



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

Twenty-Seventh Session  
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ENGLISH and RUSSIAN only

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE  
OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE  
STATES PARTIES  
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 22**

Mr Chairperson,

This year, the Kingdom of the Netherlands blatantly violated its obligations under paragraph 49 of Article VIII of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Headquarters Agreement of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

On 29 March this year, under a fabricated pretext and without providing any evidence whatsoever, the Dutch Government expelled from the country three staff members of the Permanent Representation of the Russian Federation to the OPCW. We would recall in this regard that in line with the aforementioned provisions of the Convention, “representatives appointed to the Executive Council together with their alternates and advisers [...] shall enjoy such privileges and immunities as are necessary in the independent exercise of their functions in connection with the Organisation”. Furthermore, in line with paragraph 4, Article 14 of the OPCW Headquarters Agreement, no activity performed by any person referred to in this Article in his official capacity with respect to the OPCW shall constitute a reason for requiring him to leave the territory of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The expulsion of members of the Permanent Representation caused the major impairment of the work of the Russian diplomatic mission to the OPCW. The fact that this step was taken by The Hague against the backdrop of the Fifth Review Conference also gives rise to serious concern.

In this regard, we were forced to call the Committee on Relations with the Host Country in order to discuss the problem that had arisen. However, to our deep regret, the Government of the Netherlands flat out refused to reconsider its decision regarding the three aforementioned diplomats.

Moreover, after the Committee meeting, Russian citizens continue to encounter difficulties obtaining entry visas to attend OPCW-related events. Of the 11 year-long visas that were requested on the eve of the Conference, the Dutch side issued only five, and for a period of 10 days.

We call upon the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to refrain in future from abusing the privilege granted it by the States Parties to host an international organisation on its territory. It is unacceptable to extrapolate a bilateral agenda onto the obligations that The Hague has to the Organisation.



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.

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