



OPCW

Executive Council

Eighty-Sixth Session
10 – 13 October 2017

EC-86/NAT.26
11 October 2017
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-SIXTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 6(C)**

Mr Chairperson,

The Russian delegation has noted the report by the Technical Secretariat regarding the work of the Mission to assess the initial declaration of Syria, as well as the information on this matter voiced at the briefing on 3 October 2017.

We welcome the continuation of the active dialogue between the National Authority of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Secretariat, including high-level discussions with the participation of Mr F. Mekdad, the Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister, and Director-General Mr A. Üzümcü, on clarifying the questions that remain with regard to the Syrian declaration. We note the willingness of the Syrian side to additionally declare a number of facilities in the Scientific Studies and Research Centre (SSRC) locations in Barzah and Jamrayah under Articles III and VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We have also noted that following the latest round of consultations at the briefing held on 3 October, the Secretariat noted that in addition to the SSRC, there was also some limited progress on eight other problematic issues.

In this regard, we cannot agree with the assessments voiced here by a number of delegations asserting the lack of any positive progress in this area. There is progress, and this unequivocally follows from the conclusions made by the Secretariat, which has characterised the results of the most recent consultations as a step forward on the matter.

Another issue: we would all, of course, hope for the clarification of Syria's initial declaration to progress at a faster pace, more effectively, and to be more productive in terms of results. Can it be said that there have been substantive results from these efforts? Most likely, this could be said if what was happening now in the Syrian Arab Republic were in fact not happening. The country is in a state of war, fighting international terrorism within its own territory. It is difficult to expect that a declaration submitted under these very conditions would be flawless. For this reason, we believe it would be wrong to continue to require that the Syrian authorities turn over original documents that do not exist on their declaration.

We believe it is necessary to refrain from politicising this matter and instead look at things objectively. There is movement in the right direction. The high-level meetings with the participation of Director-General, Mr A. Üzümcü, and Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister,



Mr F. Mekdad, are bearing fruit. It is necessary that this dialogue continue. Then, the results of the work on regulating Syria's initial declaration will be even more palpable.

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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