



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Eighty-Third Session  
11 – 14 October and 11 November 2016

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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 EIGHTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
(ON THE RESULTS OF THE VOTE ON THE DRAFT DECISION  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON SYRIA)**

Madam Chairperson,

We would like to clarify why the Russian delegation voted against the Spanish draft decision of the Executive Council. First and foremost, we emphasise once again that we cannot agree with the expression “of deep concern” with the conclusions set forth in the reports by the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism in Syria (JIM). These conclusions are not convincing, they are superficial, and they were produced by dubious methodology.

First of all, we would recall that there have been sad precedents in the past when these types of “conclusions” were used to form the basis for the adoption of far-reaching decisions. Time has passed since then, and it has put everything in its right place. It has come to light that the arguments used were unsound—one might even say fabricated. A moment of clarity is coming, people are beginning to “repent in sackcloth and ashes”, although that is no longer important, even as the wounds continue to bleed.

Second, we voted against the draft decision because the Syrian Arab Republic has been denied its lawful right to conduct its own national investigation in line with the procedures set out by the Chemical Weapons Convention and based on the incidents indicated in the JIM reports in order to clarify what truly happened and report to the Executive Council on the results.

Third, we voted against the draft decision because we are concerned about the integrity and authority of the Convention. Here we have a blatant attempt to loosely interpret the Convention, when it is sufficient to merely consult it. At the same time, we see the inception of a dangerous precedent for the future.

Another thing: I cannot help but agree with the distinguished Permanent Representative of Ghana, who has absolutely appropriately and correctly drawn attention to the politicisation of our Organisation’s work. And yet this is one of the most successful international forums on disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction—this Organisation that became the laureate of the Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts. Is this really the right step to take? We are creating obstacles for all of our future endeavours.



In a word, we strongly regret that there was a vote, and we regret its results, which have led to a schism within our Organisation and constitutes evidence of the fact that we are unable to achieve a consensus on the Syrian dossier, in spite of all of our good will.

We would request that two moments be included in the report of the Eighty-Third Session of the Executive Council. First: the very important statement that we made this morning concerning the terrorist chemical weapons used against the population discovered by Russian military servicemen in Aleppo. We will submit the appropriate wording. Second: I request that the final report contain a reference to the fact that the delegation of the Russian Federation expresses its deep regret about the decision adopted by the Executive Council, which goes against the letter and spirit of the Convention, as well as its requirements.

We kindly request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Eighty-Third Session of the Executive Council.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

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