

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA¹ FOR THE TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES
30 NOVEMBER – 4 DECEMBER 2015**

This annotated provisional agenda has been prepared by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) to guide and assist Member States in their substantive preparations for the Twentieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”). It lists the items of business for the session in the sequence in which they appear in the provisional agenda set out for it (see paragraph 4 below) (C-20/1*, dated 9 July 2015).

1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

The Conference at its Sixteenth Session decided to hold its Twentieth Session from 30 November to 4 December 2015 (paragraph 21.2 of C-16/5, dated 2 December 2011). The Twentieth Session will open on 30 November 2015 at 10:00 in the World Forum Theater in the World Forum. The Chairperson of the Conference for its Nineteenth Session, Ambassador Vesela Mrden Korać of Croatia, will open the Twentieth Session.

2. AGENDA ITEM TWO – Election of the Chairperson

Paragraph 15 of Article VIII of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) provides, inter alia, that the Conference shall elect its Chairperson at the beginning of each regular session, and that the Chairperson shall hold office until a new Chairperson is elected at the next regular session.

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

According to Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Conference shall elect 10 Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference, the Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole, and such other officers as it may decide to elect, having due regard to equitable geographical representation. Rule 35 states that such officers of the Conference shall hold office until their successors are elected at its next regular session.

¹ This document is issued for information purposes only and does not supersede in any way the provisional agenda for the Twentieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, or prejudice the outcome of its deliberations.



4. AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Adoption of the agenda

According to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, any request for the inclusion in the agenda of supplementary items must be received not later than 30 days before the date set for the opening of any regular session. Because the Director-General had received no such request by 31 October 2015, the Conference is **requested**, subject to the recommendation of the General Committee, to approve the following agenda, which was circulated in C-20/1*.

AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

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 – Appointment of the Credentials Committee

AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Statement by the Director-General

AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – General debate

AGENDA ITEM NINE – Status of implementation of the Convention

AGENDA ITEM TEN – Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2014

AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Annual Report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 12 July 2014 to 9 July 2015

AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Election of Member States to membership in the Executive Council

AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2016, submitted by the Executive Council, and all items pertaining to this Budget

AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Scale of assessments for 2016

AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – External Auditor's report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2014

AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Administrative and financial matters

AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Fostering of international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities

AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Ensuring the universality of the Convention

AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – The OPCW Programme for Africa

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY – Engagement with the chemical industry and the scientific community

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-ONE – Reports of subsidiary bodies

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-TWO – Follow-up to the Third Review Conference²

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-THREE – Establishment of an Advisory Board on Education and Outreach

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FOUR – Establishment of an OPCW Day

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FIVE – Any other business

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-SIX – Adoption of the report of the Conference of the States Parties

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-SEVEN – Closure

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

The Conference is **requested** to consider such recommendations as the General Committee may make to it in accordance with Rule 43(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, and to take such action as it deems appropriate.

6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – Appointment of the Credentials Committee

Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference provides that a Credentials Committee shall be appointed at the beginning of each session of the Conference; that it shall consist of 10 members, who shall be appointed by the Conference on the proposal of its Chairperson; that it shall elect its own officers; and that it shall examine the credentials of all representatives and report without delay to the Conference.

7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Statement by the Director-General

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

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – General debate

Detailed information concerning statements in the general debate is contained in paragraph 8 of the information handbook on the Twentieth Session of the Conference, which has been made available to all delegations. Delegations wishing to make a

² Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

statement in a language other than the six official languages of the OPCW are required to provide their own interpretation into one of the official languages. To facilitate interpretation, at least 12 copies of each statement must be made available before the statements are delivered. Delegations wishing their statements to be made available to other delegations are requested to provide the Secretariat with at least 300 copies before the statements are delivered.

9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Status of implementation of the Convention

Subitem 9(a): Progress report on the implementation of the plan of action regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations

- 9.1 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 Conference is **requested** to consider and note 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 2015” (EC-80/DG.14 C-20/DG.11, dated 10 September 2015); a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2015: Article VII – Initial Measures” (EC-80/DG.15 C-20/DG.12, dated 10 September 2015); and a report by the Director-General entitled “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2015: Additional Measures for States Parties that Possess Industrial Facilities Which Are Declarable Under the Convention” (EC-80/DG.16 C-20/DG.13, dated 10 September 2015).

Subitem 9(b): Implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Technical Secretariat in 2014

- 9.2 The Conference is **requested** to consider and note a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Secretariat in 2014 (EC-78/DG.8 C-20/DG.2, dated 12 February 2015).

Subitem 9(c): Implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues

- 9.3 Pursuant to a decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (subparagraph 3(f) of C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011), the Conference is **requested** to undertake an annual review of the implementation of this decision at a specially designated meeting (or meetings) of the Conference.
- 9.4 Pursuant to the provisions of the same subparagraph of the above-mentioned decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session, each possessor State concerned is to provide an annual report to the Conference, and provide an annual briefing at a closed meeting of the Conference, on the progress in the destruction of its remaining stockpiles of chemical weapons and identifying progress made since the last briefing in order to meet planned completion date. These reports, and briefings, are to also include:
- (a) Reporting on any specific measures undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes.

(b) Information on the projected schedule for destruction activities to meet the planned completion date.

9.5 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (subparagraph 3(g) of C-16/DEC.11), the Director-General is to provide an annual written report to the Conference on the overall destruction progress by the possessor States concerned that is based on the independent information that is received by the Secretariat from the Organisation's inspectors undertaking verification in accordance with Part IV(A) D of the Verification Annex to the Convention and that is to include information on:

(a) The progress achieved to meet the planned completion date(s).

(b) The effectiveness of any specific measures that have been undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes.

Subitem 9(d) Additional guidelines on the designation of laboratories for the analysis of authentic samples

9.6 At its Eightieth Session, the Executive Council (hereinafter "the Council") considered and adopted a decision on additional guidelines on the designation of laboratories for the analysis of authentic samples (EC-80/DEC.3, dated 8 October 2015) and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twentieth Session. The Conference is **requested** to consider and adopt a draft decision on the matter (C-20/DEC/CRP.5, dated 30 October 2015).

Subitem 9(e): Designation of laboratories for the analysis of authentic biomedical samples and guidelines for the conduct of biomedical proficiency tests

9.7 At its Eightieth Session, the Council considered and adopted a decision on the designation of laboratories for the analysis of authentic biomedical samples and guidelines for the conduct of biomedical proficiency tests (EC-80/DEC.4, dated 8 October 2015) and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twentieth Session. The Conference is **requested** to consider and adopt a draft decision on the matter (C-20/DEC/CRP.6, dated 30 October 2015).

Subitem 9(f): Status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons

9.8 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 sessions on the status of implementation of this decision.

9.9 At its Eightieth Session, the Council noted the report by the Director-General on the status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons (EC-80/DG.12 C-20/DG.10, dated 9 September 2015). The Conference is **requested** to note this report.

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2014

The Conference is **requested** to consider and approve the draft report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2014 (EC-79/5 C-20/CRP.1, dated 9 July 2015), which was considered and forwarded to it by the Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session (paragraph 8 of EC-79/6, dated 9 July 2015).

11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Annual report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 12 July 2014 to 9 July 2015

The Conference is **requested** to note the report of the Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 12 July 2014 to 9 July 2015, 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 Nineteenth Session in Response to Recommendations Made by the Executive Council” (EC-80/3 C-20/2, dated 8 October 2015). The report will be introduced by the Chairperson of the Council, Francesco Azzarello of Italy, who will also brief the Conference on any developments that have taken place since the cut-off date for the report.

12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Election of Member States to membership in the Executive Council

In accordance with paragraph 23 of Article VIII of the Convention and with Rule 83 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Conference is **requested** to elect 20 members to serve on the Council for a term of two years, starting on 12 May 2016. To ensure that the Council is constituted in accordance with paragraph 23 of Article VIII, the regional distribution of the elective places to be filled is to be as follows:

Africa:	four elective places
Asia:	four elective places
Eastern Europe:	three elective places
Latin America and the Caribbean:	four elective places
Western Europe and other States:	five elective places

13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2016, submitted by the Executive Council, and all items pertaining to this Budget

- 13.1 The Conference is **requested**, pursuant to Regulation 3.6(a) of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules and on the recommendation of the Council at its Eightieth Session (EC-80/DEC.6, dated 8 October 2015), to consider and adopt a decision on the OPCW Draft Programme and Budget for 2016 based on recommendations forwarded to it by the Council at its Eightieth Session (C-20/DEC/CRP.3, dated 22 October 2015).

- 13.2 The Medium-Term Plan for the period from 2015 to 2019 (EC-77/S/1 C-19/S/1, dated 23 April 2014) has been circulated to the Member States.

14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Scale of assessments for 2016

The Conference is **requested** to adopt, pursuant to Regulation 3.6(b) of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, a draft decision on the scale of assessments to be paid by States Parties for the financial year 2016 (C-20/DEC/CRP.7, dated 4 November 2015).

15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – External Auditor’s report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2014

At its Eightieth Session, the Council noted the Financial Statements of the OPCW and the report of the External Auditor for the year ending 31 December 2014 (EC-80/DG.1 C-20/DG.4, dated 13 July 2015). In accordance with Regulation 13.10 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, the report is being forwarded to the Conference, which is **requested** to note it.

16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Administrative and financial matters

Subitem 16(a): Establishment of a special fund for OPCW special missions and withholding of the distribution of the cash surplus for 2013

- 16.1 At its Eightieth Session, the Council noted a Note by the Director-General on the request for the establishment of a special fund for OPCW special missions and withholding of the distribution of the cash surplus for 2013 (EC-80/DG.23, dated 5 October 2015), considered and adopted a decision on the matter (EC-80/DEC.7, dated 8 October 2015), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twentieth Session. The Conference is **requested** to consider and adopt a draft decision on the matter (C-20/DEC/CRP.2, dated 16 October 2015).

Subitem 16(b): Cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2015

- 16.2 At its Eightieth Session, the Council considered and forwarded to the Conference at its Twentieth Session a Note by the Director-General on the cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2015 (EC-80/DG.18 C-20/DG.14, dated 15 September 2015). The Conference is **requested** to note this Note.

- 16.3 Following the request to the Secretariat by the Council at its Eightieth Session, an update on the cash situation for the financial year to 31 October 2015 has been made available (S/1322/2015, dated 4 November 2015).

Subitem 16(c): Status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions

- 16.4 At its Eleventh Session, the Conference adopted a decision (C-11/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2006) on a mechanism to encourage States Parties that are in arrears to

regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions through the use of multi-year payment plans, requesting the Secretariat to submit a report to it each year, through the Council, on the status of implementation of agreed multi-year payment plans as at the end of the quarter that falls immediately before the session of the Council that precedes the session of the Conference.

- 16.5 The Conference is **requested** to consider and note the report that the Council, at its Eightieth Session, considered and forwarded to it pursuant to the above-mentioned decision (EC-80/DG.6 C-20/DG.7, dated 28 August 2015).

Subitem 16(d): Recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and of losses of assets

- 16.6 The Council at its Eightieth Session considered a Note by the Director-General on the recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and losses of assets and recommended that the Conference at its Twentieth Session approve these write-offs, totalling EUR 4,633.69 (EC-80/DG.3 C-20/DG.5, dated 4 August 2015). The Conference is **requested** to adopt a draft decision approving the said proposals (C-20/DEC/CRP.8, dated 9 November 2015).

Subitem 16(e): Transfers of funds between programmes during 2014

- 16.7 In accordance with Regulation 4.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, all transfers between Budget programmes shall be reported to the Conference. The Conference is **requested** to note a Note by the Director-General on this matter (EC-78/DG.7 C-20/DG.1, dated 12 February 2015).

Subitem 16(f): Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2014

- 16.8 In accordance with Regulation 12.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, the Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session considered and forwarded to the Conference the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014, and the accompanying Note by the Director-General (EC-79/DG.3 C-20/DG.3, dated 3 April 2015). The Conference is **requested** to note this report.

17. AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Fostering of international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities

- 17.1 The Conference at its Sixteenth Session adopted a decision regarding components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of Article XI of the Convention (C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011), and requested the Secretariat to report to the Conference at each annual session on the progress of concrete measures undertaken in implementing the decision, and on the status of implementation of Article XI.
- 17.2 The Conference is **requested** to note a report by the Director-General on the progress made and review of the status of implementation of Article XI of the Convention for the period from 27 August 2014 to 26 August 2015 (EC-80/DG.10 C-20/DG.8, dated 8 September 2015).

18. AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Ensuring the universality of the Convention

- 18.1 The Council at its Twenty-Third Meeting adopted an action plan for the universality of 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.
- 18.2 The Conference is **requested** to note the annual report by the Director-General on the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention during the period from 16 August 2014 to 15 August 2015 (EC-80/DG.11 C-20/DG.9, dated 9 September 2015), and to take any further steps it might consider necessary.

19. AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – The OPCW Programme for Africa

The Conference is **requested** to note a Note by the Director-General on the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (EC-80/DG.5 C-20/DG.6, dated 25 August 2015).

20. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY– Engagement with the chemical industry and the scientific community

The Conference is **requested** to note the Note by the Director-General on engaging the chemical industry associations (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations). Representatives of the global chemical industry are expected to address the Conference.

21. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-ONE – Reports of subsidiary bodies

Committee of the Whole

- 21.1 The Committee of the Whole is expected to report on the results of its consideration of those agenda items that the Conference refers to it at the recommendation of the General Committee.

General Committee

- 21.2 The Conference is **requested** to note the reports that the General Committee will prepare in accordance with Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, and to take such action as it deems appropriate.

Confidentiality Commission

- 21.3 The Conference is **requested** to note the report of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Commission for the Settlement of Disputes Related to Confidentiality (CC-17/1, dated 22 May 2015).

Credentials Committee

- 21.4 The Conference is **requested** to consider and approve the report of the Credentials Committee on the credentials of representatives to the Twentieth Session of the Conference (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations).

Committee on Relations with the Host Country

- 21.5 At its Eleventh Session, the Conference adopted a decision establishing a Committee on Relations with the Host Country (hereinafter “the Host Country Committee”) (C-11/DEC.9, dated 7 December 2006). Pursuant to this decision, the Conference is **requested** to consider and note a report by the Host Country Committee on the performance of its activities for the period from September 2014 to February 2015 (EC-78/HCC/1/Rev.1 C-20/HCC/1/Rev.1, dated 19 March 2015). The Chairperson of the Council will report to the Conference on the status of the work by the Host Country Committee.

22. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-TWO – Follow-up to the Third Review Conference

In paragraph 9.17 of its report (RC-3/3*, dated 19 April 2013), the Third Review Conference expressed its intention to keep the declarations contained in paragraphs 9.3 to 9.16 of that document under review at each regular session of the Conference. Subsequently, the agendas of the Council from its Seventy-Third through Eightieth Sessions included an item on the follow-up to the Third Review Conference. The Secretariat supported the Council in this respect by providing a “Matrix of Actionable Items Identified at the Third Review Conference” to the Council at its Seventy-Third Session (EC-73/S/2, dated 4 June 2013), the latest update of which was provided to the Council at its Eightieth Session (EC-79/S/3/Add.1, dated 18 September 2015 and Corr.1, dated 28 September 2015). Starting from the Eightieth Session of the Council, it was decided to introduce a new procedure whereby updates are provided to the Council by way of an addendum to the matrix that encompasses only new activities and developments during the reporting period. A full version of the matrix is produced only once a year, the most recent being document EC-81/S/1, dated 11 November 2015. The Conference is **requested** to note the activities in furtherance of its review of the declarations contained in paragraphs 9.3 to 9.16 of the report of the Third Review Conference.

23. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-THREE – Establishment of an Advisory Board on Education and Outreach

The Council at its Eightieth Session considered and adopted a decision on the establishment of an Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (EC-80/DEC.5, dated 8 October 2015), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twentieth Session. The Conference is **requested** to adopt a draft decision on the matter (C-20/DEC/CRP.4, dated 22 October 2015).

24. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FOUR – Establishment of an OPCW Day

At the Seventy-Ninth Session of the Council the Secretariat circulated a Note by the Director-General on a proposal for the establishment of an OPCW Day (EC-79/S/1,

dated 22 May 2015). The Council subsequently considered and adopted a decision on the matter (EC-79/DEC.4, dated 9 July 2015) and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twentieth Session. The Conference is **requested** to consider and adopt a draft decision on the establishment of an OPCW Day (C-20/DEC/CRP.1, dated 1 September 2015).

25. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FIVE – Any other business

Dates and duration of the Fourth Review Conference³ and of the regular session of the Conference of the States Parties in 2018

- 25.1 In the context of identifying possibilities for combining the Fourth Review Conference with the regular session of the Conference at the end of 2018, the Council at its Eightieth Session requested the Secretariat to explore possible dates with the World Forum.
- 25.2 Further to that request, the Secretariat looked into the options and has identified a two-week period from 19 to 30 November 2018. The proposal has been communicated to all regional groups, who unanimously expressed their agreement.
- 25.3 The Conference is **requested** to decide on combining the dates for its Fourth Review Conference and for its regular session in 2018. The Conference is **also requested** to consider and approve the dates of 19 to 30 November 2018 for the combined sessions.
- 25.4 The Conference is **further requested** to authorise the Director-General to conclude the appropriate agreements with the World Forum, thus ensuring the availability of conference facilities on these dates, while maintaining the flexibility to make necessary adjustments, if so required.

26. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-SIX – Adoption of the report of the Conference of the States Parties

27. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-SEVEN – Closure

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³ Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.