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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 UNDER AGENDA ITEM 9(D)**

It is disappointing—but not surprising—that most of the discussion of this important agenda item has once again led to bombastic political statements that have nothing to do with the technical mandate of our Organisation.

First of all, this concerns the situation in Ukraine. The Russian Federation, based on information from its Ministry of Defence, regularly informs the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW and the States Parties of chemical provocations planned and executed by Ukrainian paramilitary groups, including provocations using chemically hazardous facilities for military purposes. Nevertheless, our opponents prefer to call these communications disinformation.

Such irresponsible behaviour will mean that there is nothing to hold the Ukrainian war criminals back: not the suffering of tens of thousands of people, nor the advancement by these criminals towards a manmade catastrophe. First of all, this concerns the regular shelling by Ukrainian nationalists, with the use of NATO munitions, of chemical industry facilities and, of course, the territory of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. It appears as though the Euro-Atlantic alliance, led by the United States, has learned nothing from the tragic consequences of the United States' bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, or the Chernobyl and Fukushima nuclear power plant accidents—and these countries continue to push the Kyev regime to take new military gambles.

With regard to the situation with the poisoning of Mr Navalny, more than two years have passed now since the emergency hospitalisation of the Russian blogger, yet a fundamental question remains unanswered: where, when, and under what circumstances outside of the borders of Russia were traces of a toxic warfare agent detected (if they ever actually were detected). We have repeatedly stated that Russian law enforcement, during their preliminary investigation, questioned approximately 230 people, seized over 100 items that could have held samples required for conducting comparative analyses, and conducted roughly 20 criminal inspections and 64 biochemical tests. No traces of any organophosphates were detected.

Again and again, we attempt to engage with the countries involved, primarily Germany, France, and Sweden, to hold a substantive, expert-level dialogue and conduct an analysis of all of the existing and distributed reliable information on the matter. However, we have yet to receive any reasonable responses from the United Kingdom, Germany, France, or Sweden to our specific questions under Article IX of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Nor are there responses from the OPCW Secretariat to our request to provide the photographic and video



materials concerning the process of collecting biological samples from Mr Navalny, or the subsequent splitting of these samples for their distribution for to designated laboratories for analysis.

The situation is the same with the accusations against Russia in connection with the poisonings in Salisbury. As before, Great Britain refuses to engage in any contact. At the same time, London continues to voice a variety of demands for Russia to acknowledge some sort of guilt. It's surprising, but based on the British statements, it appears as though wouldn't make any difference which of the numerous, British-fabricated versions Russia would choose to acknowledge its alleged involvement.

Nevertheless, we confirm our willingness to engage in substantive cooperation among law enforcement agencies and relevant experts.

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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