



OPCW

Executive Council

Eighty-Fifth Session

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RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR A.V. SHULGIN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE OPCW
AT THE EIGHTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 19**

Mr Chairperson,

We have just heard presentations from the candidates for the next Director-General of the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “Secretariat”) of the OPCW. In our opinion, this event has been very useful in terms of providing a better understanding of the visions of the candidates regarding the prospects for the development of the Organisation, in addition to their personal role within that process.

We would like to note that, regrettably, the OPCW still does not have in place clear rules regulating the election of the head of the Secretariat. We know that previous efforts to develop such rules were made. One of the delegations brought this issue to the table in 2009, but was told that it was not the time. As a result, what is to be the fourth election campaign for the Director-General will be taking place based merely on informal agreements. This gives rise to uncertainty and a number of purely technical questions regarding, for example, straw polls, among other things.

Of course, at the height of a campaign, the rules—no matter what they are—should not be changed. Nevertheless, regulations aimed in part at boosting the transparency of the election and appointment of the Director-General will need to be developed in future. As we see it, these rules must include, in particular, fixed provisions on fair geographic rotation for this post among the five regions that have been formally established among the State Parties. It would also be advisable to establish a mandated commission comprising representatives of each regional group in order to assist the Chairperson of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) in tallying the votes and carrying out other procedures related to elections.

It would make sense to approach the Secretariat and its Legal Adviser Mr Rajah with a request to address this issue, taking into account the useful experience of other international organisations, and then brief the delegations on this matter within the Open-Ended Working Group on Future Priorities. In our opinion, the adoption of unambiguous and clear-cut rules for the election of the Director-General is a priority for our Organisation in future. We propose wording on this matter for the report of the Eighty-Fifth Session of the Council as follows: “The Council requested the Legal Adviser of the Secretariat to brief the participants of the Open-Ended Working Group on Future Priorities at its next regular session regarding the best practices related to the election of heads of relevant international organisations”.



We want these elections of the Director-General of the OPCW Secretariat to proceed in an open and transparent manner, and to ensure equal opportunities for all of the candidates.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

We request that this statement be considered an official document of the Eighty-Fifth Session of the Council.

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