



104th Session
10 – 13 October 2023

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ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE 104TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 10 – 13 OCTOBER 2023

This revised annotated agenda¹ has been prepared by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) to guide and assist members of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) in their substantive preparations for its 104th Session. It lists the items of business for the session in the sequence in which they appear in the provisional agenda set for it (see agenda item two below).

1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

The 104th Session of the Council will be opened in The Hague by the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Lucian Fătu of Romania, at 10:00 on 10 October 2023.

2. AGENDA ITEM TWO – Adoption of the agenda

The Council is **requested** to consider and adopt the following agenda, which has been circulated under cover of EC-104/1/Rev.1 (dated 5 October 2023).

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Replacement of the Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Council from the Latin America and the Caribbean Group
4. Opening statement by the Director-General
5. Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on the activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues
6. General debate
7. Status of implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
 - (a) Reports by the Director-General on destruction-related issues
 - (b) Implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues

¹ This document is issued for information purposes only and does not supersede in any way the provisional agenda for the 104th Session of the Executive Council, or prejudice the outcome of its deliberations.



- (c) Elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme
 - (d) Other verification-related issues
 - (e) Verification Implementation Report for 2022
 - (f) Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use
 - (g) Status of implementation of Article VII
 - (h) Status of implementation of Article X
 - (i) Status of implementation of Article XI
 - (j) Status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons
 - (k) Progress made in the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention
 - (l) Status of implementation of the Verification Information System
8. Scientific Advisory Board
9. Countering chemical terrorism
10. Education and outreach
11. Administrative and financial matters:
- (a) Nominations for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
 - (b) Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
 - (c) Report of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
 - (d) Financial Statements of the OPCW and the External Auditor's report for the year ending 31 December 2022
 - (e) Status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor
 - (f) Call for nominations for External Auditor of the OPCW
 - (g) Recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and losses of assets
 - (h) Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise resource planning system
 - (i) Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2024–2025, and all items pertaining to this Budget, including relevant special funds and the cash surplus for 2021
 - (j) Extension of the special fund for OPCW special missions

- (k) Multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment by some States Parties of their outstanding annual contributions
 - (l) Implementation of the amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward classification of posts during the period 14 August 2022 to 13 August 2023
 - (m) Participation of the OPCW in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund
12. The OPCW Programme for Africa
 13. Draft report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities
 14. Follow-up to the Review Conferences²
 15. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
 16. Any other business
 17. Adoption of the report
 18. Closure
- 3. AGENDA ITEM THREE – Replacement of the Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Council from the Latin America and the Caribbean Group**

Further to the end of mission of Ambassador Paulo Roberto Caminha de Castilhos França of Brazil, prior to the expiry of his term of office as Vice-Chairperson of the Council from the Latin America and the Caribbean region, the Council is **requested** to elect a new Vice-Chairperson for the unexpired term of office until 11 May 2024 in accordance with Rules 6 and 8 of its Rules of Procedure.

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

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

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

The Vice-Chairpersons and coordinators for clusters of issues will report to the Council on informal consultations held during the intersessional period: Ambassador Hiroshi Minami of Japan on chemical weapons issues; Ambassador Eniola Olaitan Ajayi of Nigeria on chemical industry and other Article VI issues; the Vice-Chairperson of the Latin America and the Caribbean region on administrative and financial issues; and Ambassador Giorgio Novello of Italy on legal, organisational, and other issues.

²

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

6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – General debate

With respect to the general debate, delegations should refer to paragraph 1.4 of the minutes of the meeting of the Bureau of the Council held on 18 September 2023 and the practical arrangements for the 104th Session of the Council available online in the Indico registration system (<https://indico.un.org/e/EC-104>).

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

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

7.1 Further to a decision by the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011), the Council is **requested** to consider and note a report by the Director-General on the overall progress with respect to the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles (EC-104/DG.24, dated 5 October 2023).

7.2 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012), the Council is **requested** to consider and note a report by the Director-General on the overall progress of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons (EC-104/DG.21, dated 26 September 2023).

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

7.3 The Secretariat is expected to provide an update to the Council on its destruction-related verification activities and on Article III-related submissions made during the intersessional period (the presentation has been posted on the external server of the OPCW).

7.4 The States Parties concerned are expected to brief the Council on their destruction-related activities.

7.5 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the Council is **requested** to consider and note a national paper by the United States of America on the progress achieved towards the complete destruction of its chemical weapons stockpile (EC-104/NAT.5, dated 20 September 2023).

7.6 The Council is **requested** to note a Note by the Director-General on the completion by the United States of America of the destruction of its chemical weapons stockpiles (EC-104/DG.25, dated 6 October 2023).

7.7 The Council is **requested** to consider and note the final report of the visit by the Chairperson of the Council, the Director-General, and representatives of the Council to the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, Kentucky, the United States of America, from 12 to 14 June 2023 (EC-104/2, dated 5 October 2023).

- 7.8 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-104/NAT.4, dated 19 September 2023) and a national paper by Japan (EC-104/NAT.3, dated 19 September 2023) on the overall progress of the destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China have been circulated to the members of the Council.

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

- 7.9 Further to its decision at its Eighty-Third Session (EC-83/DEC.5, dated 11 November 2016), the Council decided to place "Elimination of the Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme" on the agenda of all future Council sessions until the Council determines that all elements of the Syrian chemical weapons programme have been eliminated.
- 7.10 The Council is **requested** to note reports by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme (EC-104/DG.1, dated 20 July 2023 and Corr.1, dated 24 July 2023; EC-104/DG.4, dated 24 August 2023; and EC-104/DG.19, dated 25 September 2023).
- 7.11 The Council is **requested** to note national papers by the Syrian Arab Republic on the activities related to the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and their production facilities (EC-104/P/NAT.1, dated 17 July 2023; EC-104/P/NAT.2, dated 15 August 2023; and EC-104/P/NAT.3, dated 15 September 2023).
- 7.12 The Council is **requested** to note a Note by the Director-General entitled "Report on the Work of the Declaration Assessment Team" (EC-104/HP/DG.2, dated 25 September 2023).
- 7.13 The Secretariat circulated a Note entitled "Accession of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Chemical Weapons Convention: Ten Years on" (S/2213/2023, dated 27 September 2023).
- 7.14 The Secretariat provided a briefing to the States Parties on 28 September 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.

Subitem 7(d): Other verification-related issues

- 7.15 The Secretariat is expected to provide an update to the Council on its other verification-related activities (the presentation has been posted on the external server of the OPCW).

Subitem 7(e): Verification Implementation Report for 2022

- 7.16 The Council is **requested** to consider and note the Verification Implementation Report for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2022 (EC-104/HP/DG.1, dated 25 July 2023 and Add.1, dated 27 September 2023).

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

- 7.17 The Council is **requested** to note 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-104/DG.20, dated 25 September 2023).

Subitem 7(g): Status of implementation of Article VII

- 7.18 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 is **requested** to note a report by the Director-General on the “Overview of the Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2023” (EC-104/DG.8 C-28/DG.7, dated 6 September 2023); a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2023: Initial Measures” (EC-104/DG.9 C-28/DG.8, dated 6 September 2023); and a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2023: Additional Measures for States Parties That Possess Industrial Facilities Which Are Declarable Under the Convention” (EC-104/DG.10 C-28/DG.9, dated 6 September 2023). The Council is also **requested** to submit the documents to the Conference at its Twenty-Eighth Session, along with its recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration.

Subitem 7(h): Status of implementation of Article X

- 7.19 The Council is **requested** to consider and note a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 December 2022” (EC-104/DG.6, dated 4 September 2023).

Subitem 7(i): Status of implementation of Article XI

- 7.20 The Council is **requested** to consider and note a report by the Director-General on the “Progress Made and Review of the Status of the Implementation of Article XI of the Chemical Weapons Convention” (EC-104/DG.14 C-28/DG.11, dated 13 September 2023).

Subitem 7(j): Status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons

- 7.21 The Conference at its Sixteenth Session endorsed a proposal for the establishment of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons and the establishment of a voluntary trust fund for this purpose (C-16/DEC.13, dated 2 December 2011). It requested the Director-General to report every two years, through the Council, to the Conference at its regular session on the status of implementation of this decision (paragraph 5 of C-16/DEC.13). The Council is **requested** to note the report by the Director-General on the status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons (EC-104/DG.15 C-28/DG.12, dated 14 September 2023).

Subitem 7(k): Progress made in the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention

- 7.22 The Council at its Twenty-Third Meeting adopted an action plan for the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) (EC-M-23/DEC.3, dated 24 October 2003). The plan requested the Director-General, inter alia, to submit to the Conference at its regular sessions an annual report on the implementation of the action plan, and to keep the Council regularly informed, so that the Conference and the Council may review progress and monitor its implementation effectively.
- 7.23 The Council is **requested** to consider and note the annual report on the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention during the period 16 August 2022 to 15 August 2023, which is being submitted to both the Council and the Conference (EC-104/DG.23 C-28/DG.14, dated 28 September 2023).

Subitem 7(l): Status of implementation of the Verification Information System

- 7.24 The Council is **requested** to note a status report on the Verification Information System (EC-104/S/2, dated 13 September 2023).

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Scientific Advisory Board

- 8.1 The report of the Thirty-Seventh Session of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) (SAB-37/1, dated 1 September 2023) has been circulated to the members of the Council.
- 8.2 The Council is **requested** to note the response by the Director-General to the report of the Thirty-Seventh Session of the SAB (EC-104/DG.22, dated 27 September 2023).

9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Countering chemical terrorism

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

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Education and outreach

The Council is **requested** to consider and note a Note by the Director-General on the activities of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach covering the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 (EC-104/DG.18 C-28/DG.13, dated 22 September 2023).

11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Administrative and financial matters

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

- 11.1 The Council is **requested** to note a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF) (EC-104/S/4, dated 26 September 2023), and to appoint Ms Yoko Sakurai of Japan for a second term with the ABAF, as of the date of her reappointment by the Council.

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

- 11.2 A draft decision entitled “OPCW Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters – Rules of Procedure” (EC-92/DEC/CRP.1/Rev.1, dated 4 October 2019), co-sponsored by Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, was submitted to the Council for consideration and adoption.
- 11.3 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).
- 11.4 The Council is **requested** to take appropriate action on the matter.

Subitem 11(c): Report of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

- 11.5 The Council is **requested** to consider and note the report of the Fifty-Fifth Session of the ABAF, which took place from 25 to 27 July 2023 (ABAF-55/1, dated 27 July 2023), and a Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-104/DG.16, dated 14 September 2023).

Subitem 11(d): Financial Statements of the OPCW and the External Auditor’s report for the year ending 31 December 2022

- 11.6 The Council is **requested** to note the Financial Statements of the OPCW and the report of the External Auditor for the year ending 31 December 2022 (EC-104/DG.3 C-28/DG.5, dated 9 August 2023 and Corr.1, dated 30 August 2023) and to forward them to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Eighth Session.
- 11.7 The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India is expected to provide a statement on the report.

Subitem 11(e): Status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor

- 11.8 The Council is **requested** to consider and note a report on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor (EC-104/S/3, dated 14 September 2023).
- 11.9 The facilitator for this issue, Ms Rebecca Kimbrell of the United States of America, is expected to report to the Council on the consultations carried out during the intersessional period.

Subitem 11(f): Call for nominations for External Auditor of the OPCW

- 11.10 The Director-General has issued a Note on the call for nominations for External Auditor of the OPCW (S/2208/2023, dated 15 September 2023).

Subitem 11(g): Recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and losses of assets

11.11 The Council is **requested** to consider a Note by the Director-General on the recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and losses of assets, and to recommend that the Conference at its Twenty-Eighth Session approve these write-offs, totalling EUR 2,632.53 (EC-104/DG.2 C-28/DG.4, dated 21 July 2023).

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

11.12 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 is **requested** to note a Note by the Director-General reporting on the status of implementation of the ERP system (EC-104/DG.17, dated 22 September 2023).

Subitem 11(i): Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2024–2025, and all items pertaining to this Budget, including relevant special funds and the cash surplus for 2021

11.13 Under this subitem the Secretariat circulated Notes by the Director-General entitled “Financial Status of the Special Fund for Cybersecurity, Business Continuity, and Physical Infrastructure Security” (EC-104/DG.12, dated 13 September 2023) and “Financial Status of the Special Fund for IT Infrastructure to Support Implementation of Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3” (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations), which the Council is **requested** to note.

11.14 The co-facilitators for the Budget, Mr Jerzy Gierasimiuk of Poland and Mr Frank Groome of Ireland, are expected to report on the consultations held during the intersessional period.

11.15 In accordance with subparagraph 32(a) of Article VIII of the Convention, the Council is **requested** to consider the Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2024–2025 (EC-104/CRP.1, dated 7 July 2023³) and to submit it, together with its recommendation (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations), to the Conference at its Twenty-Eighth Session.

11.16 The Medium-Term Plan of the OPCW for the period 2024 to 2028 (EC-104/S/1 C-28/S/1*, dated 14 August 2023) has been circulated to the members of the Council.

Subitem 11(j): Extension of the special fund for OPCW special missions

11.17 The Council is **requested** to note a Note by the Director-General entitled “Financial Status of the Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions” (EC-104/DG.26, dated 6 October 2023).

³ A revision to this official-series document will be circulated to the Council in due course.

Subitem 11(k): Multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment by some States Parties of their outstanding annual contributions

11.18 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Eleventh Session (C-11/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2006), the Council is **requested** to consider and forward to the Conference at its Twenty-Eighth Session a Note by the Director-General reporting on the status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans (EC-104/DG.5 C-28/DG.6, dated 30 August 2023).

11.19 In light of the above-mentioned decision, the Council is **requested** to consider a proposal from Suriname for a payment plan to regularise the payment of its outstanding annual contributions (EC-104/DG.11, dated 11 September 2023), to approve it (EC-104/DEC/CRP.1, dated 11 September 2023), and to transmit it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Eighth Session.

Subitem 11(l): Implementation of the amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward classification of posts during the period 14 August 2022 to 13 August 2023

11.20 The Council is **requested** to note a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward classification of posts during the period 14 August 2022 to 13 August 2023 (EC-104/DG.7, dated 4 September 2023).

Subitem 11(m): Participation of the OPCW in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

11.21 The Secretariat circulated a Note entitled “Participation of the OPCW in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund” (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations).

11.22 The Council is **requested** to consider and adopt a draft decision entitled “Participation of the OPCW in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund” (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations) and to transmit it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Eighth Session.

11.23 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 (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations).

12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – The OPCW Programme for Africa

The Council is **requested** to consider and note a Note by the Director-General on the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (EC-104/DG.13 C-28/DG.10, dated 13 September 2023).

13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Draft report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities

The Council is **requested** to consider and approve a draft report on the performance of its activities in the period from 11 July 2022 to 14 July 2023 (EC-104/CRP.2, dated 4 September 2023), and to submit it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Eighth Session.

14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Follow-up to the Review Conferences

- 14.1 A working paper entitled “Reflections by H.E. Ambassador Henk Cor van der Kwast, Chairperson of the Fifth Review Conference on the Outcome of the Fifth Review Conference” was circulated to the Council at its 103rd Session under the symbol EC-103/WP.1 (dated 26 June 2023).

Geographical representation

- 14.2 At its 103rd Session, the Council established a Working Group on Geographical Representation (EC-103/DEC.1, dated 12 July 2023).
- 14.3 The Chairperson of the Working Group, Ambassador Jaime Moscoso Valenzuela of Chile, is expected to provide an update on its activities to the Council.

Engagement with civil society

- 14.4 At the 103rd Session of the Council, Germany submitted a working paper entitled “Follow-up to the Fifth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention – Engagement with Civil Society” (EC-103/WP.2, dated 4 July 2023).

15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The Chairperson is expected to report to the Council on the status of the work of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Any other business

17. AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Adoption of the report

18. AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Closure