

**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES****1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session**

- 1.1 The Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) was opened at 10:35 on 29 November 2021 in the King Willem Alexander Theater in the World Forum by the Chairperson of the Conference for its Twenty-Fifth Session, Ambassador José Antonio Zabalgoitia Trejo of Mexico.
- 1.2 The following 152 States Parties participated in the Twenty-Sixth Session: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Finland, France, the Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, the Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
- 1.3 In accordance with Rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the following signatory State participated in this session of the Conference as an observer: Israel.



- 1.4 In accordance with Rules 31 and 32 of the Rules of Procedure, and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-26/DEC.1, dated 29 November 2021), eight international organisations, specialised agencies, and other international bodies attended the Twenty-Sixth Session.
- 1.5 In accordance with the recommendations of the Third Review Conference<sup>1</sup> (RC-3/3\*, dated 19 April 2013), and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-26/DEC.2, dated 29 November 2021), the Conference **invited** representatives of the global chemical industry and scientific community to attend the Twenty-Sixth Session.
- 1.6 In accordance with Rule 33 of the Rules of Procedure, and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-26/DEC.3, dated 29 November 2021), 76 non-governmental organisations were invited to attend and participate in the Twenty-Sixth Session, with limited in-person attendance, and through remote access and pre-recorded statements due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- 1.7 The Permanent Representative of Canada read a joint statement on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America concerning the accreditation of non-governmental organisations for the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference.
- 1.8 The delegations of the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, and the Syrian Arab Republic made statements under this agenda item.

## 2. **AGENDA ITEM TWO – Election of the Chairperson**

In accordance with Rules 34 and 35 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference, by acclamation, **elected** as its Chairperson Ambassador Bård Ivar Svendsen of Norway, who shall hold office until his successor is elected at the next regular session of the Conference.

## 3. **AGENDA ITEM THREE – Election of Vice-Chairpersons and other officers**

- 3.1 In accordance with Rules 34 and 35 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference **elected** representatives of the following 10 States Parties as Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference, to hold office until their successors are elected at its next regular session: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Germany, Iraq, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America.

---

<sup>1</sup> Review Conference = Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

3.2 Also in accordance with Rules 34 and 35 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference **elected**, as Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole, Ambassador Carmen María Gallardo de Hernández of El Salvador, who shall hold office until a new Chairperson is elected at the next regular session of the Conference.

**4. AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Adoption of the agenda**

4.1 The provisional agenda for the Twenty-Sixth Session was circulated under cover of C-26/1, dated 22 July 2021 and Corr.1, dated 3 November 2021.

4.2 The Conference **approved** the following agenda for its Twenty-Sixth Session:

AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

AGENDA ITEM TWO – Election of the Chairperson

AGENDA ITEM THREE – Election of Vice-Chairpersons and other officers

AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Adoption of the agenda

AGENDA ITEM FIVE – Organisation of work and establishment of subsidiary bodies

AGENDA ITEM SIX – Appointment of the Credentials Committee

AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Statement by the Director-General

AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – General debate

AGENDA ITEM NINE – Status of implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention

AGENDA ITEM TEN – Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2020

AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Annual report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 13 July 2020 to 12 July 2021

AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Election of Member States to membership of the Executive Council

AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Biennial Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2022 and 2023, submitted by the Executive Council, and all items pertaining to this Budget

AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Scale of assessments for 2022

AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – External Auditor's report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2020

AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Future procedures for the appointment of the External Auditor

AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Administrative and financial matters

AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Fostering of international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities

AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – Ensuring the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY – The OPCW Programme for Africa

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-ONE – Engagement with the chemical industry and the scientific community

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-TWO – Appointment of the Director-General

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-THREE – Reports of subsidiary bodies

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FOUR – Follow-up to the Third Review Conference

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FIVE – Dates and duration of the Fifth Review Conference and of the next regular sessions of the Conference of the States Parties

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-SIX – Any other business

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-SEVEN – Adoption of the report of the Conference of the States Parties

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-EIGHT – Closure

**5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – Organisation of work and establishment of subsidiary bodies**

The Conference **considered** and **adopted** the recommendations of the General Committee that were reported to it in accordance with Rule 43(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference.

**6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – Appointment of the Credentials Committee**

In accordance with Rule 27 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference, on the recommendation of its Chairperson, **appointed** the following 10 members of the Credentials Committee to hold office until new members are appointed at the next regular session of the Conference: Austria, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Slovakia, and Uruguay.

**7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Statement by the Director-General**

The Conference **noted** the opening statement made by the Director-General (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations).

## 8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – General debate

- 8.1 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: Azerbaijan (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China), South Africa (on behalf of the African Group), Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Eswatini, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, the State of Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).
- 8.2 The following delegations made statements, exercising their right of reply: the State of Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic.
- 8.3 The following signatory State made a statement during the general debate: Israel.
- 8.4 The following international organisation made a statement during the general debate: the International Committee of the Red Cross.
- 8.5 The following international body made a statement during the general debate: the European Union.
- 8.6 The following representatives from the chemical industry and the scientific community made statements under this agenda item: the International Council of Chemical Associations and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry.
- 8.7 In accordance with paragraph 2 of C-26/DEC.3, the following non-governmental organisations addressed the Conference: African Centre for Science and International Security; American Public Health Association; ArgIQ; Arms Control Association; BioSecure; Bradford University; Centre for Non-Proliferation and Export Control; Green Environment Organisation; Harvard Sussex Program; Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses; Kentucky Environmental Foundation; Organisation for Defending Sardasht Victims of Chemical Weapons; Stimson Center; Tehran Peace Museum; United Service Institution of India; and Verification, Research, Training and Information Centre.

## 9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Status of implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention

### **Subitem 9(a): Progress report on the implementation of the plan of action regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations**

- 9.1 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Fourteenth Session regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations (C-14/DEC.12, dated 4 December 2009), the Conference **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the “Overview

of the Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2021” (EC-98/DG.13 C-26/DG.11, dated 14 September 2021); a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2021: Article VII – Initial Measures” (EC-98/DG.12 C-26/DG.10, dated 14 September 2021); and a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2021: Additional Measures for States Parties That Possess Industrial Facilities Which Are Declarable Under the Convention” (EC-98/DG.11 C-26/DG.9, dated 14 September 2021).

**Subitem 9(b): Implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Technical Secretariat in 2020**

- 9.2 The Conference **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) in 2020 (EC-96/DG.12 C-26/DG.1, dated 19 February 2021).

**Subitem 9(c): Implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues**

- 9.3 The Conference **noted** that, at its Sixteenth Session, it had adopted a decision on the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 (C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011). The Conference **expressed its concern** regarding the Director-General’s statement in his report to the Sixty-Eighth Session of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”), provided in accordance with paragraph 2 of C-16/DEC.11, that “three possessor States Parties, namely Libya, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America, have been unable to fully meet the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 for the destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles” (EC-68/DG.9, dated 1 May 2012). The Conference **noted further** that the measures that had been identified in paragraph 3 of its decision (C-16/DEC.11) were now being implemented.
- 9.4 The Conference **noted** the statements and comments made by States Parties on the destruction of the only remaining declared chemical weapons by the sole possessor State Party, recalling the relevant obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) and relevant decisions by the Conference and the Council. The Conference **recalled** that the destruction of the only remaining declared chemical weapons by the sole possessor State Party should continue in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and its Verification Annex and with the application of the measures contained in decision C-16/DEC.11.
- 9.5 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (subparagraph 3(g) of C-16/DEC.11), the Director-General provided an annual written report to the Conference on the overall progress with respect to the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles (C-26/DG.16, dated 19 November 2021), based on the independent information received by the Secretariat from the Organisation’s inspectors undertaking verification in accordance with Part IV(A) D of the Verification Annex, which included information on the progress achieved to meet the planned completion date(s) and the effectiveness of any specific measures that have been undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes.

- 9.6 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the United States of America provided an annual report (C-26/NAT.2, dated 11 November 2021) and an annual briefing on the progress in the destruction of its remaining stockpiles of chemical weapons, including on any specific measures undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes and information on the projected schedule for destruction activities to meet the planned completion date, which were **considered** and **noted** by the Conference, along with comments on the issue as mentioned above (the briefing was posted on the external server of the OPCW). The Conference **noted** the confirmation provided by the delegation of the United States of America that the necessary measures continue to be undertaken in order to meet the planned completion date of September 2023 for its destruction activities, as submitted to the Council at its Sixty-Eighth Session in accordance with subparagraph 3(c) of C-16/DEC.11.
- 9.7 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States of America.
- 9.8 Pursuant to the above-mentioned decision at its Sixteenth Session (subparagraph 3(f) of C-16/DEC.11), the Conference **undertook** an annual review of the implementation of this decision at a specially designated meeting of the Conference. In furtherance of the implementation of subparagraphs 3(d), 3(f), and 3(h) of its decision C-16/DEC.11, the Conference **encouraged** the possessor State Party concerned to include confirmation in the required reporting to the Council and the Conference that it remains on schedule to complete destruction activities by its planned completion date.
- 9.9 The Conference **welcomed** the Council's decision at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012) and the destruction plan beyond the year 2016 for the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China (EC-84/NAT.6, dated 2 March 2017) attached as its Annex 2 and adopted by the Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session, bearing in mind that the destruction progress was less than expected in the previous destruction plan attached to the decision "The Deadline of 29 April 2012 and Future Destruction of the Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People's Republic of China" (EC-67/DEC.6), and **encouraged** continued cooperation between China and Japan in the implementation of EC-67/DEC.6.
- 9.10 The Conference **recalled** the provisions of the Convention that the Abandoning State Party undertakes to destroy all chemical weapons it abandoned on the territory of another State Party and shall provide all necessary financial, technical, expert, facility as well as other resources, **expressed its determination** to remain seized of the matter, and **urged** the Abandoning State Party to continue to make the fullest possible effort to complete destruction of abandoned chemical weapons as soon as possible in accordance with the Council's decision (EC-67/DEC.6) and its Annex 2 in a faithful manner and to address challenges including ensuring the safety of people and protecting the environment. The Conference **reaffirmed** that the Territorial State Party shall provide appropriate cooperation.

- 9.11 The Conference **also reaffirmed** the obligation of the Abandoning State Party to provide all available information including, to the extent possible, the location, type, quantity as well as information on the abandonment in accordance with relevant provisions of the Convention, so as to facilitate the expedite destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China.
- 9.12 The Conference **welcomed** the review of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons conducted by the Third Review Conference and the report of the Third Review Conference (RC-3/3\*), which reaffirmed the role of the Council, the Conference and the Review Conference with regard to the abandoned chemical weapons destruction-related issues as defined in the provisions of the Convention and in the Council's decision (EC-67/DEC.6), and **welcomed** the review of this issue by the Fourth Review Conference.
- 9.13 The Conference **took note** of the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the overall progress of the destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China and the encouraging partial implementation of excavation and recovery operations and destruction operations.
- 9.14 The delegation of China made a statement.

**Subitem 9(d): Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use**

- 9.15 The Conference at its Fourth Special Session adopted a decision entitled "Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use" (C-SS-4/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2018). Since the previous regular session of the Conference and pursuant to paragraph 24 of the above-mentioned decision, the following documents had been circulated to the Council: EC-97/DG.13 (dated 22 June 2021) and EC-98/DG.22 (dated 22 September 2021).
- 9.16 At its Twenty-Fifth Session, the Conference adopted a decision entitled "Addressing the Possession and Use of Chemical Weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic" (C-25/DEC.9, dated 21 April 2021). Since the previous regular session of the Conference, and pursuant to paragraph 8 of the above-mentioned decision, the following documents had been circulated to the Council: EC-97/DG.3, dated 23 April 2021; EC-97/DG.7, dated 25 May 2021; EC-97/DG.15, dated 24 June 2021; EC-98/DG.1, dated 23 July 2021; EC-98/DG.6, dated 24 August 2021; and EC-98/DG.24, dated 24 September 2021.
- 9.17 The delegation of Estonia presented a joint statement under this agenda item on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Vanuatu.
- 9.18 The European Union made a statement under this agenda item.



- 9.19 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: the Syrian Arab Republic, the Russian Federation, China, France, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Australia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Canada, Cuba, and Germany.
- 9.20 Further under this agenda item, the delegation of Bulgaria presented a joint statement on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, the Cook Islands, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Niue, North Macedonia, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Vanuatu.
- 9.21 The European Union made a further statement under this agenda item.
- 9.22 The following delegations made further statements: the Russian Federation, Estonia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Australia, Canada, Spain, China, the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Sweden, New Zealand, and Ukraine.

**Subitem 9(e): Status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons**

- 9.23 The Conference at its Sixteenth Session endorsed a proposal for the establishment of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons and the establishment of a voluntary trust fund for this purpose (C-16/DEC.13, dated 2 December 2011). It requested the Director-General to report every two years, through the Council, to the Conference at its regular session on the status of implementation of this decision.
- 9.24 The Conference **noted** the report by the Director-General on the status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons (EC-98/DG.19 C-26/DG.14, dated 21 September 2021).
- 9.25 The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement under this agenda item.
- 10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2020**
- 10.1 The Conference **considered** the draft report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2020 (EC-97/2 C-26/CRP.1, dated 7 July 2021), which was considered and submitted to it by the Council at its Ninety-Seventh Session.
- 10.2 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Czech Republic, China, the United States of America, Bulgaria, Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Belgium.

- 10.3 The Russian Federation made a proposal to the Conference to hold a separate vote on paragraphs 1.32 to 1.36, 1.38 to 1.40, and 4.11 of the above-mentioned draft report.
- 10.4 Under Rule 69 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the proposal was voted on. The vote led to the following result: 15 in favour (Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, the State of Palestine, Tajikistan, and Zimbabwe); 76 against (Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Uruguay); and 30 abstentions (Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Ecuador, Eswatini, the Gambia, Guatemala, the Holy See, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Qatar, Senegal, South Africa, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Republic of Tanzania). In light of that result, the proposal of the Russian Federation was not adopted.
- 10.5 Under Rule 69 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Conference **voted** on the adoption of the draft report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2020 (EC-97/2 C-26/CRP.1) in its current form. The vote led to the following result: 93 in favour (Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Eswatini, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, the Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Uruguay); 12 against (Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, and Zimbabwe); and 18 abstentions (Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Gambia, India, Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Mali, Nepal, South Africa, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, Togo, and the United Republic of Tanzania). In light of that result, the report was **adopted** (C-26/3, dated 1 December 2021).

10.6 The following delegations explained their vote(s): Brazil, the Russian Federation, Pakistan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, India, Algeria, the State of Palestine, the Netherlands, Germany, China, Belgium, the United States of America, and Bangladesh.

**11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Annual report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 13 July 2020 to 12 July 2021**

11.1 The Conference **noted** the report of the Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 13 July 2020 to 12 July 2021, its Attachment entitled “Note by the Technical Secretariat: The Destruction of Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People’s Republic of China”, and its Annex entitled “Actions Taken by the Conference of the States Parties at its Twenty-Fifth Session in Response to Recommendations Made by the Executive Council” (EC-98/4 C-26/2, dated 5 October 2021). The report was introduced by the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki of Morocco, who also briefed the Conference on any developments that had taken place since the cut-off date for the report (the briefing was posted on the external server of the OPCW).

11.2 The delegation of the Russian Federation made a statement.

**12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Election of Member States to membership of the Executive Council**

In accordance with paragraph 23 of Article VIII of the Convention and with Rule 83 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Conference **elected** 20 members to serve on the Council for a term of two years, starting on 12 May 2022. To ensure that the Council is constituted in accordance with paragraph 23 of Article VIII, the regional distribution of the elective places to be filled is to be as follows:

Africa:	Algeria, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa
Asia:	Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Malaysia, Pakistan
Eastern Europe:	Albania, Bulgaria, Russian Federation
Latin America and the Caribbean:	Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala
Western Europe and other States:	Canada, Finland, Ireland, Netherlands, Turkey

**13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Biennial Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2022 and 2023, submitted by the Executive Council, and all items pertaining to this Budget**

13.1 At the Ninety-Eighth Session of the Council, the Secretariat circulated Notes by the Director-General entitled “Financial Status of the Special Fund for Cybersecurity, Business Continuity, and Physical Infrastructure Security” (EC-98/DG.15, dated 14 September 2021); and “Financial Status of the Special Fund for IT Infrastructure to Support Implementation of Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3” (EC-98/DG.25, dated 27 September 2021).

- 13.2 In accordance with subparagraph 32(a) of Article VIII of the Convention, the Council at its Ninety-Eighth Session considered the Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2022 – 2023 (EC-98/CRP.1/Rev.1, dated 4 October 2021). The Council could not achieve consensus on the adoption of the draft decision on the Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2022 – 2023 (EC-98/DEC/CRP.8\*, dated 4 October 2021). Following a vote on the matter (paragraph 10.19 of EC-98/5, dated 7 October 2021), the Council adopted the decision and submitted it, together with its recommendation, to the Conference at its Twenty-Sixth Session (EC-98/DEC.5, dated 6 October 2021).
- 13.3 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, China, Cuba, the Netherlands, and the United States of America.
- 13.4 Under Rule 69 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the draft decision on the OPCW Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2022 – 2023 (C-26/DEC/CRP.5, dated 20 October 2021) was voted on. The vote led to the following result: 102 for (Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, the Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, the Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, and Viet Nam); 12 against (Armenia, Belarus, China, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Zimbabwe); and 18 abstentions (Algeria, Angola, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burundi, El Salvador, Eswatini, Honduras, India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mali, Nepal, Pakistan, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, and the United Republic of Tanzania). In light of that result, the decision was **adopted** (C-26/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2021).
- 13.5 The following delegations explained their vote: the Russian Federation, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), the State of Palestine, Chile, Brazil, El Salvador, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Iraq, Algeria, Mexico, Bangladesh, Ireland, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Pakistan.

#### 14. **AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Scale of assessments for 2022**

The Conference **adopted**, pursuant to Regulation 3.7(b) of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, a decision on the scale of assessments to be paid by States Parties for the financial year 2022 (C-26/DEC.8, dated 30 November 2021).

**15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – External Auditor’s report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2020**

The Conference **noted** the Financial Statements of the OPCW and the report of the External Auditor for the year ending 31 December 2020 (EC-98/DG.7 C-26/DG.6, dated 30 August 2021), in accordance with Regulation 13.10 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules.

**16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Future procedures for the appointment of the External Auditor**

16.1 According to Article 13.1 of the OPCW Financial Regulations, the Conference shall appoint the External Auditor, who shall be the Auditor-General (or an officer holding an equivalent title) of a State Party, and such appointment shall be in the manner and for the period determined by the Conference and for a single period of not less than two years, but not exceeding six years.

16.2 Further to the request by the Conference at its Twenty-Fifth Session to the Council (C-25/DEC.10, dated 21 April 2021), the Council at its Ninety-Seventh Session established the Working Group on the Manner of Appointment of the External Auditor (paragraph 12.1 of EC-97/3, dated 8 July 2021).

16.3 At the Ninety-Eighth Session of the Council, the Chairperson of the Working Group, Ambassador Jorge Skinner-Klée Arenales of Guatemala, provided an update on its activities (EC-98/WP.3, dated 6 October 2021).

16.4 The Chairperson of the Working Group reported to the Conference on the results towards the development of the proposal for the manner in which the Conference shall appoint the External Auditor of the OPCW in the future (the report was posted on the external server of the OPCW).

**17. AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Administrative and financial matters**

**Subitem 17(a): Cash deficit for 2019**

17.1 At its Ninety-Eighth Session, the Council adopted a decision on the cash deficit for 2019 (EC-98/DEC.2, dated 6 October 2021) and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Sixth Session. The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-26/DEC.4, dated 29 November 2021).

**Subitem 17(b): Submission of the 2021 Financial Statements to the External Auditor**

17.2 At its Ninety-Eighth Session, the Council adopted a decision on the submission of the 2021 OPCW Financial Statements to the External Auditor (Financial Rule 11.1.02) (EC-98/DEC.1, dated 5 October 2021) and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Sixth Session. The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-26/DEC.5, dated 29 November 2021).

**Subitem 17(c): Special fund for OPCW special missions**

- 17.3 At its Ninety-Eighth Session and in accordance with a decision by the Conference at its Twentieth Session (C-20/DEC.11, dated 3 December 2015), the Council considered and adopted a decision recommending the extension of the special fund for OPCW special missions for a period of one further year (EC-98/DEC.3, dated 6 October 2021), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Sixth Session. The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-26/DEC.6, dated 29 November 2021).

**Subitem 17(d): Status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions**

- 17.4 At its Eleventh Session, the Conference adopted a decision (C-11/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2006) on a mechanism to encourage States Parties that are in arrears to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions through the use of multi-year payment plans, requesting the Secretariat to submit a report to it each year, through the Council, on the status of implementation of agreed multi-year payment plans as at the end of the quarter that falls immediately before the session of the Council that precedes the session of the Conference.
- 17.5 The Conference **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General reporting on the status of the implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans (EC-98/DG.4\* C-26/DG.5, dated 19 August 2021) that the Council, at its Ninety-Eighth Session, considered and forwarded to it pursuant to the above-mentioned decision.

**Subitem 17(e): Recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable**

- 17.6 At its Ninety-Eighth Session, the Council considered a Note by the Director-General on the recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and of losses of assets and recommended that the Conference at its Twenty-Sixth Session approve these write-offs, totalling EUR 12,821.95 (EC-98/DG.2 C-26/DG.4, dated 26 July 2021). The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-26/DEC.7, dated 29 November 2021).

**Subitem 17(f): Transfers of funds during 2020**

- 17.7 In accordance with Regulation 4.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, all transfers between Budget programmes shall be reported to the Conference. The Conference **noted** a Note by the Director-General on this matter (EC-97/DG.12 C-26/DG.3, dated 22 June 2021).

**Subitem 17(g): Annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2020**

- 17.8 In accordance with Regulation 12.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, the Council at its Ninety-Seventh Session considered and forwarded to the Conference the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2020, and the accompanying Note by the Director-General (EC-97/DG.6 C-26/DG.2, dated 17 May 2021). The Conference **noted** this report.

**Subitem 17(h): Rehiring of inspectors**

- 17.9 At its Twenty-Fourth Session, the Conference adopted a decision on the rehiring of inspectors (C-24/DEC.10, dated 28 November 2019) and decided to review the implementation of this decision at its Twenty-Sixth Session, in 2021.
- 17.10 At its Ninety-Eighth Session, the Council considered and noted an addendum to the report by the Director-General on the implementation of the tenure policy in 2020 on the impact of the decision on the rehiring of inspectors (EC-97/DG.8/Add.1, dated 1 October 2021). The Conference **considered** and **noted** the addendum to the report by the Director-General on this matter.
- 18. AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Fostering of international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities**
- 18.1 The Conference at its Sixteenth Session adopted a decision regarding components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of Article XI of the Convention (C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011), and requested the Secretariat to report to the Conference at each annual session on the progress of concrete measures undertaken in implementing the decision, and on the status of implementation of Article XI.
- 18.2 The Conference **noted** a report by the Director-General on the progress made and review of the status of implementation of Article XI of the Convention for the period from 26 August 2020 to 25 August 2021 (EC-98/DG.9 C-26/DG.7, dated 2 September 2021).
- 18.3 The delegation of Cuba made a statement under this agenda item.
- 18.4 The Conference **received** a report by the facilitator for Article XI issues, Ms Fadhilah Halimatus Shifa Kusumaningrum of Malaysia, on activities held during the intersessional period (the report was posted on the external server of the OPCW).
- 19. AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – Ensuring the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention**
- 19.1 The Council at its Twenty-Third Meeting adopted an action plan for the universality of the Convention (EC-M-23/DEC.3, dated 24 October 2003). The plan requested the Director-General, inter alia, to submit to the Conference at its regular sessions an annual report on the implementation of the action plan, and to keep the Council regularly informed, so that the Conference and the Council may review progress and monitor its implementation effectively.
- 19.2 The Conference **noted** the annual Note by the Director-General reporting on the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention during the period from 16 August 2020 to 15 August 2021 (EC-98/DG.10 C-26/DG.8, dated 3 September 2021).
- 19.3 The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement under this agenda item.

**20. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY – The OPCW Programme for Africa**

- 20.1 The Conference **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (EC-98/DG.14 C-26/DG.12, dated 9 September 2021 and Corr.1, dated 27 September 2021).
- 20.2 The delegation of South Africa made a statement on behalf of the African Group under this agenda item.

**21. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-ONE – Engagement with the chemical industry and the scientific community**

The Conference **noted** a Note by the Director-General on engaging the chemical industry associations (C-26/DG.15, dated 5 November 2021).

**22. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-TWO – Appointment of the Director-General**

- 22.1 Based on the recommendation of the Council at its Ninety-Eighth Session (EC-98/DEC.4, dated 6 October 2021), the Conference **approved** a decision on the renewal of the appointment of Mr Fernando Arias as the Director-General of the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, for one further term of four years (C-26/DEC.9, dated 30 November 2021).
- 22.2 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: Mexico, Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, the Republic of Korea, the State of Palestine, Chile, the Netherlands, El Salvador, Guatemala, Bangladesh, Brazil, Peru, Costa Rica, Argentina, Panama, Honduras, Ecuador, Cuba, the Holy See, the Islamic Republic of Iran, China, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- 22.3 The Russian Federation dissociated itself from the consensus on the matter.
- 22.4 The European Union made a statement under this agenda item.
- 22.5 The Director-General made a statement.

**23. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-THREE – Reports of subsidiary bodies**

**Committee of the Whole**

- 23.1 The Conference **noted** that, during this session, no items had been allocated to the Committee of the Whole.

**General Committee**

- 23.2 The Conference **noted** the reports of the General Committee, and took appropriate action as required.

**Commission for the Settlement of Disputes Related to Confidentiality**

- 23.3 The Conference **noted** the report of the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Commission for the Settlement of Disputes Related to Confidentiality (CC-23/1, dated 15 October 2021).



### **Credentials Committee**

- 23.4 The Conference **considered** and **approved** the report of the Credentials Committee on the credentials of representatives to the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference, which was presented to it by the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, Mr Jozef Kušlita, Deputy Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the OPCW (C-26/4, dated 1 December 2021). The Conference further **noted** and **approved** the Chairperson's oral report that, following the close of the Credentials Committee meeting, additional original credentials had been received from Oman.

### **Committee on Relations with the Host Country**

- 23.5 At its Eleventh Session, the Conference adopted a decision establishing a Committee on Relations with the Host Country (hereinafter "the Host Country Committee") (C-11/DEC.9, dated 7 December 2006). The Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki of Morocco, reported to the Conference on the status of the work of the Host Country Committee.

### **Advisory Board on Education and Outreach**

- 23.6 The Conference **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General reporting on the activities of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO) covering the period from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 (EC-98/DG.17 C-26/DG.13, dated 16 September 2021).
- 23.7 The Secretariat circulated a statement by Dr Johannes-Georg Weinig, Chairperson of the ABEO (the statement was posted on the external server of the OPCW).

### **Scientific Advisory Board**

- 23.8 The Secretariat circulated a statement by Dr Christophe Curty, Chairperson of the Scientific Advisory Board (the statement was posted on the external server of the OPCW).

## **24. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FOUR – Follow-up to the Third Review Conference**

In paragraph 9.17 of its report (RC-3/3\*), the Third Review Conference expressed its intention to keep the declarations contained in paragraphs 9.3 to 9.16 of that document under review at each regular session of the Conference. The Conference **noted** the activities in furtherance of its review of the declarations contained in paragraphs 9.3 to 9.16 of RC-3/3\*.

## **25. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FIVE – Dates and duration of the Fifth Review Conference and of the next regular sessions of the Conference of the States Parties**

### **Fifth Review Conference**

- 25.1 In accordance with paragraph 22 of Article VIII of the Convention, the Conference **decided** that its Fifth Review Conference will be held from 15 to 19 May 2023.
- 25.2 The Conference **recommended** that the Council at its next session establish an open-ended working group to begin preparations, in cooperation with the Secretariat,

for the Fifth Review Conference, which will be convened in accordance with paragraph 22 of Article VIII of the Convention.

#### **Next regular sessions of the Conference of the States Parties**

25.3 The Conference **approved** the following dates for the next regular sessions of the Conference:

Twenty-Eighth Session: from 27 November to 1 December 2023;

Twenty-Ninth Session: from 25 to 29 November 2024;

Thirtieth Session: from 24 to 28 November 2025; and

Thirty-First Session: from 23 to 27 November 2026.

25.4 The Conference **authorised** the Director-General to conclude appropriate agreements with the World Forum, thus ensuring the availability of conference facilities on the dates reflected in paragraphs 25.1 and 25.3 above, while maintaining the flexibility to make necessary adjustments, if so required.

#### **26. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-SIX – Any other business**

##### **Understanding Regarding the Aerosolised Use of Central Nervous System-Acting Chemicals for Law Enforcement Purposes**

26.1 Based on the recommendation of the Council at its Ninety-Sixth Session (EC-96/DEC.7, dated 11 March 2021), the Conference **considered** a draft decision entitled “Understanding Regarding the Aerosolised Use of Central Nervous System-Acting Chemicals for Law Enforcement Purposes” (C-26/DEC/CRP.1/Rev.1, dated 25 November 2021).

26.2 The delegation of the United States of America submitted a working paper on the above-mentioned draft decision (C-26/WP.1, dated 5 November 2021).

26.3 The Secretariat circulated a national paper by the Russian Federation (C-26/NAT.3\*, dated 26 November 2021).

26.4 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: the United States of America, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Australia, the Russian Federation, Austria, China, Switzerland, and the Republic of Korea.

26.5 The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement on behalf of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation, and the Syrian Arab Republic (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations).

26.6 The delegation of Armenia made a statement on behalf of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations).

- 26.7 Under Rule 69 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the draft decision entitled “Understanding Regarding the Aerosolised Use of Central Nervous System-Acting Chemicals for Law Enforcement Purposes (C-26/DEC/CRP.1/Rev.1, dated 25 November 2021) was voted on. The vote led to the following result: 85 in favour (Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, the Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Uruguay); 10 against (Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cambodia, China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, and Zimbabwe); and 33 abstentions (Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Bangladesh, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, the Holy See, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mali, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Rwanda, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, Togo, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Viet Nam). In light of that result, the decision was **adopted** (C-26/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2021).
- 26.8 The following delegations explained their vote: Brazil, the State of Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Algeria, Bangladesh, the Russian Federation, Belgium, Pakistan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Paraguay, Iraq, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, and China.
- 26.9 The delegations of the Syrian Arab Republic and the United States of America made statements.

#### **Miscellaneous**

- 26.10 The delegations of Ukraine, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Canada, Ireland, Sweden, and the Syrian Arab Republic made statements.
- 26.11 The delegation of South Africa made a statement on behalf of the African Group.

#### **27. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-SEVEN – Adoption of the report of the Conference of the States Parties**

The Conference **considered** and **adopted** the report of its Twenty-Sixth Session.

#### **28. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-EIGHT – Closure**

The Chairperson closed the session at 14:00 on 2 December 2021.