



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Ninety-Sixth Session  
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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-SIXTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON AGENDA ITEM 14**

The Russian delegation voted against the document “Understanding Regarding the Aerosolised Use of Central Nervous System-Acting Chemicals for Law Enforcement Purposes”, the status of which was set out in its title by its authors by saying that it would not at all be a decision.

We have clearly laid out our negative stance on this issue to the members of the Executive Council at this session. The adoption of the document by vote (while ignoring, among other things, the compelling opinions of an entire group of Council members—including the Russian Federation) is just the latest venture aimed at eroding the framework for the Chemical Weapons Convention, to put it mildly—ultimately undermining it and causing major damage to international law in general. We suggest that all States Parties think long and hard about just what a slippery slope the authors of these ideas are trying to drive us to. It is extremely important to make it urgent since—as we understand—the co-sponsors intend to bring the matter of banning the use of aerosolised central nervous system-acting chemicals for law enforcement purposes for the approval of the OPCW’s highest body: the Conference of the States Parties.

The Russian Federation rejects both the initiative itself, as well as any steps taken to move it forward. We do not align ourselves with this “understanding” on CNS-acting chemicals, as they contradict the fundamental provisions of the Convention and mean circumventing Article XV thereof, which stipulates the necessity for a full consensus when introducing amendments to this international treaty. We ask the other responsible delegations that voted against this document or abstained from voting to act similarly.

We request that this statement be distributed as an official document of the Ninety-Sixth Session of the Council and published on the extranet and the Organisation’s website.

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