



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

Twenty-Seventh Session  
28 November – 1 December 2022

C-27/NAT.106  
29 November 2022  
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 TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE  
STATES PARTIES UNDER AGENDA ITEM 10**

Mr Chairperson,

An important document has been presented for the attention of the Conference of the States Parties: the draft report of the OPCW 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-100/2 C-27/CRP.1, dated 6 July 2022). During the 100th Session of the Executive Council in July this year, a number of countries—including the Russian Federation—did not join a consensus on several of its points. As before, we still have major issues with them. The report should reflect the full range of events carried out by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons over the course of the reporting period, not just the activities of the Technical Secretariat, and it should be strictly fact-based.

However, in spite of the repeated demands that have been voiced, the draft still does not include the principled position of a number of countries regarding the activities of the illegitimate Investigation and Identification Team (IIT). This concerns the following paragraphs: paragraph 7 of the introduction, and paragraphs 1.23, 1.24, and 1.34 – 1.42. I would emphasise: the decision of the Fourth Special Session of the Conference (C-SS-4/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2018) extends beyond the scope of the terms of reference of the Conference, encroaches upon the exclusive authorities of the United Nations Security Council, and consequently cannot be implemented by the OPCW.

Furthermore, we categorically object to the Secretariat's transfer of confidential information to the so-called International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism to assist in investigations in the Syrian Arab Republic. We strongly believe that the Secretariat has overreached its authorities here by independently entering into an international agreement (the so-called Memorandum of Understanding) with this entity in violation of paragraph 34 of Article VIII of the Convention.

At the same time, it is under a clearly fabricated pretext, and completely possible under the pressure of certain countries, that the Organisation's participation in the second session of the 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) was not recorded in the text. We believe that this process is an extremely important contribution towards achieving universality of the Convention. The Russian Federation highly values the Secretariat's efforts in this regard and believes that the omission of its mention in the draft



report is an oversight. We are disappointed that the United States continues to try to downplay the importance of this process and again ignored the third session of this Conference in New York, which took place mid-November this year.

In line with the above, the Russian Federation cannot agree with the approval of the draft report in its current form, and proposes the exclusion of the following paragraphs: paragraph 7 of the introduction, and paragraphs 1.23, 1.24, and 1.34 – 1.42. We express our readiness to engage in consultations on the margins of this session with interested delegations and with the participation of Secretariat representatives with the aim of achieving a consensus. Otherwise, if there is no consensus on this draft in its current form, we would propose holding a vote in line with rule 75 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference on the following set of paragraphs: paragraph 7 of the introduction, and paragraphs 1.23, 1.24, and 1.34 – 1.42.

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 website.

--- 0 ---