



**OPCW**

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**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  
(on supporting Venezuela)**

Mr Chairperson, Mr Director-General, distinguished delegates,

The Russian Federation categorically objects to the attempts made by a number of countries to cast doubt upon the legitimacy of the authorities of the representatives of the lawful authorities of Venezuela at the OPCW. These actions come into contradiction not only with the foundations of international law, but also with basic diplomatic decorum.

It is impermissible to stubbornly push one's own political agenda, as the United States and other delegations are doing; this will only lead to further divisions within the Organisation.

We would like to emphasise that the OPCW is an international, inter-governmental organisation. Bilateral relations between States Parties should not have the slightest thing to do with its activities. Relations need to be sorted outside of the OPCW, not here. If it were otherwise, all of the work here would be paralysed. Discussing the status of one government or another of a State Party is beyond the scope of our Organisation. In any case, this is flagrant interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign State, or in other words, a flagrant violation of the foundations of international law.

We would like to underscore that in today's complex realities, the task of the international community is to help find mutual understanding among the various political forces within Venezuela, to facilitate a resolution, and not to fan the flames of the conflict that has arisen there. The attempts of a number of States to destabilise the situation within the country and play the role of self-proclaimed power brokers are inappropriate.

We find it unfit to be pouring fuel on the fire within the walls of a purely technical organisation such as the OPCW.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

I request that this statement be distributed as an official document of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

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