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RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR A.V. SHULGIN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO
THE OPCW AT THE 100TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 9**

First of all, we would like to thank the Technical Secretariat for preparing and presenting the draft OPCW report on the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction in 2021 (EC-100/CRP.1, dated 20 May 2022). This is a voluminous document that should contain factual information on the implementation of the Convention. And it is in this regard that we have two comments.

First of all, it is a fact that far from all States Parties recognise the legitimacy of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT). The activity of this body is not provided for in the Convention. If someone is prepared to argue this point, then please direct me to the corresponding section of the Convention. The decision of the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties entitled “Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use” (C-SS-4/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2018) was forced through in contradiction to the provisions of Article XV of the Convention; it extends beyond the scope of the authorities of the Conference and impinges upon the exclusive authorities of the United Nations Security Council.

We categorically object to and are against the transfer by the Secretariat of confidential information to the so-called International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) to assist in investigations in the Syrian Arab Republic. Russia’s position on this matter has repeatedly been conveyed to the Secretariat and the States Parties. We believe that the Secretariat has acted beyond its authorities by independently entering into a related international agreement (the so-called Memorandum of Understanding) with this body in violation of paragraph 34, Article VIII of the Convention.

We propose that it be reflected, in the appropriate section of the OPCW report on the implementation of the Convention, the fact that there is disagreement among the States Parties on the aforementioned aspects of the Secretariat’s activities in relation to said decision of the Fourth Special Session of the Conference.

Second, the text does not reflect the Organisation’s participation in the second Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction (New York, 29 November – 3 December 2021). The Secretariat’s participation in this event is an important contribution towards achieving universality of the Convention. The Russian Federation highly values the Secretariat’s efforts in this regard and believes that omitting this from the draft report is a misstep.



I would underscore that this is not a document of the Secretariat or a specific delegation, but the main annual report of our Organisation as a whole.

In line with the above, the Russian Federation calls for entering the appropriate changes to the document so that the Council may submit it for review at the Conference by a consensus. We express our readiness to hold consultations on the margins of the session with any interested delegations, including with the participation of Secretariat representatives. We are not prepared to submit the draft Report on the Implementation of the Convention in 2021 for the Conference's consideration in its current form.

I request that this statement be distributed as an official document of the 100th Session of the Council and published on Catalyst and the OPCW website.

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