



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

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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 10(A)**

Mr Chairperson,

In spite of the changes that were made to the draft decision on changing the Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Board on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF) in July this year, which partially take into account our comments and proposals, a number of provisions of the updated revision remain unacceptable for us.

Above all, this concerns the Executive Council's ability to terminate the authorities of current ABAF members. It is not only dismissal, but the threat of dismissal from this body that would prevent experts from performing impartially. Moreover, other new aspects, including those aimed at ensuring the "conscientiousness" of the work of ABAF members requires, in our opinion, more work and additional discussion at the expert level. On 5 July this year, the Russian side submitted amendments to said document. We confirm our readiness for a constructive dialogue on the matter.

We would like to emphasise: we still do not see any pressing need to change the ABAF Rules of Procedure. If a new document is to be adopted, then it should be based on a consensus, and taking into account the opinions of all States Parties based on the advanced experience and practices of international organisations with regard to auxiliary advisory bodies. If it isn't broken, why fix it?

As you know, this issue was first submitted for discussion by the Council three years ago, and each time, it is moved to the next session without any concrete decision. In this regard, I would like to suggest that the Technical Secretariat change the working format and include this matter on the agenda only after the text of the amendments is fully agreed upon and the Council is prepared to discuss and 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.

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