



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Twenty-Seventh Session
28 November – 1 December 2022

C-27/NAT.109
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 IN EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF REPLY
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 9(D)**

Mr Chairperson,

I have heard the statement by our honourable colleague from the United States and I would like to clarify something. This has nothing to do with any disinformation campaign. Information from the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation is carefully verified.

Twice our information was confirmed. I can even tell you when: at the Sumykhimprom plant on 21 March this year, and at the Azot plant in Severodonetsk on 6 May this year. So what we warned about came to pass: how exactly is that disinformation?

As I understood our American colleague, he claimed that we are allegedly rebuking NATO. But we also spoke about NATO's closest allies in other parts of the world.

With regard to the statements that we are apparently preparing for some kind of use of chemical weapons, I would advise our American colleagues not to engage in making unfounded accusations, that it would be better to provide the international community with the explanations that are really necessary regarding the various biological laboratories, including on Ukrainian territory, where they are conducting completely unacceptable activities and created dangerous types of weapons in violation of the Biological Weapons Convention.

These false accusations against the Russian Federation are similar to those voiced now by our Western partners. With my own ears, I heard the following phrase on BBC: "today, Russian troops again shelled the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, which is under the control of the Russian troops, with heavy artillery". This is complete nonsense that no one even thinks through. Regarding the ostensible poisoning of Mr Navalny and the "Skripal affair", we have presented dozens of explanations, and now the ball is in the court of the countries that owe us answers.

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

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