



102nd Session
14 – 17 March 2023

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REPORT OF THE 102ND SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

The Chairperson of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”), Ambassador Ziad M.D. Al Atiyah of Saudi Arabia, opened its 102nd Session in The Hague at 10:16 on 14 March 2023.

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. Opening statement by the Director-General
4. Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on the activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues
5. General debate
6. 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) Destruction-related plans and facility agreements
 - (f) Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use
 - (g) Timely submission of declarations under Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention
 - (h) Implementation by the Technical Secretariat in 2022 of the regime governing the handling of confidential information



7. OPCW Central Analytical Database
8. Scientific Advisory Board
9. Countering chemical terrorism
10. 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
11. The OPCW Programme for Africa
12. Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference¹
13. Election of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council
14. Update by the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference
15. Provisional agenda for the Fifth Review Conference
16. Report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
17. Any other business
18. Adoption of the report
19. Closure

3. AGENDA ITEM THREE – Opening statement by the Director-General

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

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

- 4.1 The Vice-Chairpersons and coordinators for clusters of issues reported to the Council on informal consultations held during the intersessional period: Ambassador Konstantin Dimitrov of Bulgaria on chemical weapons issues; Ambassador Eniola Olaitan Ajayi of Nigeria on chemical industry and other Article VI issues; Ambassador Carmen María Gallardo de Hernández of El Salvador on administrative and financial issues; and Ambassador Giorgio Novello of Italy on legal, organisational, and other issues.
- 4.2 The Council **expressed appreciation** for the work done by the outgoing facilitators, Ms Giedrė Geleževičienė of Lithuania and Ms Jennie Bowie of Colombia.

5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – General debate

- 5.1 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: Azerbaijan (observer) (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China), Ghana (on behalf of the African Group), Sweden (observer) (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, and Ukraine), Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia (observer), Azerbaijan (observer), Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba (observer), the Czech Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia (observer), Lithuania (observer), Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand (observer), Nigeria, Norway (observer), Pakistan, Poland (observer), the Republic of Korea, Romania (observer), the Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain (observer), Switzerland (observer), the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), Türkiye, Ukraine (observer), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (observer).
- 5.2 The following delegations exercised their right of reply: Cuba (observer), the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, and Ukraine (observer).

6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – Status of implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention

Subitem 6(a): Reports by the Director-General on destruction-related issues

- 6.1 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-102/DG.16, dated 10 March 2023).
- 6.2 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-102/DG.17, dated 10 March 2023).

Subitem 6(b): Implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues

- 6.3 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).
- 6.4 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).
- 6.5 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.
- 6.6 The following delegations made statements: Japan, China, Mexico, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the United States of America.
- 6.7 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 achieved towards complete destruction of its chemical weapons stockpile, 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-102/NAT.2, dated 24 February 2023), 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.
- 6.8 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6) and the destruction plan beyond the year 2022 for the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China (EC-101/DEC.2, dated 4 October 2022) attached as annex 3 to the Council’s decision EC-67/DEC.6, a national paper by China (EC-102/NAT.3, dated 24 February 2023) and a national paper by Japan (EC-102/NAT.1, dated 21 February 2023) 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.
- 6.9 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 3 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.

- 6.10 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.
- 6.11 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. The Council **noted** with appreciation that the virtual inspections to the Haerbaling abandoned chemical weapon destruction facility and trust warehouse were carried out by the Secretariat with cooperation of China and Japan in October 2022. The Council **welcomed** the resumption of the on-site inspection to the abandoned chemical weapons facilities in the year of 2023, which has been agreed in principle by China, Japan, and the Secretariat in their trilateral consultation.

Subitem 6(c): Elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme

- 6.12 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.
- 6.13 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).
- 6.14 The Secretariat provided a briefing to the States Parties on 8 March 2023 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.
- 6.15 The Council **noted** five reports by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme (EC-102/DG.1, dated 25 October 2022; EC-102/DG.2, dated 24 November 2022; EC-102/DG.3, dated 23 December 2022; EC-102/DG.4, dated 24 January 2023; and EC-102/DG.14, dated 24 February 2023).
- 6.16 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-102/P/NAT.1, dated 14 October 2022; EC-102/P/NAT.2, dated 15 November 2022; EC-102/P/NAT.3, dated 14 December 2022; EC-102/P/NAT.4, dated 16 January 2023; and EC-102/P/NAT.5, dated 17 February 2023).

- 6.17 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General entitled “Report on the Work of the Declaration Assessment Team” (EC-102/HP/DG.1, dated 6 March 2023).
- 6.18 The following delegations made statements: the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Sweden (observer) (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, and Ukraine), France, the Russian Federation, Canada, the Czech Republic, China, the United States of America, Türkiye, Italy, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Netherlands, Albania, the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), Switzerland (observer), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (observer), and Cuba (observer).

Subitem 6(d): Other verification-related issues

- 6.19 The Secretariat updated the Council on its other verification-related activities (the presentation was posted on the external server of the OPCW).

Subitem 6(e): Destruction-related plans and facility agreements

- 6.20 The Secretariat submitted to the Council 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, Richmond, Kentucky, the United States of America (EC-102/S/3, dated 17 February 2023).
- 6.21 The Council **considered** and **approved** the amendments to the aforementioned facility agreement (EC-102/DEC.3, dated 15 March 2023).
- 6.22 The Council also **considered** and **approved** amendments to the above-mentioned agreed detailed plan for verification (EC-102/DEC.4, dated 15 March 2023).
- 6.23 The Secretariat also submitted two Notes on modifications to the agreed detailed plan for verification (EC-102/S/1, dated 9 January 2023) and to the facility agreement (EC-102/S/2, dated 9 January 2023) with the United States of America regarding on-site inspections at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility, Pueblo, Colorado, the United States of America.

Subitem 6(f): Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use

- 6.24 The Secretariat circulated a Note entitled “Third Report by the OPCW Investigation and Identification Team Pursuant to Paragraph 10 of Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 ‘Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use’, Douma (Syrian Arab Republic) – 7 April 2018” (S/2125/2023, dated 27 January 2023), which had been provided to the Council and the United Nations Secretary-General for their consideration. The Secretariat provided a briefing on this matter to States Parties on 2 February 2023.
- 6.25 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-102/DG.15, dated 27 February 2023).

- 6.26 The following delegations made statements: Sweden (observer) (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, and Ukraine), Brazil, Canada (on behalf of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand), France, Finland, Germany, India, Ireland, the Czech Republic, the Russian Federation, the Netherlands, China, the United States of America, France (on behalf of the International Partnership Against Impunity for the Use of Chemical Weapons), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Albania, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Slovenia (observer), Ukraine (observer), Switzerland (observer), the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), Belgium (observer), and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (observer).
- 6.27 The following delegations exercised their right of reply: the United States of America, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), and France.
- 6.28 The following delegations made statements on other issues under this agenda item: Sweden (observer) (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, and Ukraine), the Russian Federation, Canada, Germany, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ireland, China, France, the United States of America, the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), and Ukraine (observer).
- 6.29 The following delegations exercised their right of reply: the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Germany, Ukraine (observer), and the United States of America.
- 6.30 The Director-General made a statement.

Subitem 6(g): Timely submission of declarations under Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention

- 6.31 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 2022 (EC-102/DG.5, dated 24 January 2023).

Subitem 6(h): Implementation by the Technical Secretariat in 2022 of the regime governing the handling of confidential information

- 6.32 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 2022 (EC-102/DG.8 C-28/DG.1, dated 9 February 2023).

7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – OPCW Central Analytical Database

- 7.1 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 (OCAD) (EC-102/DG.6, dated 24 January 2023), and **adopted** a decision on the matter (EC-102/DEC.1, dated 14 March 2023).

7.2 The Council **considered** a Note by the Director-General on lists of newly validated data on non-scheduled chemicals relevant to the Convention for approval by the Council for inclusion in the OCAD (EC-102/DG.7, dated 27 January 2023), and **adopted** a decision on the matter (EC-102/DEC.2, dated 14 March 2023).

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Scientific Advisory Board

8.1 The report of the Thirty-Sixth Session of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) was circulated to the members of the Council (SAB-36/1*, dated 29 September 2022).

8.2 The Council **noted** the response by the Director-General to the report of the Thirty-Sixth Session of the SAB (EC-102/DG.13, dated 16 February 2023).

9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Countering chemical terrorism

9.1 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-102/DG.12*, dated 16 February 2023).

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

9.3 The following delegations made statements: Mexico, the Russian Federation, Malaysia, China, India, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, the United States of America, Morocco, France, and the Syrian Arab Republic (observer).

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Administrative and financial matters

Subitem 10(a): Nominations for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

10.1 The Council **noted** a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF) (EC-102/S/6, dated 22 February 2023), and **appointed** Ms Hollie Marie Mance of the United States of America for a second term with the ABAF, starting on 29 May 2023.

10.2 The Council **noted** a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-102/S/7, dated 3 March 2023), and **appointed** Mr Hamed Alinejad of the Islamic Republic of Iran to replace Mr Bahram Jamali, starting on 16 March 2023.

10.3 The Council **noted** a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-102/S/8, dated 8 March 2023), and **appointed** Mr Muhammad Wasif of Pakistan to replace Ms Fatima Hamdia Tanweer, starting on 16 March 2023.

Subitem 10(b): Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

10.4 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.

- 10.5 The delegation of the Russian Federation submitted amendments to the above-mentioned draft decision in document EC-100/NAT.5 (dated 5 July 2022).
- 10.6 The latest revision to the above-mentioned draft decision was submitted by the sponsoring delegations and issued under the symbol EC-92/DEC/CRP.1/Rev.5 (dated 13 March 2023).
- 10.7 The following delegations made statements: the United States of America, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- 10.8 The Council **decided** to defer the matter until its 104th Session.

Subitem 10(c): Status of implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations

- 10.9 The Council **considered** and **noted** a report on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor (EC-102/S/4, dated 17 February 2023).
- 10.10 The facilitator for this issue, Ms Yoko Sakurai of Japan, reported on the consultations carried out during the intersessional period (the report was posted on the external server of the OPCW).
- 10.11 The following delegations made statements: the Russian Federation and the United States of America.
- 10.12 The Secretariat made a statement.

Subitem 10(d): Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise resource planning system

- 10.13 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-102/DG.10, dated 15 February 2023).

Subitem 10(e): Adjustment to the Director-General's gross salary

- 10.14 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-102/DEC.5, dated 16 March 2023).
- 10.15 The delegation of the Russian Federation made a statement.
- 10.16 The Secretariat made a statement.

11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – The OPCW Programme for Africa

11.1 The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the sixth phase of the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (EC-102/DG.11, dated 16 February 2023).

11.2 The delegation of Ghana made a statement on behalf of the African Group.

12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – 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-102/S/5, dated 22 February 2023).

13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Election of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council

13.1 In accordance with Rule 6 of its Rules of Procedure, and with effect from 12 May 2023, the Council is required to elect its new Chairperson for a term of office ending on 11 May 2024, and its new Vice-Chairpersons for the same period. The Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons shall be elected from among the representatives accredited to the Council.

13.2 The following delegations made statements: Bulgaria, the Russian Federation, the Czech Republic, Albania, Croatia (observer), the United States of America, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, China, Belgium (observer), Slovakia, Austria (observer), Germany, Latvia (observer), Italy, the Netherlands, and Mexico.

13.3 The following delegations exercised their right of reply: France and the Russian Federation.

13.4 In the absence of consensus, the Council **proceeded** to a vote by secret ballot pursuant to Rules 6 and 41 of its Rules of Procedure by simple majority of the members of the Council. The Council **elected** Ambassador Lucian Fătu of Romania as its new Chairperson for a term of office ending on 11 May 2024.

13.5 Also, in accordance with Rule 6 of its Rules of Procedure, the Council **elected** its new Vice-Chairpersons with effect from 12 May 2023 for a term of office ending on 11 May 2024: Ambassador Eniola Olaitan Ajayi of Nigeria, Ambassador Nazar Issa Abdulhadi Al-Khirullah of Iraq, Ambassador Paulo Roberto Caminha de Castilhos França of Brazil, and Ambassador Giorgio Novello of Italy.

13.6 The following delegations made statements: Romania (observer), Brazil, and Guatemala.

14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Update by the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference

- 14.1 The Council at its Ninety-Ninth Session established the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference in accordance with paragraph 22 of Article VIII of the Convention (paragraph 16.2 of EC-99/2, dated 10 March 2022). The Council also established the Bureau of the Open-Ended Working Group.
- 14.2 The Chairperson of the Bureau of the Open-Ended Working Group, Ambassador Lauri Kuusing of Estonia, briefed the Council on the activities of the Working Group.
- 14.3 Further to the end of mission of Ambassador Hidehisa Horinouchi of Japan, prior to the expiry of his term of office as Vice-Chairperson (Asian Group) of the Bureau of the Open-Ended Working Group, the Council **welcomed** the appointment of Ambassador Hiroshi Minami of Japan as the new Vice-Chairperson from the Asian Group for the unexpired term of office of the Bureau.
- 14.4 The following delegations made statements: India, China, Sweden (observer) (on behalf of the European Union), Morocco, Algeria, the United States of America, and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – Provisional agenda for the Fifth Review Conference

In accordance with Rule 17 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Council **drew up** the provisional agenda for the Fifth Review Conference (EC-102/DG.9, dated 9 February 2023).

16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

- 16.1 The Chairperson reported to the Council on the status of the work of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.
- 16.2 The following delegations made statements: the Russian Federation, the Netherlands, and Belgium (observer).
- 16.3 The following delegations exercised their right of reply: the Russian Federation and the Netherlands.

17. AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Any other business

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

- 17.1 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.

Convening Executive Council meetings or sessions in extraordinary circumstances

- 17.2 A draft decision entitled “Allowing the Convening of Executive Council Meetings or Sessions in Extraordinary Circumstances” was circulated to the Council at its Ninety-Eighth Session 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).
- 17.3 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).
- 17.4 The latest revision to the above-mentioned draft decision was issued under the symbol EC-98/DEC/CRP.7/Rev.3 (dated 13 March 2023), and was co-sponsored by Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, Germany, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania, Mexico, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Saudi Arabia, and Slovakia. El Salvador joined the list of co-sponsors.
- 17.5 The following delegations made statements: Germany, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, the Russian Federation, Finland, Ireland, El Salvador, Italy, Mexico, India, Albania, Ecuador, Iraq, Colombia, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, Japan, Slovakia, the Netherlands, the Islamic Republic of Iran, China, Pakistan, Chile, Algeria, the United States of America, France, Ghana, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Norway (observer), Belgium (observer), and Austria (observer).
- 17.6 The Council **adopted** the decision (EC-102/DEC.6, dated 16 March 2023). The Russian Federation disassociated itself from the consensus and made a statement.
- 17.7 The Council **expressed its willingness** to consider further the question of the modalities of the decision-making procedure for sessions or meetings of the Council convened remotely.

Meetings modalities

- 17.8 The delegation of the Russian Federation made a statement.

18. AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Adoption of the report

The Council **considered** and **adopted** the report of its 102nd Session.

19. AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – Closure

The Chairperson closed the session at 16:32 on 17 March 2023.