



OPCW

Executive Council

107th Session
8 – 11 October 2024

EC-107/S/7
7 October 2024
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**CIRCULATION OF NOTE VERBALE NO. NV/ODG-601/24
ADDRESSED TO THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
DATED 7 OCTOBER 2024**

The Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) hereby circulates the attached note verbale as an official document of the 107th Session of the Executive Council.

This note verbale has been prepared in response to Note Verbale No. 51 from the Permanent Representation of the Russian Federation to the OPCW, dated 3 October 2024.

Annex: Note Verbale No. NV/ODG-601/24 Addressed to the Members of the Executive Council Dated 7 October 2024



Annex

**NOTE VERBALE NO. NV/ODG-601/24
ADDRESSED TO THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
DATED 7 OCTOBER 2024**



OPCW

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

NV/ODG-601/24

The Technical Secretariat (“Secretariat”) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (“OPCW”) presents its compliments to the Members of the Executive Council (“Council”) and has the honour to refer to the Note Verbale from the Russian Federation (No. 51, dated 03 October 2024).

The Russian Federation has requested that the Note Verbale and its Highly Protected attachment be circulated to all States Parties as an official document of the upcoming session of the Executive Council (EC-107, 8-11 October 2024).

With reference to the Note Verbale itself, the Secretariat wishes to provide the following clarifications relating to a purported “chemical analysis carried out by the OPCW designated laboratory” on behalf of the Russian Federation mentioned in the Note Verbale on page 1 and page 3.

Under the Chemical Weapons Convention (“Convention”) and, inter alia, the decision of the Conference of the States Parties entitled “Scope of Activities of Designated Laboratories, and the Role and Status of Other Laboratories” (C-I/DEC.67, dated 22 May 1997), the designation status of OPCW designated laboratories is intrinsically related to the work of these laboratories for the OPCW.

The reported chemical analysis mentioned in the aforementioned Note Verbale is a task performed by a national laboratory in a capacity other than its OPCW capacity without any involvement of the OPCW and its personnel. Such activity does not fall within the laboratory’s designated OPCW capacity and is, therefore, outside the framework of the Convention and relevant decisions of the OPCW policy-making organs.

As a result, the use by the Russian Federation of the term “OPCW designated laboratory” in this context is misleading and not correct.

The Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Members of the Council the assurances of its highest consideration.

The Hague, 7 October 2024



To: Members of the Executive Council

Cc: All States Parties