



OPCW

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RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**REQUEST FOR CIRCULATION OF A DOCUMENT
AT THE 108TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

The Permanent Representation of the Russian Federation to the OPCW has requested that a note verbale addressed to the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (dated 25 February 2025) be circulated as an official document of the 108th Session of the Executive Council.

Annex: Note Verbale from the Permanent Representation of the Russian Federation to the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW Dated 25 February 2025



Annex

**NOTE VERBALE FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT OF THE OPCW
DATED 25 FEBRUARY 2025**



**ПОСТОЯННОЕ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЬСТВО
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
ПРИ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ПО ЗАПРЕЩЕНИЮ
ХИМИЧЕСКОГО ОРУЖИЯ**

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATION
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
TO THE ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION
OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

№ 9

The Permanent Representation of the Russian Federation to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) presents its compliments to the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW and, referring to the Note Verbale of the Technical Secretariat No. NV/ODG-644/24, dated 19 December 2024, which contains the response to the questions posed by the Russian Federation regarding the Report of the OPCW Technical Assistance Visit on the Activities Carried out in Support of a Request by Ukraine (S/2338/2024, dated 18 November 2024), has the honour to inform it of the following.

The Russian side deems it fundamentally important to clarify the principle points missing from the abovementioned Report of the Technical Secretariat. Unfortunately, the responses of the Technical Secretariat do not clarify the doubts, ambiguities and uncertainties that the Permanent Representation brought to the notice of the Secretariat in its Note Verbale No. 77, dated 13 December 2024, and further outlined in the national document EC-108/NAT.1, dated 13 December 2024.

**TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT OF THE
ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF
CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

Specifically, the Technical Secretariat's assertion that it provided technical assistance to Ukraine under subparagraph 38(e) of Article VIII of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter "the Convention") does not give any reasonable answer to the specific questions about when and where the Technical Assistance Team of the OPCW Technical Secretariat arrived and where the transfer of samples occurred. It remains unclear why this meaningful information has not been included in the full report of the Technical Secretariat and why the Technical Secretariat refuses to share it with the States Parties.

In the absence of additional clarification, the doubts concerning the alleged compliance with chain of custody for samples remain outstanding. Instead of the approved OPCW regulations on the chain of custody and documentation for OPCW samples taken on-site a chemical incident, the Report of the Technical Secretariat refers to some international standards having been allegedly complied with by the Ukrainian side in sampling process. The question of the Russian side as to which specific international standards have been applied by the Ukrainian side and how do they correlate with the Convention sampling and evidence analysis requirements has unfortunately remained unattended in substance.

The above examples testify that in this case the Technical Secretariat acted on a pro forma basis when discharging its functions and disregarded specific concerns of one of the States Parties to the Convention. Paragraph 40 of Article VIII of the Convention implies that, should any doubts or uncertainties arise, the Technical Secretariat shall resolve or clarify them through its consultations with the State Party concerned.

The Permanent Representation confirms that relevant paragraphs of the Report referred to by the Technical Secretariat in its Note Verbale No. NV/ODG-644/24, dated 19 December 2024, have received a most careful re-examination but substantive issues are still pending. The Russian side urges the Technical Secretariat in this context to give serious consideration to, and take note of the information presented in the Russian national document EC-108/NAT.1, dated 13 December 2024, and provide exhaustive answers to the questions posed by the Permanent Representation in its Note Verbale No. 77, dated 13 December 2024.

In a situation where the issue of an alleged chemical provocation may arise (in its Note Verbale No. 68, dated 19 November 2024, the Russian Federation denounced the risk), it is crucially important to strictly abide by the provisions of the Convention. The Russian Federation expects the Technical Secretariat, in fulfilling its mandate, to show equitable respect and accountability in cooperating with all States Parties to the Convention, stay considerate of any of their concerns related to the compliance with provisions of the Convention and act in good faith, transparently and impartially.

The Permanent Representation of the Russian Federation to the OPCW requests that the OPCW Technical Secretariat circulate the copy of this Note Verbale as an official document of the 108th Session of the OPCW Executive Council (4-7 March 2025).

The Permanent Representation of the Russian Federation to the OPCW avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the OPCW Technical Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

The Hague, « 27 » February, 2025

