



REPORT OF THE NINETY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

The Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”), Ambassador Gudrun Lingner of Germany, acting as Chairperson of the Council, opened its Ninety-Ninth Session in The Hague at 10:15 on 8 March 2022.

2. AGENDA ITEM TWO – Adoption of the agenda

The Council **considered** and **adopted** the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Replacement of the Chairperson of the Executive Council
4. Opening statement by the Director-General
5. Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on the activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues
6. General debate
7. Status of implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
 - (a) Reports by the Director-General on destruction-related issues
 - (b) Implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues
 - (c) Elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme
 - (d) Other verification-related issues
 - (e) Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use
 - (f) Timely submission of declarations under Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention
 - (g) Implementation by the Technical Secretariat in 2021 of the regime governing the handling of confidential information



8. OPCW Central Analytical Database
 9. Scientific Advisory Board
 10. Countering chemical terrorism
 11. Administrative and financial matters:
 - (a) Nominations for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
 - (b) Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
 - (c) Status of implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations
 - (d) Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise resource planning system
 - (e) Adjustment to the Director-General's gross salary
 12. Education and outreach
 13. Update of the Working Group on the Manner of Appointment of the External Auditor
 14. Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference¹
 15. Election of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council
 16. Establishment of an open-ended working group for the preparation of the Fifth Review Conference
 17. Report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
 18. Any other business
 19. Adoption of the report
 20. Closure
- 3. AGENDA ITEM THREE – Replacement of the Chairperson of the Executive Council**
- 3.1 Further to the end of mission of Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki of Morocco prior to the expiry of his term of office as the Chairperson of the Council, and in accordance with Rule 8 of its Rules of Procedure, the Council **elected** Ambassador Eniola Olaitan Ajayi of Nigeria to serve as Chairperson of the Council for the unexpired term of office until 11 May 2022.
 - 3.2 The following delegations made statements: South Africa (on behalf of the African Group) and Morocco.

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

4. AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Opening statement by the Director-General

The Council **noted** the opening statement by the Director-General (EC-99/DG.17, dated 8 March 2022).

5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on the activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues

5.1 The Vice-Chairpersons and coordinators for clusters of issues reported to the Council on informal consultations held during the intersessional period: Ambassador Gudrun Lingner of Germany on chemical weapons issues, also reporting on the activities she carried out as Acting Chairperson of the Council in the intersessional period; Ambassador Vidmantas Purlys of Lithuania on chemical industry and other Article VI issues; Mr Oscar Izquierdo Arboleda on behalf of Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral of Ecuador on administrative and financial issues; and Ambassador Alireza Kazemi Abadi of the Islamic Republic of Iran on legal, organisational, and other issues.

5.2 The Council **expressed appreciation** for the work done by the outgoing facilitators, Ambassador Laura Dupuy of Uruguay and Ms Fadhilah Halimatus Shifa Kusumaningrum of Malaysia, and **welcomed** the appointment of Ambassador Elizabeth Ward Neiman of Panama as co-facilitator for organisational governance issues and Ms Fatima Hamdia Tanweer of Pakistan as facilitator for the full implementation of Article XI.

5.3 The co-facilitators for organisational governance issues, Ambassador Matthew Neuhaus of Australia and Ambassador Elizabeth Ward Neiman of Panama, reported to the Council on consultations held during the intersessional period.

5.4 The Council **decided** to extend the mandate of Ambassador Matthew Neuhaus of Australia and Ambassador Elizabeth Ward Neiman of Panama as the co-facilitators for organisational governance issues for the next intersessional period and **requested** the co-facilitators to report back on the status of their consultations at its next regular session.

6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – General debate

6.1 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: Azerbaijan (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China), France (on behalf of the European Union), South Africa (on behalf of the African Group), Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia (observer), Costa Rica (observer), Cuba, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland (observer), France, Germany, Ghana, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland (observer), Italy, Japan, Latvia (observer), Lithuania, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand (observer), Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia (observer), South Africa, Spain, Sweden (observer), Switzerland (observer), the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), Turkey (observer), Ukraine (observer), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (observer).

6.2 The delegations of Ukraine (observer) and the Russian Federation exercised their right of reply.

7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Status of implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention

Subitem 7(a): Reports by the Director-General on destruction-related issues

7.1 Further to a decision by the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011), the Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the overall progress with respect to the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles (EC-99/DG.14, dated 28 February 2022).

7.2 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012), the Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the overall progress of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons (EC-99/DG.15, dated 2 March 2022).

Subitem 7(b): Implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues

7.3 The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) provided updates to the Council on its destruction-related verification activities and on Article III-related submissions (the presentations were posted on the external server of the OPCW).

7.4 The United States of America, Japan, and China provided an update to the Council on their destruction-related activities (the presentations were posted on the external server of the OPCW).

7.5 The Council **decided** to defer to a future session consideration of the voluntary statement by Italy on the destruction of its old chemical weapons pursuant to Council decision EC-67/DEC.8 (dated 17 February 2012).

7.6 The Council **noted** the statements and comments made and posted 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 Council **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 Annex on Implementation and Verification, and with the application of the measures contained in decision C-16/DEC.11.

7.7 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the Council **considered** and **noted** a national paper by the United States of America on the progress made towards the completion of the destruction of its chemical weapons, including information on measures to accelerate such progress, and identifying progress made since the last briefing in order to meet the planned completion date (EC-99/NAT.3, dated 17 February 2022), along with comments on the issue as mentioned above. The Council **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 decision C-16/DEC.11.

- 7.8 The following delegations made statements: the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States of America.
- 7.9 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6) 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 Annex 2 to the Council's decision EC-67/DEC.6, and adopted by the Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session (paragraph 6.14 of EC-84/2, dated 9 March 2017), a national paper by China (EC-99/NAT.4, dated 14 February 2022) and a national paper by Japan (EC-99/NAT.5, dated 23 February 2022) on the overall progress of the destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China were circulated to the members of the Council.
- 7.10 The Council **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 the destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China as early 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 Council **reaffirmed** that the Territorial State Party shall provide appropriate cooperation.
- 7.11 The Council also **reaffirmed** the obligation of the Abandoning State Party to provide all available information including, to the extent possible, the location, type, and quantity, as well as information on the abandonment in accordance with relevant provisions of the Convention, so as to facilitate the expedited destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China.
- 7.12 The Council **recalled** that the review of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons was welcomed by the Third Review Conference and the report of the Third Review Conference (RC-3/3*, dated 19 April 2013), which reaffirmed the role of the Council, the Conference and the Review Conference with regard to the issues related to the abandoned chemical weapons destruction 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.
- 7.13 The Council **took note** of the impact of the 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.

Subitem 7(c): Elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme

- 7.14 Further to its decision at its Eighty-Third Session (EC-83/DEC.5, dated 11 November 2016), the Council decided to place "Elimination of the Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme" on the agenda of all future Council sessions until the Council determines that all elements of the Syrian chemical weapons programme have been eliminated.

- 7.15 As stated in the Note by the Director General EC-81/DG.5 (dated 25 January 2016), all of the chemicals declared by the Syrian Arab Republic that had been removed from its territory in 2014 have been destroyed. The Secretariat has also verified the destruction of all 27 chemical weapons production facilities declared by the Syrian Arab Republic (EC-89/DG.1, dated 24 July 2018).
- 7.16 The Secretariat provided a briefing to the States Parties on 23 February 2022 on its activities related to the Syrian Arab Republic, including on the activities of the Declaration Assessment Team, the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria, and the Investigation and Identification Team.
- 7.17 The Council **noted** five reports by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme (EC-99/DG.1, dated 26 October 2021; EC-99/DG.2, dated 24 November 2021; EC-99/DG.3, dated 23 December 2021; EC-99/DG.5, dated 24 January 2022; and EC-99/DG.13, dated 24 February 2022).
- 7.18 The Council **noted** five national papers by the Syrian Arab Republic on the activities related to the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and their production facilities (EC-99/P/NAT.1, dated 19 October 2021; EC-99/P/NAT.2, dated 15 November 2021; EC-99/P/NAT.3, dated 16 December 2021; EC-99/P/NAT.4, dated 17 January 2022; and EC-99/P/NAT.5, dated 15 February 2022).
- 7.19 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General entitled “Report on the Work of the Declaration Assessment Team” (EC-99/HP/DG.1, dated 2 March 2022).
- 7.20 The Secretariat circulated the following Note by the Secretariat and two reports by the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria: “Summary Update of the Activities Carried out by the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria (S/2014/2021, dated 30 December 2021), “Report of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria Regarding the Incidents of the Alleged Use of Chemicals as a Weapon in Marea, Syrian Arab Republic, on 1 and 3 September 2015” (S/2017/2022*, dated 24 January 2022) and “Report of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria Regarding the Incident of the Alleged Use of Chemicals as a Weapon in Kafr Zeita, Syrian Arab Republic, 1 October 2016” (S/2020/2022, dated 31 January 2022).
- 7.21 The following delegations made statements: the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Turkey, and Ukraine), Australia, the Russian Federation, China, the United States of America, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), and France.
- 7.22 The Director-General made a statement under this agenda item.
- Subitem 7(d): Other verification-related issues**
- 7.23 The Secretariat updated the Council on its other verification-related activities (the presentation was posted on the external server of the OPCW).

Subitem 7(e): Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use

- 7.24 The Council **noted** the regular report by the Director-General to the Council on progress made in the implementation of the decision of the Conference entitled “Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use” (C-SS-4/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2018) (EC-99/DG.8, dated 15 February 2022).
- 7.25 Further to the briefing to the States Parties on 23 February 2022 on the activities of the Secretariat related to the Syrian Arab Republic, the following delegations made statements during the session: the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), Belgium, the United States of America, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- 7.26 The following delegations made statements on other issues under this agenda item: Germany (on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cook Islands, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, 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, and the United States of America), Australia (on behalf of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand), Ukraine (observer), Mexico, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, San Marino, Turkey, and Ukraine), and the United States of America.
- 7.27 The delegations of Ukraine (observer) and the Russian Federation exercised their right of reply.

Subitem 7(f): Timely submission of declarations under Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention

- 7.28 Further to a decision by the Council at its Fifty-First Session (EC-51/DEC.1, dated 27 November 2007), the Council **noted** a status report by the Director-General on the timely submission by States Parties of declarations under Article VI of the Convention for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2021 (EC-99/DG.6, dated 27 January 2022).

Subitem 7(g): Implementation by the Technical Secretariat in 2021 of the regime governing the handling of confidential information

- 7.29 The Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Secretariat in 2021 (EC-99/DG.9 C-27/DG.1, dated 17 February 2022).

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – OPCW Central Analytical Database

The Council **considered** a Note by the Director-General on lists of newly validated data on scheduled chemicals for approval by the Council for inclusion in the OPCW Central Analytical Database (EC-99/DG.4, dated 21 January 2022) and **adopted** a decision on the matter (EC-99/DEC.1, dated 8 March 2022).

9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Scientific Advisory Board

9.1 The report of the Thirty-Third Session of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) was circulated to the members of the Council (SAB-33/1, dated 18 November 2021).

9.2 The Council **noted** the response by the Director-General to the report of the Thirty-Third Session of the SAB (EC-99/DG.16, dated 2 March 2022).

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Countering chemical terrorism

10.1 The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the status of the OPCW's contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts (EC-99/DG.7, dated 14 February 2022).

10.2 The Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Terrorism, Ambassador Vusimuzi Philemon Madonsela of South Africa, briefed the Council on the work of the OEWG during the intersessional period.

10.3 The following delegations made statements: Armenia (observer) (on behalf of the Collective Security Treaty Organization), the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), China, the Russian Federation, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

10.4 The Director-General made a statement under this agenda item.

11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Administrative and financial matters

Subitem 11(a): Nominations for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

11.1 The Council **noted** a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF) (EC-99/S/1, dated 14 February 2022), and **appointed** Mr John Foggo of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for a third term with the ABAF, starting on 28 June 2022.

Subitem 11(b): Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

11.2 A draft decision entitled "OPCW Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters – Rules of Procedure" (EC-92/DEC/CRP.1/Rev.1, dated 4 October 2019), co-sponsored by Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, was submitted to the Council for consideration and adoption.

- 11.3 Following the circulation of EC-92/DEC/CRP.1/Rev.1, the delegation of the Russian Federation submitted amendments to that draft decision (EC-92/DEC/CRP.6, dated 4 October 2019).
- 11.4 Subsequently, the sponsoring delegations submitted a revision to the above-mentioned draft decision (EC-92/DEC/CRP.1/Rev.2, dated 10 October 2019).
- 11.5 The delegation of the Russian Federation withdrew its proposal through a note verbale dated 25 February 2020 and submitted new amendments on the matter (EC-93/DEC/CRP.2, dated 21 February 2020), together with an explanatory note to it (EC-93/NAT.3, dated 20 February 2020).
- 11.6 Subsequently, the sponsoring delegations submitted a revision to the above-mentioned draft decision (EC-92/DEC/CRP.1/Rev.3, dated 1 October 2020).
- 11.7 The delegation of the Russian Federation submitted new amendments to the above-mentioned draft decision and requested, through a note verbale dated 5 July 2021 (EC-97/NAT.5, dated 6 July 2021), the circulation of a document at the Ninety-Seventh Session of the Council.
- 11.8 The Council **decided** to defer the matter until its next regular session.

Subitem 11(c): Status of implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations

- 11.9 The Council **considered** and **noted** a report on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor (EC-99/S/3, dated 24 February 2022).
- 11.10 The facilitator for this issue, Mr Nathaniel Haft of the United States of America, reported on the consultations carried out during the intersessional period (the report was posted on the external server of the OPCW).

Subitem 11(d): Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise resource planning system

- 11.11 Further to the decision by the Conference at its Nineteenth Session on the implementation of an enterprise resource planning (ERP) system and the establishment of a special fund for this purpose (C-19/DEC.7, dated 3 December 2014), the Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General reporting on the status of implementation of the ERP system (EC-99/DG.11, dated 21 February 2022).

Subitem 11(e): Adjustment to the Director-General's gross salary

- 11.12 In accordance with a decision of the Conference at its First Special Session (C-SS-1/DEC.4, dated 25 July 2002) stipulating that the terms of appointment of the Director-General shall be subject to adjustments by the Council to keep the terms in line with those of other executive heads within the United Nations system, the Council **adopted** a decision adjusting the Director-General's gross salary (EC-99/DEC.2, dated 8 March 2022).

12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Education and outreach

The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General reviewing the operation of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach for the period from 2019 to 2021 (EC-99/DG.10, dated 17 February 2022).

13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Update of the Working Group on the Manner of Appointment of the External Auditor

13.1 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Twenty-Fifth Session (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.

13.2 The Chairperson of the Working Group, Ambassador Jorge Skinner-Klée Arenales of Guatemala, provided an update on its activities to the Council (EC-99/WP.1, dated 10 February 2022).

14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference

At its Seventy-Third Session (paragraph 13.1 of EC-73/6, dated 19 July 2013), the Council requested the Director-General to submit to each regular session of the Council the updated version of the “Matrix of Actionable Items Identified at the Third Review Conference”. The Council **considered** and **noted** the updated Matrix (EC-99/S/2, dated 17 February 2022).

15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – Election of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council

15.1 In accordance with Rule 6 of its Rules of Procedure, and with effect from 12 May 2022, the Council **elected** Ambassador Ziad M.D. Al Atiyah of Saudi Arabia as its new Chairperson for a term of office ending on 11 May 2023, and its new Vice-Chairpersons for the same period: Ambassador Eniola Olaitan Ajayi of Nigeria, Ambassador Konstantin Dimitrov of Bulgaria, Ambassador Carmen María Gallardo de Hernández of El Salvador, and Ambassador Giorgio Novello of Italy.

15.2 The delegation of the Philippines made a statement.

16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Establishment of an open-ended working group for the preparation of the Fifth Review Conference

16.1 The Conference at its Twenty-Sixth Session 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 from 15 to 19 May 2023 (paragraphs 25.1 and 25.2 of C-26/5, dated 2 December 2021).

16.2 Further to the recommendation above, the Council **decided** to establish the Open-Ended Working Group for the preparation of the Fifth Review Conference. The Council also **established** the Bureau of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, and, in accordance with the practice of rotation (paragraph 9.4 of EC-68/3, dated 4 May 2012), **appointed**: Ambassador Lauri Kuusing of Estonia (Eastern European Group) as Chairperson; and Ambassador Salima Abdelhak of Algeria (African Group), Ambassador Hidehisa Horinouchi of

Japan (Asian Group), Ambassador José Antonio Zabalgaitia Trejo of Mexico (Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), and Ambassador Henk Cor van der Kwast of the Netherlands (Western European and Other States Group) as Vice-Chairpersons of the Bureau of the Open-Ended Working Group.

16.3 The delegation of Algeria made a statement.

17. AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

17.1 The Chairperson reported to the Council on the status of the work of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

17.2 The delegation of the Russian Federation made a statement.

18. AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Any other business

Convening Executive Council meetings or sessions in extraordinary circumstances

18.1 At previous sessions of the Council, Germany submitted working papers entitled “Proposal for an Executive Council Decision to Allow for Convening Executive Council Meetings or Sessions in Emergency Circumstances” (EC-96/WP.2, dated 26 February 2021 and EC-97/WP.1, dated 21 June 2021).

18.2 The Russian Federation submitted a working paper entitled “Response to German Proposal for a Possible Wording and Suggestions for the Draft Decision to Allow for Convening Executive Council Meetings or Sessions in Emergency Circumstances” (EC-98/WP.1, dated 6 August 2021).

18.3 Subsequently, a draft decision entitled “Allowing the Convening of Executive Council Meetings or Sessions in Extraordinary Circumstances” was circulated under the symbol EC-98/DEC/CRP.7 (dated 28 September 2021). An explanatory memorandum to this draft decision was also circulated (EC-98/NAT.6, dated 28 September 2021).

18.4 In accordance with Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, the Secretariat circulated a report by the Director-General on the financial, administrative, and programme and budget implications of the proposal (EC-98/DG.29, dated 1 October 2021).

18.5 At its previous session, the Council decided to defer the matter until its next regular session.

18.6 Germany submitted a working paper entitled “Proposal for an Executive Council Decision to Allow for Convening Executive Council Meetings or Sessions in Emergency Circumstances” (EC-99/WP.2, dated 28 February 2022).

18.7 Subsequently, a revision to the above-mentioned draft decision was issued under the symbol of EC-98/DEC/CRP.7/Rev.1 (dated 28 February 2022) entitled “Allowing the Convening of Executive Council Meetings or Sessions in Extraordinary Circumstances” co-sponsored by Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Germany, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Saudi Arabia, and Slovakia.

18.8 The following delegations made statements: Germany, Mexico, the United States of America, and the Russian Federation.

18.9 The Council **decided** to defer the matter until its next regular session.

Sale of the OPCW Headquarters building

18.10 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the sale of the OPCW Headquarters building (EC-99/DG.12, dated 24 February 2022).

Visit by the Executive Council to the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

18.11 The delegation of the United States of America provided an update on the status of the Council's visit to the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant.

Aerosolised use of central nervous system-acting chemicals for law enforcement purposes

18.12 The delegation of the United States of America made a statement on the decision adopted by the Conference at its Twenty-Sixth Session on this matter (C-26/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2021).

Executive Council modalities

18.13 The following delegations made statements: Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Russian Federation.

19. AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – Adoption of the report

The Council **considered** and **adopted** the report of its Ninety-Ninth Session.

20. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY – Closure

The Chairperson closed the session at 12:34 on 10 March 2022.