



General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 September 2023

Original: English

Seventy-eighth session

Agenda item 99 (I)

General and complete disarmament: implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

Letter dated 14 September 2023 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to bring to your attention our serious concerns regarding the draft report of the Organization on Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on the Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction for 2022, which was transmitted by your letter ([A/78/140](#)) dated 10 July 2023, “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons”.

We would like to stress that the draft report has not been yet considered by the OPCW membership at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Organization (The Hague, 27 November–1 December 2023). It is disappointing that last year’s erroneous practice of the circulation of this report in the General Assembly repeats itself once again. We strongly object to such a step, which unfortunately has turned into routine, despite concerns expressed by Russia and other States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction.

The OPCW Technical Secretariat has no authority to disseminate any draft documents which are subject to a consensus approval by the OPCW State Parties.

This is yet another example of the OPCW Technical Secretariat violating its purely technical mandate, which only aggravates concerns about its politically biased approach. Untimed circulation of the document is aimed at misleading the United Nations Member States over the existence of a unified position within the OPCW’s governing bodies on the actual agenda in The Hague.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 99 (I) “General and complete disarmament”.

(Signed) Vassily Nebenzia

