



OPCW

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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 101ST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 17 “ALLOWING THE CONVENING OF EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL MEETINGS OR SESSIONS IN EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES”**

Mr Chairperson,
Colleagues,

The principled position of the Russian Federation is well known at other international fora, including the United Nations: no virtual voting. As is known, even in the most challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic, neither the United Nations Security Council nor the United Nations General Assembly conducted any virtual voting. The practice of so-called written voting existed within the United Nations Security Council, while at the United Nations General Assembly, resolutions were adopted exclusively by consensus through the silence procedure. Nevertheless, here in The Hague, we are making efforts to search for a compromise-based solution on the German initiative. We are grateful to the German delegation for their strong resolve to reach a consensus.

It would seem as though it would have been advisable to continue our work. Unfortunately, we cannot accept the draft in its current form.

As it known, this issue was submitted for the Executive Council’s discussion for the first time one year ago, and each time, it is deferred to the next session without any concrete decision, and without any active discussion over the intersessional period. In this regard, we would like to propose that the Technical Secretariat change the working format and, in future, include this item on the agenda only after the text of the decision has been fully agreed upon and the Council is prepared to adopt it by consensus. It is our opinion that this will help make more efficient use of our working time without overloading the work schedule. In the event that the Council members agree, we would request that this decision be reflected in this session’s report.

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

Thank you for your attention.

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