



REPORT OF THE FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO REVIEW THE OPERATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (FIFTH REVIEW CONFERENCE)

1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the Fifth Review Conference

1.1 The Fifth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Fifth Review Conference”) was opened at 10:12 on 15 May 2023 in the King Willem-Alexander Theater in the World Forum by the Chairperson of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”), Ambassador Vusumuzi Philemon Madonsela of South Africa.

1.2 The following 137 States Parties participated in the Fifth Review Conference: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, the Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, the Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar,¹ Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

¹ See subparagraphs 2(d) and 3.1(c) of RC-5/2/Rev.1 (dated 18 May 2023) as approved by the Fifth Review Conference on 19 May 2023.



- 1.3 In accordance with Rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the following signatory State participated in the Fifth Review Conference as an observer: Israel.
- 1.4 In accordance with Rule 30 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, and pursuant to a decision of the Fifth Review Conference on the matter (RC-5/DEC.1, dated 15 May 2023), the following non-signatory State was accorded observer status: South Sudan.
- 1.5 In accordance with Rules 31 and 32 of these Rules of Procedure, and pursuant to a decision of the Fifth Review Conference on the matter (RC-5/DEC.2, dated 15 May 2023), 14 international organisations, specialised agencies, and other international bodies attended the Fifth Review Conference.
- 1.6 In accordance with the recommendations of the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (RC-3/3*, dated 19 April 2013), and pursuant to a decision of the Fifth Review Conference on the matter (RC-5/DEC.3, dated 15 May 2023), the Fifth Review Conference **invited** representatives of the global chemical industry and scientific community to attend the Fifth Review Conference.
- 1.7 In accordance with Rule 33 of these Rules of Procedure, and pursuant to a decision of the Fifth Review Conference on the matter (RC-5/DEC.4, dated 15 May 2023), the Fifth Review Conference **invited** 74 non-governmental organisations to attend and participate in the Fifth Review Conference in person or by remote access, as well as through pre-recorded statements.
- 1.8 The Permanent Representative of Germany read a joint statement on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America concerning cooperation with non-governmental organisations and their involvement in the work of the OPCW, including their attendance at sessions of the Conference.
- 1.9 The delegations of Türkiye, the Russian Federation, Ireland, and the Islamic Republic of Iran made statements under this agenda item.

2. AGENDA ITEM TWO – Election of the Chairperson

In accordance with Rule 8(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Fifth Review Conference, by acclamation, **elected** as its Chairperson Ambassador Henk Cor van der Kwast of the Netherlands.

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

- 3.1 In accordance with Rule 8(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Fifth Review Conference, by acclamation, **elected** representatives of the following eight States Parties as Vice-Chairpersons of the Fifth Review Conference: Algeria, Angola, Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cyprus, El Salvador, Germany, and Japan.

- 3.2 The delegations of Lithuania, North Macedonia, and the Russian Federation presented their candidacies for the two seats pertaining to the Eastern European Group.
- 3.3 Pursuant to Rule 79 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the delegation of Latvia (on behalf of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine) requested a vote by secret ballot to fill the two seats pertaining to the Eastern European Group. The delegation of the Russian Federation also made a statement under this agenda item.
- 3.4 The Fifth Review Conference **elected** the following two States Parties from the Eastern European Group as Vice-Chairpersons of the Fifth Review Conference: Lithuania and North Macedonia.
- 3.5 Also in accordance with Rule 8(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Fifth Review Conference **elected** as Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole Ambassador José Antonio Zabalgoitia Trejo of Mexico.

4. AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Adoption of the agenda

- 4.1 The provisional agenda for the Fifth Review Conference was circulated under cover of RC-5/1 (dated 14 March 2023).

- 4.2 The Fifth Review Conference **adopted** the following agenda:

AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the Fifth Review Conference

AGENDA ITEM TWO – Election of the Chairperson

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

AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Adoption of the agenda

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

AGENDA ITEM SIX – Opening statement by the Director-General

AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Report of the Chairperson of the Executive Council on the preparations for the Fifth Review Conference

AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – General debate

AGENDA ITEM NINE – Review of the operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention as provided for in paragraph 22 of Article VIII, taking into account any relevant scientific and technological developments:

- (a) the role of the Chemical Weapons Convention in enhancing international peace and security and in achieving the objectives as set forth in the preamble of the Convention;
- (b) ensuring the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention;

- (c) implementation of the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention relating to:
 - (i) general obligations and declarations related thereto;
 - (ii) reports by the Director-General on destruction-related issues;
 - (iii) destruction of chemical weapons, including implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues;
 - (iv) destruction or conversion of chemical weapons production facilities;
 - (v) verification activities of the OPCW;
 - (vi) activities not prohibited under the Chemical Weapons Convention;
 - (vii) national implementation measures;
 - (viii) consultations, cooperation, and fact-finding;
 - (ix) assistance and protection against chemical weapons;
 - (x) economic and technological development;
 - (xi) Articles XII to XV and final clauses; and
 - (xii) the protection of confidential information; and
- (d) the general functioning of the OPCW.

AGENDA ITEM TEN – Reports of subsidiary bodies

AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Any other business

AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Adoption of the final documents of the Fifth Review Conference

AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Closure

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

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

Appointment of the Credentials Committee

- 5.2 In accordance with Rule 27 of its Rules of Procedure, the Fifth Review Conference, on the recommendation of its Chairperson, **appointed** the following 10 members of the Credentials Committee: Chile, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Greece, Iraq, Morocco, Nigeria, the Philippines, Slovakia, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – Opening statement by the Director-General

- 6.1 The Fifth Review Conference **noted** the opening statement by the Director-General (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations).
- 6.2 The Fifth Review Conference was addressed by Ms Izumi Nakamitsu, Under-Secretary General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations.

7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Report of the Chairperson of the Executive Council on the preparations for the Fifth Review Conference

The Chairperson of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”), Ambassador Lucian Fătu of Romania, reported to the Conference on the work of the Council in preparation for the Fifth Review Conference.

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – General debate

- 8.1 The following delegations made statements during the general debate: Azerbaijan (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China), Chile (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), Ghana (on behalf of the African Group), Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar,² New Zealand, the Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, the State of Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), and Viet Nam.
- 8.2 The following signatory State made a statement during the general debate: Israel.
- 8.3 In accordance with RC-5/DEC.1, the following observer State made a statement during the general debate: South Sudan.
- 8.4 The following delegations made statements, exercising their right of reply: the Syrian Arab Republic, the State of Palestine, and the Russian Federation.
- 8.5 In accordance with RC-5/DEC.2, the following international body made a statement during the general debate: the European Union (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, North Macedonia, Norway, Monaco, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, and Ukraine).

² See subparagraphs 2(d) and 3.1(c) of RC-5/2/Rev.1 as approved by the Fifth Review Conference on 19 May 2023.

- 8.6 Malaysia made a statement on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) under this agenda item. Japan made a statement on behalf of the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (G7GP) under this agenda item.
- 8.7 In accordance with RC-5/DEC.2, the following international organisations and international bodies made statements during the general debate: the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).
- 8.8 On behalf of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach, Professor Magda Bauta Solés addressed the Fifth Review Conference on the importance of education and outreach for the work of the OPCW (the statement was posted on the external server of the OPCW).
- 8.9 In accordance with RC-5/DEC.3, the following representatives of the chemical industry and the scientific community made statements during the general debate: the International Council of Chemical Associations, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, and the International Chemical Trade Association.
- 8.10 In accordance with RC-5/DEC.4, the following non-governmental organisations gave presentations at the plenary meeting: the American Public Health Association, the American Thoracic Society, the American University Department of Chemistry, the Centre de Recherche et d'Information pour le Désarmement et la Sécurité, the Chemical Weapons Convention Coalition, the Harvard Sussex Program, the Henry L. Stimson Center, and the Organisation for Defending Sardasht Victims of Chemical Weapons.
- 9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Review of the operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention as provided for in paragraph 22 of Article VIII, taking into account any relevant scientific and technological developments**
- 9.1 The Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, Ambassador Lauri Kuusing of Estonia, reported to the Fifth Review Conference on the work of the Open-Ended Working Group (RC-5/WP.9, dated 15 May 2023) and submitted to the Fifth Review Conference the Chairperson's Draft Provisional Text for agenda item nine of the provisional agenda of the Fifth Review Conference (WGRC-5/2 RC-5/CRP.1, dated 2 May 2023).
- 9.2 The Chairperson of the Scientific Advisory Board, Dr Günther Povoden, briefed the Fifth Review Conference on the Board's report on developments in science and technology (RC-5/DG.1, dated 22 February 2023), highlighting the science review process, thematic areas of consideration, and recommendations (the statement was posted on the external server of the OPCW).

Subitem 9(a): The role of the Chemical Weapons Convention in enhancing international peace and security and in achieving the objectives as set forth in the preamble of the Convention

Subitem 9(b): Ensuring the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention

9.3 The following delegations made statements under this agenda subitem: the Islamic Republic of Iran, Guatemala, the Republic of Korea, Japan, the State of Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Ghana.

Subitem 9(c): Implementation of the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention relating to:

Verification-related issues

- (i) general obligations and declarations related thereto
- (ii) reports by the Director-General on destruction-related issues
- (iii) destruction of chemical weapons, including implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues
- (iv) destruction or conversion of chemical weapons production facilities
- (v) verification activities of the OPCW
- (vi) activities not prohibited under the Chemical Weapons Convention
- (viii) consultations, cooperation, and fact-finding

9.4 The following delegations made statements under this agenda subitem: the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United States of America, Japan, China, Germany, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Russian Federation, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Enhancing international cooperation and assistance

- (vii) national implementation measures
- (ix) assistance and protection against chemical weapons
- (x) economic and technological development

9.5 The following delegations made statements under this agenda subitem: the Islamic Republic of Iran, Cuba, Ukraine, Morocco, the State of Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United States of America, China, Brazil, Ghana, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Algeria, Canada (on behalf of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and the European Union), Indonesia, France, Yemen, Argentina, and the Russian Federation.

9.6 In accordance with RC-5/DEC.2, the European Union made a statement under this agenda subitem.

Organisational governance

- (xi) Articles XII to XV and final clauses
- (xii) the protection of confidential information

Subitem 9(d): The general functioning of the OPCW

- 9.7 The following delegations made statements under this agenda subitem: Brazil, Malaysia (on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Panama, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye, and Uruguay), Canada, Ireland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ghana, Bangladesh, Algeria, and Argentina.
- 9.8 In accordance with RC-5/DEC.2, the European Union made a statement under this agenda subitem.

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Reports of subsidiary bodies

Committee of the Whole

- 10.1 The Fifth Review Conference **noted** the report of the Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole on the results of its consideration of the agenda item referred to it on the recommendation of the General Committee (RC-5/CoW.1, dated 18 May 2023), and **took appropriate action** as required.

General Committee

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

Credentials Committee

- 10.3 The Fifth Review Conference **considered** and **approved** the report of the Credentials Committee (RC-5/2/Rev.1, dated 18 May 2023) which was presented to it by its Chairperson, Ms Martina Filippiová, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic.
- 10.4 The Fifth Review Conference further **noted** and **approved** the Chairperson's oral report that, following the close of the Credentials Committee meeting, additional original credentials had been received from Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Kuwait, Mongolia, and Qatar.

11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Any other business

Outcome of the Fifth Review Conference

- 11.1 In accordance with RC-5/DEC.2, the European Union made a statement.
- 11.2 The following delegations made statements: India, Brazil, Italy, Ghana, Ireland, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, the State of Palestine, Canada (on behalf of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand), the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United States of America, Malaysia, Norway, Mexico, Chile (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), Cuba, Algeria, Poland, France, Pakistan, Ukraine, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, China, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Bangladesh, Morocco, Peru, Germany, and Botswana.
- 11.3 The delegation of France made a statement on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lichtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the State of Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.
- 11.4 The Russian Federation made a statement on behalf of Belarus, Burundi, China, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, the State of Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), and Zimbabwe.

Matters related to the Syrian Arab Republic

- 11.5 The delegation of Ecuador made a statement on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, the Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Uruguay.
- 11.6 The following delegation made a statement: the Republic of Korea.

12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Adoption of the final documents of the Fifth Review Conference

12.1 The Conference **considered** and **adopted** the factual report of its Fifth Review Conference.

12.2 There was no consensus on the adoption of the final document of the Fifth Review Conference.

13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Closure

The Chairperson closed the Fifth Review Conference at 16:09 on 19 May 2023.

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