



OPCW

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ENGLISH and RUSSIAN only

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE
TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES
(ON THE MATTER OF INCAPACITANTS)**

Mr Chairperson,

The Russian delegation has carefully reviewed document C-21/NAT.3/Rev.2, dated 30 November 2016. In response thereto, we have the following fundamental observations.

The issue of the control of incapacitants is not a subject of regulation under the Chemical Weapons Convention. That is why we find the proposals from a number of States to initiate its review under an agenda item for the OPCW policy-making organs to be unfounded and unsubstantiated. Moreover, they draw the attention of States Parties away from the review of high priority matters concerning the implementation of the Convention and OPCW activities. The review of this matter could become an altogether dangerous precedent, as it is aimed at the review of key provisions of the Convention, and threatens to destroy the regime of the Convention.

We recall that at the Third Review Conference, the Russian Federation proposed initiating a dialogue—within the framework of government expert meetings—on a broader subject: the use of chemicals for law enforcement purposes, including for riot control purposes. We firmly believe that the issue of incapacitants should be reviewed only in connection with chemicals used as riot control agents, as these and others, depending on how they are used, can lead to the same result: fatalities.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Twenty-First Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention.

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