



OPCW

Executive Council

Ninety-Ninth Session

8 – 10 March 2022

EC-99/NAT.52

9 March 2022

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 NINETY NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 18**

Madam Chairperson,
Esteemed colleagues,

We very much value the willingness of the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany to take into account the interests of the States Parties and its drive to find a consensus. We would say that it is in the interests of all Member States of the Executive Council to reach a decision on the initiative proposed by Germany that suits everyone. The Russian Federation is no exception. We are trying to find a compromise.

Russia's principled position is well known on other international platforms, including the United Nations: no virtual votes. Nevertheless, here in The Hague, we are trying to exercise as much flexibility as possible and have agreed to conducting votes via the exchange of notes verbales.

In this regard, it would seem advisable to carry on with our work. For now, unfortunately, we cannot accept the draft in its current form. We welcome the willingness of our German colleagues to continue with consultations. It is important to hold these consultations both bilaterally and multilaterally to ensure that the delegations have the full scope of information.

We request that this statement be distributed as an official document of the Ninety-Ninth Session of the Council and published on Catalyst and the OPCW website.

Thank you for your attention.

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