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RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO
THE OPCW AT THE 101ST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 10(D)**

Mr Chairperson,

The delegation of the Russian Federation has carefully reviewed the “Financial Statements of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and Report of the External Auditor for the Year Ending 31 December 2021” (EC-101/DG.5 C-27/DG.5, dated 25 August 2022). Regrettably, we are forced to note that this essentially technical financial document is political in nature. The assessments of the financial context of the OPCW’s activities contained therein—allegedly negatively impacted by the “war in Ukraine”—are biased, politicised, and untrue. This concerns in particular paragraphs 3.2.1, 10, and 65.

First of all, I would recall that Russia’s special military operation in Ukraine only began in February 2022. To say that its impact on global risks in international security, power supply, transit, and the supply chain in 2021 is simply absurd. The unwillingness of the Technical Secretariat to remove this part of the document, in spite of its obvious absurdity and untruthfulness, gives rise to doubt. Moreover, we have not received any clear comments regarding the motives for the refusal.

Second, if one is to speak about the factors that led to the global economic crisis over the reporting period, then first and foremost, it would be the irresponsible decisions taken by a number of States in the economic, financial, and energy sectors, as well as in the field of international security, and their imposition of illegitimate, unilateral restrictive measures.

Finally, the Secretariat’s use of the term “war” with regard to the events in Ukraine is incorrect. The only fact-based term for what has taken place is “special military operation”. The latter is being carried out, as the Russian Federation has previously informed the United Nations Security Council and the international community in general, in line with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter on the right to collective self-defence. President Putin of the Russian Federation made a statement about this on 24 February this year. We refer everyone to his statement.

We firmly believe that any references in the OPCW to the purported practice of the United Nations are unsound. Does it bear recalling that the OPCW is an essentially technical organisation with a clearly delineated mandate? Its authorities in general—and moreover, the authorities of its Secretariat in particular—clearly do not include the ability to qualify one event or another as “war”.



We call upon the Secretariat to avoid the use of dubious assessments and political maxims in the Organisation's official documents. This kind of approach will not work to the Organisation's benefit. To the contrary, it only sheds doubt on the neutrality and impartiality of the activities of the OPCW Secretariat and its staff, not to mention the financial discipline prescribed in the OPCW's Financial Regulations and Rules.

We request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the 101st Session of the Executive Council and published on the Catalyst platform and OPCW website.

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