



OPCW

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Eighty-Sixth 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-SIXTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 6(B)**

Distinguished Chairperson,

We would like to draw the attention of the Executive Council to an issue that, as before, requires a decision. In the final report of the Eighty-Third Session of the Council, the Technical Secretariat was requested to inspect the Ruwagha facility in Libya and present a report to the Council specifically concerning the evaporation and leakage there of 220 tonnes of Category 2 chemical weapons. Unfortunately, it has not yet been possible to carry out that visit.

We have noted that the Secretariat regularly refers to the United Nations Department for Safety and Security's (DSS) negative assessment of the security situation. For this reason, a visit to Libya by an inspection team is continually delayed.

At the same time, I would like to emphasise that free and safe access to the Ruwagha facility has already been guaranteed to the OPCW inspection team several times by Libya itself. A letter was addressed to Director-General Üzümcü from Mr al-Thani, the head of the Interim Government of Libya in Tobruk providing guarantees, and the same guarantees were extended by Field Marshal Haftar, the head of the Libyan National Army. These are the political and military authorities that control the situation in the region where the facility is located. We would also remind you that Mr Siala, the Foreign Affairs Minister in Tripoli, recently invited the Secretariat's inspectors to visit Libya.

In light of these circumstances, we find that conditions for conducting a visit by the Secretariat's inspection team to the facility have become satisfactory and that it is necessary to carry out this request, as recorded in the final report of the Eighty-Third Session of the Council.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

We request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Eighty-Sixth Session of the Executive Council and published on the Organisation's website.

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