



OPCW

Executive Council

Seventy-Seventh Session
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ENGLISH and RUSSIAN only

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE
SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE OPCW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
(AGENDA SUBITEM 6(I))**

First and foremost, we would like to express our regret that despite the gentlemen's agreement that was reached when the agenda was adopted, we are forced to once again discuss an issue to which we had already dedicated the entire workday on 26 September. Just think about it: 41 members of the Executive Council and the delegations of observer States Parties discussed this issue for an entire workday. Not to mention the financial expenses for convening the 26 September meeting. Does the Organisation really have so much money to spend this way? And even if it did, then we'd like to ask: is that really a reason to spend the States Parties' money in such a non-productive way?

When we were discussing the agenda for this session, some delegations assured us of the need to consider this issue as there were a lot of new developments. I would like to ask the Council members: did we just hear anything new at all? This was all already addressed on 26 September. What is new other than the contentious statement that the Council should establish the guilt of one of the parties in using chemical weapons? Since when is the Council a judicial authority? Or is the new information that one of the delegations is again asking who else could possibly have helicopters other than the Syrian Government? This rhetorical question requires a rhetorical response: what, no one else has helicopters?

Getting back to the substance of the issue at hand, we would like to again reiterate our position, since other delegations prefer to keep doing the same thing. We firmly and unconditionally condemn the use of chemical weapons anywhere, by anyone. We support the Director-General's intent to continue the Mission's efforts in order to comprehensively examine all of the materials pertaining to all of the incidents involving the use of chlorine in the Syrian Arab Republic. We are absolutely convinced that the Council cannot come to any conclusions—particularly political conclusions—before the Mission's efforts are completed and its final report is published and discussed by the OPCW's policy-making organs.

We request that this statement be issued as an official document of the Seventy-Seventh Session of the Executive Council.

Thank you.

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