

OPCW

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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 TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES IN EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF REPLY UNDER AGENDA ITEM 8

It is with regret that we note the growing politicisation of the work of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Once again, we call upon the States Parties to return to the framework of the Organisation's technical mandate and devote the time that will become available to tackling its statutory objectives. We cannot agree with the attempts to turn a serious international organisation into an arena for political debates that have nothing to do with its mandate.

That notwithstanding, I cannot leave the statements delivered here regarding the situation in Ukraine without a response. The Russian Federation has nothing to justify and nothing to apologise for. Perhaps only for giving its every last effort to resolving the problems provoked by the West diplomatically at the negotiating table.

It is this aggressive, anti-Russian policy of the United States and its allies and their stubborn support of the Kyev regime that, with active assistance from the outside for the ninth year now, continues to destroy the population of Donbass and has brought us to the current situation. The Western States deliberately exacerbated their own contrived contradictions against the backdrop of the refusal of the Kyev authorities to carry out the Minsk agreement.

The United States and their allies in Europe are ramping up their agitation in Ukraine with even more deadly weapons—which are primarily being used on civilian facilities, providing intelligence, and ensuring the direct participation of their own advisors and contractors in the conflict. The European Union, for example, is finally showing its true colours by calling to "gain the upper hand against Russia in the battlefield".

The cynicism with which Ukraine's fast friends champion Kyev's allegedly irreproachable non-proliferation and humanitarian reputation is striking. Yet those who prefer not to hide from the truth know all too well the ugly truth of Ukraine's regular noncompliance with part of its obligations relating to the United Nations' arms embargo. The daily crimes against the civil population and prisoners of war constitute not only a violation of all international legal humanitarian rules and standards, but their sheer brutality can be compared only to medieval obscurantism.

Today, our foes cannot forgive the defence of rights and freedoms, and above all the right of our brothers and sisters in southern and eastern Ukraine to live—those who today's Ukrainian

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leadership calls animals, inhuman, and biomaterial. Kyev has unleashed open terror upon the civil population.

I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties and published on the Catalyst platform and the OPCW's website.

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