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**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
ON THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS ACTIVITIES
IN THE PERIOD FROM 13 JULY 2021 TO 8 JULY 2022**



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1. ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

1.1 The Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) is the executive organ of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The Council promotes the effective implementation of, and compliance with, the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”). It also supervises the activities of the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”), cooperates with the National Authority of each State Party, and facilitates consultations and cooperation among States Parties at their request.

1.2 The following tables show, by regional grouping, the composition of the Council for the period from 12 May 2021 to 11 May 2022, and from 12 May 2022 to 11 May 2023.

A. COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FROM 12 MAY 2021 TO 11 MAY 2022

Regional Group	States Parties
Africa	Algeria, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Sudan
Asia	China, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates
Eastern Europe	Czech Republic, Lithuania, Poland, Russian Federation, and Slovakia
Latin America and the Caribbean	Argentina, Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, and Peru
Western European and Other States	Australia, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America

B. COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FROM 12 MAY 2022 TO 11 MAY 2023

Regional Group	States Parties
Africa	Algeria, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Sudan
Asia	China, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, and Saudi Arabia
Eastern Europe	Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Russian Federation, and Slovakia
Latin America and the Caribbean	Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico
Western European and Other States	Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Türkiye, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America

1.3 At its Twenty-Sixth Session, the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) adopted decisions on seven matters the Council had referred to it.

Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council

- 1.4 At its Ninety-Ninth Session, 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.
- 1.5 During the same session, the Council elected Ambassador Ziad M.D. Al Atiyah of Saudi Arabia as its Chairperson for a term of office ending on 11 May 2023. Ambassador Konstantin Dimitrov of Bulgaria, Ambassador Eniola Olaitan Ajayi of Nigeria, Ambassador Carmen María Gallardo de Hernández of El Salvador, and Ambassador Giorgio Novello of Italy would serve as the Vice-Chairpersons for the same period.
- 1.6 The following table lists the dates on which the Council held its regular sessions during the period under review.

C. DATES OF REGULAR SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Session	Dates
Ninety-Eighth	5 – 7 October 2021
Ninety-Ninth	8 – 10 March 2022
100th	5 – 7 July 2022

Accreditation of representatives to the Executive Council

- 1.7 The Council at its 100th Session considered and approved a report by the Director-General on the credentials of representatives of the members of the Council (EC-100/DG.20, dated 5 July 2022).

Application of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council

- 1.8 During the period under review, observer States Parties attended sessions of the Council, with an average of 56 present at each session. Each request by observers to present their views was granted under Rule 22 of the aforementioned Rules of Procedure.

Working methods of the Executive Council

- 1.9 During the period under review, the Chairperson of the Council, working in consultation with its Vice-Chairpersons and its members, reviewed and published lists of issues under regular consideration and outstanding issues on the agenda of the Council (EC-98/INF.1, dated 22 September 2021; EC-99/INF.2, dated 17 February 2022; and EC-100/INF.2, dated 13 June 2022).
- 1.10 The Vice-Chairpersons of the Council were designated as coordinators for chemical weapons issues, chemical industry, and other Article VI issues, administrative and financial issues, and legal, organisational, and other issues. Facilitators were also appointed for many of the issues requiring resolution.

- 1.11 The Council also kept under its consideration the matter of issues relating to the improvement of the methodology of its work.

Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues

- 1.12 The Vice-Chairpersons reported to the Council at its regular sessions on informal consultations held during the intersessional periods.
- 1.13 Facilitators for issues under regular consideration also reported to the Council on consultations held during the intersessional periods.

2. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

Statements and reports by the Director-General

- 2.1 In his opening statements to each session of the Council during the period under review, the Director-General elaborated, inter alia, on aspects of compliance by States Parties with the requirements of the Convention, and on related activities undertaken by the Secretariat. He also submitted reports to the Council, either in fulfilment of various requirements of the Convention or in response to requests by the Council or the Conference.

Draft annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2021

- 2.2 The Council at its 100th Session considered the “Draft Report of the OPCW on the Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction in 2021” and submitted it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Seventh Session (EC-100/2 C-27/CRP.1, dated 6 July 2022).

Universality-related activities

- 2.3 Further to a decision of the Council at its Twenty-Third Meeting on an action plan for the universality of the Convention (EC-M-23/DEC.3, dated 24 October 2003), the Council at its Ninety-Eighth Session considered and noted the annual report on the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention during the period from 16 August 2020 to 15 August 2021, which was submitted to both the Council and the Conference (EC-98/DG.10 C-26/DG.8, dated 3 September 2021).

Verification implementation reports

- 2.4 The Council at its Ninety-Eighth Session considered and noted the Verification Implementation Report (VIR) for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2020 (EC-98/HP/DG.1, dated 24 June 2021 and Add.1, dated 22 September 2021), as well as the Chairperson’s summary of the informal consultations on it (EC-98/2, dated 4 October 2021).

Issues related to meeting the final extended deadline and other destruction-related issues

- 2.5 Further to the relevant decisions by the Conference at its Eleventh, Fourteenth, and Sixteenth Sessions, reports by the United States of America as the sole possessor State Party on the progress made for the destruction of its chemical weapons were circulated to the members of the Council at its Ninety-Eighth, Ninety-Ninth, and 100th Sessions (EC-98/NAT.4, dated 14 September 2021; EC-99/NAT.3, dated 17 February 2022; and EC-100/NAT.2, dated 17 June 2022). The Council at all three of the aforementioned sessions noted the confirmation provided by the delegation of the United States of America that the necessary measures continued 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 Conference decision C-16/DEC.11 (dated 1 December 2011).
- 2.6 Further to decision C-16/DEC.11, the Council at its Ninety-Eighth, Ninety-Ninth, and 100th Sessions considered and noted reports by the Director-General on the overall progress with respect to the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles (EC-98/DG.26, dated 29 September 2021; EC-99/DG.14, dated 28 February 2022; and EC-100/DG.15, dated 24 June 2022).
- 2.7 The Council at its Ninety-Eighth Session considered and noted a Note by the Director-General on the schedule for submission by chemical weapons possessor States of the reports on their destruction activities after the extended deadline of 29 April 2012 (EC-98/DG.8, dated 31 August 2021).
- 2.8 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012), the Council at its Ninety-Eighth, Ninety-Ninth, and 100th Sessions considered and noted reports by the Director-General on the overall progress with regard to the destruction of the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China (EC-98/DG.27, dated 29 September 2021; EC-99/DG.15, dated 2 March 2022; and EC-100/DG.17, dated 30 June 2022).
- 2.9 Further to the same decision by the Council (EC-67/DEC.6), national papers by China (EC-98/NAT.5, dated 14 September 2021; EC-99/NAT.4, dated 14 February 2022; and EC-100/NAT.4, dated 20 June 2022) and national papers by Japan (EC-98/NAT.3, dated 17 September 2021; EC-99/NAT.5, dated 23 February 2022; and EC-100/NAT.3, dated 17 June 2022) were circulated to the members of the Council at its Ninety-Eighth, Ninety-Ninth, and 100th Sessions.
- 2.10 The Council at its Ninety-Eighth Session noted the information provided by the delegation of Latvia on its destruction-related verification activities (EC-98/NAT.2, dated 13 September 2021).
- 2.11 The Council at its 100th Session considered and noted the information provided by the delegation of the Netherlands on its destruction-related verification activities (EC-100/NAT.1, dated 10 June 2022).

Detailed plans for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons and facility agreements

- 2.12 The Council at its Ninety-Eighth, Ninety-Ninth, and 100th Sessions received briefings by the Secretariat on its other verification-related activities.
- 2.13 The Secretariat submitted to the Council at its Ninety-Eighth Session a Note on amendments and modifications to the agreed detailed plan for verification and the facility agreement with the United States of America regarding on-site inspections at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility in Richmond, Kentucky, the United States of America (EC-98/S/3, dated 24 September 2021). At the same session, the Council approved the revised amendments to the aforementioned facility agreement (EC-98/DEC.6, dated 6 October 2021) and to the agreed detailed plan for verification (EC-98/DEC.7, dated 6 October 2021).
- 2.14 At its 100th Session, the Council considered and noted a Note on the “Modification of the Facility Arrangement Between the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Regarding On-Site Inspections at the Single Small-Scale Facility, the New Boscombe Laboratory Complex at DSTL Porton Down, Salisbury, Wiltshire, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland” (EC-100/S/4, dated 17 June 2022).

Progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme

- 2.15 Further to its decision at its Eighty-Third Session (EC-83/DEC.5, dated 11 November 2016), the Council continued 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.
- 2.16 Prior to the Ninety-Eighth, Ninety-Ninth, and 100th Sessions of the Council, the Secretariat provided briefings to States Parties 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.

Implementation of decisions of the Executive Council on destruction-related issues

- 2.17 The Council, at its Ninety-Eighth, Ninety-Ninth, and 100th Sessions, noted reports by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme (EC-98/DG.1, dated 23 July 2021; EC-98/DG.6, dated 24 August 2021; EC-98/DG.24, dated 24 September, 2021; 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; EC-100/DG.2, dated 24 March 2022; EC-100/DG.4, dated 25 April 2022; EC-100/DG.6, dated 24 May 2022; and EC-100/DG.14, dated 23 June 2022).
- 2.18 The Council at its Ninety-Eighth, Ninety-Ninth, and 100th Sessions noted national papers by the Syrian Arab Republic on activities relating to the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and chemical weapons production facilities on its territory (EC-98/P/NAT.1, dated 16 July 2021; EC-98/P/NAT.2, dated 16 August 2021;

EC-98/P/NAT.3, dated 16 September 2021; 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; EC-99/P/NAT.5, dated 15 February 2022; EC-100/P/NAT.1, dated 16 March 2022; EC-100/P/NAT.2, dated 14 April 2022; EC-100/P/NAT.3, dated 16 May 2022; and EC-100/P/NAT.4, dated 15 June 2022).

Activities of the Declaration Assessment Team

- 2.19 The Council at its Ninety-Eighth, Ninety-Ninth, and 100th Sessions noted three Notes by the Director-General reporting on the work of the Declaration Assessment Team (EC-98/DG.28 and EC-98/HP/DG.2, both dated 30 September 2021; EC-99/HP/DG.1, dated 2 March 2022; and EC-100/HP/DG.1, dated 29 June 2022).

Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use

- 2.20 The Council at its Ninety-Eighth, Ninety-Ninth, and 100th Sessions noted three regular reports by the Director-General (EC-98/DG.22, dated 22 September 2021; EC-99/DG.8, dated 15 February 2022; and EC-100/DG.13, dated 23 June 2022) on progress made in the implementation of the decision taken by the Conference at its Fourth Special Session entitled “Addressing the Threat From Chemical Weapons Use” (C-SS-4/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2018).
- 2.21 The Secretariat circulated to the Council at its Ninety-Ninth Session a “Summary Update of the Activities Carried Out by the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria” (S/2014/2021, dated 30 December 2021), as well as two reports by the Fact-Finding Mission entitled “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).

Article VI-related issues

- 2.22 Further to a decision by the Council at its Fifty-First Session (EC-51/DEC.1, dated 27 November 2007), the Council at its Ninety-Ninth and 100th Sessions noted the status reports by the Director-General on the timely submission by States Parties of declarations under Article VI of the Convention, for the period 1 January to 31 December 2021 (EC-99/DG.6, dated 27 January 2022) and for the period 1 January to 31 May 2022 (EC-100/DG.11, dated 16 June 2022).
- 2.23 Further to the decision of the Council at its Sixty-Sixth Session on the policy guidelines for determining the number of Article VI inspections (EC-66/DEC.10, dated 7 October 2011), the Council at its 100th Session noted a Note by the Director-General on the results of the tenth year of implementation of these policy guidelines (EC-100/DG.1, dated 21 March 2022).

Progress made in the implementation of Article VII obligations

- 2.24 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 Council at its Ninety-Eighth Session noted the following reports by the Director-General: “Overview of the Status of the 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); “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 “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).
- 2.25 The Council submitted these documents to the Conference at its Twenty-Sixth Session, along with its recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration.

Readiness of the Technical Secretariat to conduct a challenge inspection or an investigation of alleged use

- 2.26 The Council at its 100th Session considered and noted a Note by the Director-General reporting on the readiness of the Secretariat to conduct a challenge inspection or an investigation of alleged use (EC-100/DG.10, dated 16 June 2022).

OPCW Central Analytical Database

- 2.27 The Council at its Ninety-Ninth Session 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 (OCAD) (EC-99/DG.4, dated 21 January 2022) and adopted a decision on the matter (EC-99/DEC.1, dated 8 March 2022).

Status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons

- 2.28 Following the Conference decision to establish the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons and a voluntary trust fund for this purpose (C-16/DEC.13, dated 2 December 2011), the Director-General was requested to report every two years, through the Council, to the Conference at its regular sessions on the status of implementation of this decision.
- 2.29 At its Ninety-Eighth Session, the Council noted a 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).

Status of implementation of Article X

- 2.30 The Council at its Ninety-Eighth Session considered and noted a report by the Director-General on the status of implementation of Article X of the Convention as at 30 June 2021 (EC-98/DG.3, dated 13 August 2021 and Corr.1, dated 29 September 2021).

The content of the Protection and Assistance Databank and its use

- 2.31 The Council at its 100th Session considered and noted a Note by the Secretariat on the content of the Protection and Assistance Databank and its use (EC-100/S/2, dated 9 June 2022).

Status of implementation of Article XI

- 2.32 The Council at its Ninety-Eighth Session considered and noted a report by the Director-General on the progress made and review of the status of implementation of Article XI of the Convention (EC-98/DG.9 C-26/DG.7, dated 2 September 2021).

The OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention

- 2.33 The Council at its Ninety-Eighth Session considered and 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).

The OPCW's contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts

- 2.34 The Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T), Ambassador Vusimuzi Philemon Madonsela of South Africa, briefed the Council at its Ninety-Eighth, Ninety-Ninth, and 100th Sessions on the work of the OEWG-T during the intersessional periods (EC-98/WP.2, dated 6 October 2021; EC-99/WP.3, dated 9 March 2022; and EC-100/WP.3, dated 6 July 2022).
- 2.35 The Council at its Ninety-Ninth Session 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).

Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference

- 2.36 At its Ninety-Eighth, Ninety-Ninth, and 100th Sessions, the Council considered and noted the updated matrices of actionable items identified at the Third Review Conference¹ (EC-98/S/2, dated 22 September 2021; EC-99/S/2, dated 17 February 2022; and EC-100/S/3, dated 14 June 2022).

Implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Technical Secretariat in 2021

- 2.37 The Council at its Ninety-Ninth Session 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).

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

Report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities

- 2.38 The Council at its Ninety-Eighth Session considered and approved a report on the performance of its activities in the period from 13 July 2020 to 12 July 2021, and submitted it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Sixth Session (EC-98/4 C-26/2, dated 5 October 2021).

Administrative and financial matters

Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2022–2023, and all items pertaining to this budget, including relevant special funds

- 2.39 At its Ninety-Eighth Session, the Council adopted the Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2022–2023 and submitted it, together with its recommendations, to the Conference at its Twenty-Sixth Session (EC-98/DEC.5, dated 6 October 2021).
- 2.40 Also at its Ninety-Eighth Session, the Council noted 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).

Financial situation of the OPCW

- 2.41 At its Ninety-Eighth Session, the Council noted that the final cash deficit for 2019 amounted to EUR 1.2 million, as stated in the report by the Director-General entitled “Financial Statements of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and Report of the External Auditor for the Year Ending 31 December 2020” (EC-98/DG.7 C-26/DG.6, dated 30 August 2021), and as reported to the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF) at its Fifty-First Session.
- 2.42 Also at its Ninety-Eighth Session, the Council considered and adopted a decision to suspend, on an exceptional basis, the application of Financial Regulation 6.3 in respect of the allocation among States Parties of cash surpluses in light of the cash deficit for the year 2019 and to review the treatment of future cash surpluses as and when such surpluses are determined (EC-98/DEC.2, dated 6 October 2021).
- 2.43 The Council at the same session 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) and forwarded them to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Sixth Session. Mr Damian Brewitt from the National Audit Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland delivered a statement presenting the report of the External Auditor (EC-98/3, dated 5 October 2021).
- 2.44 Also at its Ninety-Eighth Session, the Council noted a Note by the Director-General on the submission of the 2021 OPCW Financial Statements to the External Auditor (Financial Rule 11.1.02) (EC-98/DG.20, dated 21 September 2021), considered and adopted a decision on the matter (EC-98/DEC.1, dated 5 October 2021), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Sixth Session.

Status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions

- 2.45 Further to a decision of the Conference at its Eleventh Session (C-11/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2006), the Council at its Ninety-Eighth Session considered and forwarded to the Conference at its Twenty-Sixth Session a Note by the Director-General on the status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans (EC-98/DG.4* C-26/DG.5, dated 19 August 2021).

Transfers of funds

- 2.46 The Council at its 100th Session noted a Note by the Director-General on transfers of funds during 2021 (EC-100/DG.18 C-27/DG.3, dated 30 June 2022).

Recommendations for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and of losses of assets

- 2.47 The Council at its Ninety-Eighth Session considered a Note by the Director-General on a 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).

Implementation of the enterprise resource planning system

- 2.48 Further to a 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 at its Ninety-Eighth, Ninety-Ninth, and 100th Sessions noted Notes by the Director-General reporting on the status of implementation of the ERP system (EC-98/DG.23, dated 23 September 2021; EC-99/DG.11, dated 21 February 2022; and EC-100/DG.12, dated 17 June 2022).

Extension of the special fund for OPCW special missions

- 2.49 At its Ninety-Eighth Session, the Council noted a Note by the Director-General on the financial status of the special fund for OPCW special missions (EC-98/DG.16, dated 14 September 2021), considered and adopted a decision on the extension of the Fund (EC-98/DEC.3, dated 6 October 2021), and transmitted the decision to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Sixth Session.

Appointments to the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

- 2.50 At its Ninety-Ninth Session, the Council noted a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the 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, beginning 28 June 2022.
- 2.51 At its 100th Session, the Council noted a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-100/S/1, dated 23 May 2022), and appointed Mr Ashutosh Jindal of India for a first term with the ABAF, beginning 5 July 2022.

Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

- 2.52 At its 100th Session, the Council decided to defer until its next regular session consideration of the draft decision entitled “OPCW Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters – Rules of Procedure” (EC-92/DEC/CRP.1/Rev.4, dated 21 June 2022) as well as the proposed amendments thereto (EC-100/NAT.5, dated 5 July 2022).

Personnel matters

Composition of the Technical Secretariat

- 2.53 The Council at its 100th Session noted the Director-General’s annual report on the composition of the Secretariat (EC-100/DG.16, dated 28 June 2022).

Implementation of the tenure policy

- 2.54 At its 100th Session, the Council considered and noted a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the tenure policy in 2021 (EC-100/DG.8, dated 2 June 2022).

Implementation of an amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward classification of posts

- 2.55 The Council at its Ninety-Eighth Session noted a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward classification of posts during the period from 14 August 2020 to 13 August 2021 (EC-98/DG.5, dated 19 August 2021).

Rehiring of inspectors

- 2.56 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.
- 2.57 The Council at its Ninety-Ninth Session considered and noted an addendum to the report by the Director-General on the implementation of the tenure policy in 2020 entitled “Impact of the Decision on the Rehiring of Inspectors” (EC-97/DG.8/Add.1, dated 1 October 2021).

Adjustment to the Director-General’s gross salary

- 2.58 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 at its Ninety-Ninth Session adopted a decision adjusting the Director-General’s gross salary (EC-99/DEC.2, dated 8 March 2022).

3. OTHER DECISIONS AND ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Provisional agendas for sessions of the Conference of the States Parties

- 3.1 The Council at its 100th Session drew up the draft provisional agenda for the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference (EC-100/DG.7, dated 1 June 2022).

Establishment of an open-ended working group for the preparation of the Fifth Review Conference

- 3.2 Further to the recommendation by the Conference at its Twenty-Sixth Session, the Council at its Ninety-Ninth Session established the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference as well as the Bureau for the Working Group. In accordance with the practice of rotation, the Council 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 Zabalgoitia 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.

Sale of the OPCW Headquarters building

- 3.3 At its Ninety-Ninth Session the Council noted a Note by the Director-General on the intended sale of the OPCW Headquarters building (EC-99/DG.12, dated 24 February 2022).

Convening Executive Council meetings or sessions in extraordinary circumstances

- 3.4 At its 100th Session, the Council decided to defer until its next regular session consideration of the draft decision entitled “Allowing the Convening of Executive Council Meetings or Sessions in Extraordinary Circumstances” (EC-98/DEC/CRP.7/Rev.2, dated 29 June 2022).

4. REPORTS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Reports by the Director-General regarding the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach

- 4.1 Further to Conference decision C-20/DEC.9 (dated 3 December 2015), the Council at its Ninety-Eighth Session 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).
- 4.2 At its Ninety-Ninth Session, the Council considered and noted a Note by the Director-General reviewing the operation of the ABEO for the period 2019 to 2021 (EC-99/DG.10, dated 17 February 2022).

Reports of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

- 4.3 At its Ninety-Eighth Session, the Council considered and noted the report of the Fifty-First Session of the ABAF (ABAF-51/1, dated 30 July 2021) as well as the respective Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report (EC-98/DG.18, dated 21 September 2021). The Council at its 100th Session also considered and noted the report of the Fifty-Second Session of the ABAF (ABAF-52/1, dated 9 June 2022) and a Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report (EC-100/DG.19, dated 1 July 2022).

Reports of the Scientific Advisory Board

- 4.4 The report of the Thirty-Second Session of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) (SAB-32/1, dated 17 June 2021) was circulated to the Council at its Ninety-Eighth Session. The Council noted the response by the Director-General to that report (EC-98/DG.21, dated 22 September 2021).
- 4.5 The report of the Thirty-Third Session of the SAB (SAB-33/1, dated 18 November 2021) was circulated to the Council at its Ninety-Ninth Session. The Council noted the response by the Director-General to that report (EC-99/DG.16, dated 2 March 2022).
- 4.6 The report of the Thirty-Fourth Session of the SAB (SAB-34/1, dated 17 March 2022) was circulated to the Council at its 100th Session. The Council noted the response by the Director-General to that report (EC-100/DG.9, dated 14 June 2022).

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2021

- 4.7 The Council at its 100th Session considered and noted the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight (OIO) for the period 1 January to 31 December 2021, which the Director-General had submitted to it, along with his comments (EC-100/DG.3 C-27/DG.2, dated 11 April 2022). In accordance with Regulation 12.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, the Director-General transmitted this report, along with his own comments and any other comments made by the Council, to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Seventh Session.

Reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight and of the External Auditor

- 4.8 The Council at its Ninety-Eighth and Ninety-Ninth Sessions considered and noted two reports by the Secretariat on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor (EC-98/S/1, dated 7 September 2021 and EC-99/S/3, dated 24 February 2022).
- 4.9 At its 100th Session, the Council considered and noted a Note by the Director-General on the implementation in 2021 of the recommendations contained in the 2020 annual report of the OIO (EC-100/DG.5, dated 16 May 2022).

Report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

- 4.10 The Chairperson of the Council reported to the Council at its Ninety-Eighth, Ninety-Ninth, and 100th Sessions on the status of the work of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.
- 4.11 The Council at its 100th Session considered the “Report of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, Record of Discussions Held on 7 April 2022” (EC-100/HCC/1 C-27/HCC/1, dated 13 May 2022).

Reports of the co-facilitators on organisational governance issues

- 4.12 The co-facilitators on organisational governance issues reported to the Council at its Ninety-Eighth, Ninety-Ninth, and 100th Sessions on the consultations that they had held during the intersessional periods.
- 4.13 At its 100th Session, upon the recommendation of the Chairperson, the Council decided to conclude the work of the facilitation on organisational governance issues and to continue discussions on such matters in the context of the Fifth Review Conference.

Reports by the Working Group on the Manner of Appointment of the External Auditor

- 4.14 The Chairperson of the Working Group on the Manner of Appointment of the External Auditor, Ambassador Jorge Skinner-Klée Arenales of Guatemala, provided the Council with an update on the activities of the Working Group at its Ninety-Eighth, Nineth-Ninth, and 100th Sessions (EC-98/WP.3, dated 6 October 2021; EC-99/WP.1, dated 10 February 2022; and EC-100/WP.1, dated 21 June 2022).

Report by the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference

- 4.15 On behalf of the Chairperson of the Bureau of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, Ambassador Lauri Kuusing of Estonia, the Vice-Chairperson, Ambassador Salima Abdelhak of Algeria, provided the Council at its 100th Session with an update on the work undertaken during the intersessional period.

5. APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

At its Ninety-Eighth Session, the Council recommended that the Conference at its Twenty-Sixth Session renew the appointment of Mr Fernando Arias as the Director-General of the Secretariat of the OPCW, for a term of office beginning on 25 July 2022 and ending on 24 July 2026 (EC-98/DEC.4, dated 6 October 2021).

6. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION OR ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES AT ITS TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Implementation by the Technical Secretariat in 2021 of the regime governing the handling of confidential information

- 6.1 The Council at its Ninety-Ninth Session 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), and forwarded it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Seventh Session.

Draft annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2021

- 6.2 The Council at its 100th Session considered the “Draft Report of the OPCW on the Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction in 2021” and submitted it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Seventh Session (EC-100/2 C-27/CRP.1).

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2021

- 6.3 The Council at its 100th Session considered and noted the annual report of the OIO for the period 1 January to 31 December 2021, which the Director-General had submitted to it, along with his comments (EC-100/DG.3 C-27/DG.2). In accordance with Financial Regulation 12.5, the Director-General transmitted the report, along with his own comments and any other comments made by the Council, to the Conference at its Twenty-Seventh Session.

Transfers of funds during 2021

- 6.4 The Council at its 100th Session noted a Note by the Director-General on transfers of funds during 2021 (EC-100/DG.18 C-27/DG.3). This Note was forwarded to the Conference at its Twenty-Seventh Session.

Attachment: Note by the Technical Secretariat: The Destruction of Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People’s Republic of China

Annex: Actions Taken by the Conference of the States Parties at its Twenty-Sixth Session in Response to Recommendations Made by the Executive Council

Attachment

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**THE DESTRUCTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS
ABANDONED BY JAPAN IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

1. Decision (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012)

The decision entitled “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, dated 15 February 2012), in which it reads in O.P.8, “Recommends the Conference of States Parties to take note of annual reports of the Council concerning the progress made for the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons from a viewpoint of facilitating the destruction; ...”.

2. Reports by the Director-General overall progress with respect to the destruction of Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in The People's Republic of China.

China and Japan have continued bilateral consultations to make progress on the excavation, recovery, and destruction of ACWs at various sites in China. At the end of the reporting period (1 June to 31 August 2021), China declared 82,892 ACW items and Japan declared 83,703 ACW items. Around 58,040 of the declared ACWs on the territory of China were destroyed. However, the total number of declared items does not include the remaining ACW items, initially estimated at over 330,000, that were buried in Haerbaling, Jilin Province, nor does it include items at other locations that also have yet to be recovered and declared. (Quoted from EC-98/DG.27, dated 29 September 2021).

The national papers submitted by Japan (EC-98/NAT.3, dated 17 September 2021) and China (EC-98/NAT.5, dated 14 September 2021) note that, during the reporting period, excavation, recovery, and destruction operations resumed in Haerbaling, Jilin Province, while at other locations, the destruction operations, and related activities, such as excavations and recoveries, remained suspended because of the COVID-19 pandemic. (Quoted from EC-98/DG.27, dated 29 September 2021).

Haerbaling is the largest burial site of ACW in China, meaning that the destruction operations at this site will have a major impact on the overall progress of the destruction of ACWs. To expedite the destruction of the ACW items, four new controlled detonation chambers (CDCs) are being installed in addition to the existing two chambers, i.e., one CDC and one static detonation chamber (SDC). After a suspension of operations dating back to early 2020 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, destruction, excavation, and recovery operations at Haerbaling resumed in May 2021. A total of 2,453 ACW items were recovered from burial pit No. 1. In addition, 1,086 ACW items were reported as destroyed, of which 312 were reported as destroyed in the CDC and 774 in the SDC. To date, the total number of ACW reported as destroyed at the Haerbaling destruction facility has reached 18,447 ACW items. (Quoted from EC-98/DG.27, dated 29 September 2021).

The selection of sites in Taiyuan and Guangzhou for the High Mobility Destruction Facility has been completed. Although the schedule was delayed, progress has been made in the consultations between China and Japan in order to prepare for the planned destruction operations in Guangzhou. The destruction operations at Taiyuan will begin after the completion of destruction operations at Guangzhou. ACW items currently stored in Taiyuan are expected to be destroyed by the end of 2022, in accordance with the destruction plan. The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) remains in close contact with China and Japan regarding the latest developments on ACW matters. China and Japan continue to maintain their communication regarding the next phase of the programme of work in 2021. (Quoted from EC-98/DG.27, dated 29 September 2021).

Inspections related to chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in the People’s Republic of China continue to be postponed and will be rescheduled as the situation allows and in consultation with the concerned States Parties. (Quoted from EC-98/DG.27, dated 29 September 2021).

Finally, the destruction of the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China is scheduled to continue based on the agreed destruction plan, in accordance with which Japan and China regularly report to the Council. The plan includes time frames for the destruction of ACW by Japan, with appropriate cooperation from China. The Secretariat continues to closely coordinate with both China and Japan on the implementation of Council decision EC-67/DEC.6. (Quoted from EC-98/DG.27, dated 29 September 2021).

China and Japan have continued bilateral consultations to make progress on the excavation, recovery, and destruction of ACW at various sites in China. At the end of the reporting period (1 September 2021 to 31 January 2022), China had declared 90,325 ACW items, and Japan had declared 89,836 ACW items. Around 60,033 items of the declared ACW on the territory of China had been destroyed. However, the total number of declared items does not include the remaining ACW items, initially estimated at over 330,000, that were buried in Haerbaling, Jilin Province, nor does it include items at other locations that also have yet to be recovered and declared. (Quoted from EC-99/DG.15, dated 2 March 2022).

The national papers submitted by Japan (EC-99/NAT.5, dated 23 February 2022) and China (EC-99/NAT.4, dated 14 February 2022) note that, during the reporting period, excavation, recovery, and destruction operations continued at Haerbaling, Jilin Province, while at other locations the destruction operations, and related activities such as excavations and recoveries, remain suspended because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Transportation operations have been conducted to consolidate ACW at the destruction site in Harbin and to the storehouse in Guangzhou. (Quoted from EC-99/DG.15, dated 2 March 2022).

Haerbaling is the largest burial site of ACWs in China, meaning that the destruction operations at this site will have a major impact on the overall progress of the destruction of ACW. To expedite the destruction of the ACW items, four new controlled detonation chambers (CDCs) are currently in the process of being installed in addition to the existing two chambers, i.e, one CDC and one static detonation chamber (SDC). After a suspension of operations dating back to early 2020 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, destruction, excavation, and recovery operations at Haerbaling resumed in May 2021.

A total of 6,131 ACW items were recovered from burial pit No. 1 in 2021. In addition, 1,246 ACW items were reported as destroyed, of which 159 were reported as destroyed in the CDC and 1,087 in the SDC. To date, the total number of ACW reported as destroyed at the Haerbaling destruction facility has reached 19,693 ACW items. (Quoted from EC-99/DG.15, dated 2 March 2022).

Destruction operations at the Harbin mobile destruction facility (MDF) began in May 2019. However, further scheduled destruction operations have been postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the reporting period, China and Japan continued their bilateral consultations to resume destruction operations at the Harbin MDF. (Quoted from EC-99/DG.15, dated 2 March 2022).

The selection of sites in Taiyuan and Guangzhou for the High Mobility Destruction Facility has been completed. Progress has been made in the consultations between China and Japan in order to prepare for the planned destruction operations at Guangzhou. The destruction operations at Taiyuan will begin after the completion of destruction operations at Guangzhou. ACW items currently stored in Taiyuan are expected to be destroyed by the end of 2022, in accordance with the destruction plan. (Quoted from EC-99/DG.15, dated 2 March 2022).

Inspections related to chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in the People's Republic of China continue to be postponed and will be rescheduled as the situation allows and in consultation with the concerned States Parties. (Quoted from EC-99/DG.15, dated 2 March 2022).

The thirty-fifth trilateral meeting between China, Japan, and the Secretariat was held on 18 November 2021 in virtual mode. The objectives of these meetings are to ensure transparency, to discuss technical and practical issues, to implement projects in accordance with the appropriate verification measures, and to plan for future activities. China and Japan continue to maintain their communication regarding the next phase of the programme of work. The Secretariat remains in close contact with China and Japan regarding the latest developments on ACW matters. (Quoted from EC-99/DG.15, dated 2 March 2022).

Finally, the destruction of the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China is scheduled to continue based on the agreed destruction plan, in accordance with which Japan and China regularly report to the Council. The plan includes time frames for the destruction of ACWs by Japan, with appropriate cooperation from China. The Secretariat continues to closely coordinate with both China and Japan on the implementation of Council decision EC-67/DEC.6. (Quoted from EC-99/DG.15, dated 2 March 2022).

China and Japan have continued bilateral consultations to make progress on the excavation, recovery, and destruction of ACW at various sites in China. At the end of the reporting period (1 February 2022 to 31 May 2022), China had declared 90,325 ACW items, and Japan had declared 89,836 ACW items. Around 60,033 items of the declared ACW on the territory of China had been destroyed. However, the total number of declared items does not include the remaining ACW items, initially estimated at over 330,000, that were buried in Haerbaling, Jilin Province, nor does it include items at other locations that also have yet to be recovered and declared. (Quoted from EC-100/DG.17, dated 30 June 2022).

The national papers submitted by Japan (EC-100/NAT.3, dated 17 June 2022) and China (EC-100/NAT.4, dated 20 June 2022) note that, during the reporting period, excavation, recovery, and destruction operations resumed in Haerbaling, Jilin Province in May 2022. (Quoted from EC-100/DG.17, dated 30 June 2022).

Haerbaling is the largest burial site of ACW in China, meaning that the destruction operations at this site will have a major impact on the overall progress of the destruction of ACW. To expedite the destruction of the ACW items, four new controlled detonation chambers (CDCs) are currently in the process of being installed in addition to the existing two chambers, i.e. one CDC and one static detonation chamber (SDC). During the reporting period, the installation of the new destruction facility has been completed. Functional tests have been conducted and operations using the new facility are expected to begin in October. After a suspension of operations dating back to early 2020 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, destruction and excavation, and recovery operations at Haerbaling resumed in May 2021. The 2022 destruction operation at Haerbaling started on 26 May 2022 and, by the cut-off date, 137 ACW items had been destroyed in the SDC. To date, the total number of ACW reported as destroyed at the Haerbaling destruction facility has reached 19,830 ACW items. (Quoted from EC-100/DG.17, dated 30 June 2022).

Destruction operations at the Harbin mobile destruction facility (MDF) began in May 2019. However, further scheduled destruction operations have been postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the reporting period, China and Japan continued their bilateral consultations to resume destruction operations at the Harbin MDF. Operations were due to resume in June 2022. (Quoted from EC-100/DG.17, dated 30 June 2022).

China and Japan have, in principle, agreed not to construct a destruction site in Guangzhou, and will instead transport the ACW items in Guangzhou and its vicinity to Wuhan for destruction. The two sides are moving ahead with the preliminary work for the construction of the destruction facility in Wuhan. They have also been in communication regarding the construction of the destruction facility in Taiyuan (Xinzhou). (Quoted from EC-100/DG.17, dated 30 June 2022).

Inspections related to chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in the People's Republic of China continue to be postponed and will be rescheduled as the situation allows and in consultation with the concerned States Parties. Trilateral talks are ongoing to find a satisfactory solution to allow for effective verification of ACW operations in China. (Quoted from EC-100/DG.17, dated 30 June 2022).

The thirty-sixth trilateral meeting between China, Japan, and the Secretariat is planned for July 2022 in virtual mode. The objectives of these meetings are to ensure transparency, to discuss technical and practical issues, to implement projects in accordance with the appropriate verification measures, and to plan for future activities. China and Japan continue to maintain their communication regarding the next phase of the programme of work. The Secretariat remains in close contact with China and Japan regarding the latest developments on ACW matters. (Quoted from EC-100/DG.17, dated 30 June 2022).

Finally, the destruction of the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China is scheduled to continue based on the agreed destruction plan, in accordance with which Japan and China regularly report to the Council. The plan includes time frames for the destruction of ACW items by Japan, with appropriate cooperation from China. The Secretariat continues to closely coordinate with both China and Japan on the implementation of Council decision EC-67/DEC.6. (Quoted from EC-100/DG.17, dated 30 June 2022).

3. Activities of the Council

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-98/NAT.5, dated 14 September 2021) and a national paper by Japan (EC-98/NAT.3, dated 17 September 2021) 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. (Quoted from EC-98/5, dated 7 October 2021).

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. (Quoted from EC-98/5, dated 7 October 2021).

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. (Quoted from EC-98/5, dated 7 October 2021).

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. (Quoted from EC-98/5, dated 7 October 2021).

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. (Quoted from EC-98/5, dated 7 October 2021).

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. (Quoted from EC-99/2, dated 10 March 2022).

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. (Quoted from EC-99/2, dated 10 March 2022).

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. (Quoted from EC-99/2, dated 10 March 2022).

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. (Quoted from EC-99/2, dated 10 March 2022).

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. (Quoted from EC-99/2, dated 10 March 2022).

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 Council 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-100/NAT.4, dated 20 June 2022) and a national paper by Japan (EC-100/NAT.3, dated 17 June 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. (Quoted from EC-100/CRP.2, dated 7 July 2022).

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. (Quoted from EC-100/CRP.2, dated 7 July 2022).

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. (Quoted from EC-100/CRP.2, dated 7 July 2022).

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. (Quoted from EC-100/CRP.2, dated 7 July 2022).

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. (Quoted from EC-100/CRP.2, dated 7 July 2022).

4. Reference documents

- (a) National papers:
 - (i) China: (EC-98/NAT.5, dated 14 September 2021; EC-99/NAT.4, dated 14 February 2022; and EC-100/NAT.4, dated 20 June 2022).
 - (ii) Japan: (EC-98/NAT.3, dated 17 September 2021; EC-99/NAT.5, dated 23 February 2022; and EC-100/NAT.3, dated 17 June 2022).
- (b) Reports by the Director-General: (EC-98/DG.27, dated 29 September 2021; EC-99/DG.15, dated 2 March 2022; and EC-100/DG.17, dated 30 June 2022).
- (c) Reports of the Executive Council: (EC-98/5, dated 7 October 2021; EC-99/2, dated 10 March 2022; and EC-100/CRP.2, dated 7 July 2022).

Annex

**ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES
AT ITS TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION IN RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS
MADE BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**Progress report on the implementation of the plan of action regarding the
implementation of Article VII obligations**

1. Further to a decision by the Conference at its Fourteenth Session regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations (C-14/DEC.12), the Conference considered and noted a Note 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); 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); 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).

**Fostering of international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of
chemical activities**

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 (EC-98/DG.9 C-26/DG.7).

**Status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of
Chemical Weapons**

3. 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).

Ensuring the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention

4. The Conference noted the annual report by the Director-General on the implementation of the action plan for universality of the Convention during the period from 16 August 2020 to 15 August 2021 (EC-98/DG.10 C-26/DG.8).

Advisory Board on Education and Outreach

5. The Conference considered and noted a Note by the Director-General reporting on the activities of the ABEO covering the period from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 (EC-98/DG.17 C-26/DG.13).

Biennial Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2022–2023, and all items pertaining to this budget

6. In accordance with subparagraph 21(a) of Article VIII of the Convention, and pursuant to Financial Regulation 3.6(a), the Conference considered and adopted the Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2022–2023, which the Council had submitted to it (C-26/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2021).

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

7. 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), which had been forwarded to it by the Council in accordance with Regulation 13.10 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules.

Submission of the 2021 Financial Statements to the External Auditor

8. 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) 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).

Scale of assessments for 2022

9. In accordance with Financial Regulation 3.6(b) of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, the Conference adopted 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).

Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions

10. In accordance with a decision by the Conference at its Twentieth Session (C-20/DEC.11, dated 3 December 2015), the Council at its Ninety-Eighth Session considered and adopted a decision to extend the special fund for OPCW special missions (EC-98/DEC.3), 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).

Cash deficit for 2019

11. At its Ninety-Eighth Session, the Council adopted a decision on the cash deficit for 2019 (EC-98/DEC.2) 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).

Status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions

12. Pursuant to a decision by the Conference at its Eleventh Session (C-11/DEC.5), the Conference considered and noted a report on the status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans (EC-98/DG.4* C-26/DG.5).

Recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable

13. 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). The Conference considered and adopted a decision on the matter (C-26/DEC.7, dated 29 November 2021).

The OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention

14. The Conference noted a Note by the Director-General on the Africa Programme (EC-98/DG.14 C-26/DG.12 and Corr.1).

Report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities

15. The Conference noted the report of the Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 13 June 2020 to 8 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).

Appointment of the Director-General

16. Based on the recommendation of the Council at its Ninety-Eighth Session (EC-98/DEC.4), the Conference approved a decision on the renewal of the appointment of Mr Fernando Arias as the Director-General of the Secretariat of the OPCW for one further term of four years (C-26/DEC.9, dated 30 November 2021).

Committee on Relations with the Host Country

17. 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.

Any other business

18. Pursuant to a decision by the Council entitled “Understanding Regarding the Aerosolised Use of Central Nervous System-Acting Chemicals for Law Enforcement Purposes” (EC-96/DEC.7, dated 11 March 2021), the Conference considered and adopted a decision on the matter entitled “Understanding Regarding the Aerosolised Use of Central Nervous System-Acting Chemicals for Law Enforcement Purposes” (C-26/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2021).