



**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA
FOR THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES
27 NOVEMBER – 1 DECEMBER 2017**

This annotated provisional agenda¹ has been prepared by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) to guide and assist Member States in their substantive preparations for the Twenty-Second 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-22/1, dated 13 July 2017).

1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

The Conference at its Sixteenth Session decided to hold its Twenty-Second Session from 27 November to 1 December 2017 (paragraph 21.2 of C-16/5, dated 2 December 2011). The Twenty-Second Session will open on 27 November 2017 at 10:00 in the King Willem Alexander Theater in the World Forum. The Chairperson of the Conference for its Twenty-First Session, Ambassador Christoph Israng of Germany, will open the Twenty-Second 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.

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This document is issued for information purposes only and does not supersede in any way the provisional agenda for the Twenty-Second 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 28 October 2017, the Conference is **requested**, subject to the recommendation of the General Committee, to approve the following agenda, which was circulated in C-22/1.

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 Chemical Weapons Convention

AGENDA ITEM TEN – Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2016

AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Annual Report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 28 July 2016 to 14 July 2017

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

AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2018, submitted by the Executive Council, and all items pertaining to this Budget

AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Scale of assessments for 2018

AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – External Auditor's report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2016

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 Chemical Weapons Convention

AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – The OPCW Programme for Africa

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY – Appointment of the Director-General

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

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-TWO – Reports of subsidiary bodies

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

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FOUR – Dates and duration of the next regular sessions of the Conference of the States Parties

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).

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

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – General debate

Detailed information concerning statements in the general debate is contained in the information handbook on the Twenty-Second Session of the Conference, which has been made available to all delegations. Delegations wishing to make a 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 Chemical Weapons 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 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 2017” (EC-86/DG.10 C-22/DG.10, dated 24 August 2017); a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2017: Article VII – Initial Measures” (EC-86/DG.8 C-22/DG.8, dated 24 August 2017); and a report by the Director-General entitled “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2017: Additional Measures for States Parties that Possess Industrial Facilities Which Are Declarable Under the Convention” (EC-86/DG.9 C-22/DG.9, dated 24 August 2017).

Subitem 9(b): Implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Technical Secretariat in 2016

- 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 2016 (EC-84/DG.16 C-22/DG.2, dated 14 February 2017).

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

9.6 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 Executive Council (hereinafter "the Council"), to the Conference at its regular sessions on the status of implementation of this decision.

9.7 At its Eighty-Sixth 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-86/DG.15 C-22/DG.13, dated 6 September 2017). The Conference is **requested** to note this report.

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2016

The Conference is **requested** to consider and approve the draft report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2016 (EC-85/17 C-22/CRP.1, dated 12 July 2017), which was considered and forwarded to it by the Council at its Eighty-Fifth Session.

11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Annual report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 28 July 2016 to 14 July 2017

The Conference is **requested** to note the report of the Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 28 July 2016 to 14 July 2017, its Attachment entitled "Note by the Technical Secretariat: The Destruction of Chemical Weapons

Abandoned by Japan in the People's Republic of China", and its Annex entitled "Actions Taken by the Conference of the States Parties at Its Twenty-First Session in Response to Recommendations Made by the Executive Council" (EC-86/9 C-22/2, dated 12 October 2017). The report will be introduced by the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal of Bangladesh, 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 2018. 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 2018, submitted by the Executive Council, and all items pertaining to this Budget

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 Eighty-Sixth Session (EC-86/DEC.4, dated 11 October 2017), to consider and adopt a draft decision on the OPCW Draft Programme and Budget for 2018 based on recommendations forwarded to it by the Council at its Eighty-Sixth Session (C-22/DEC/CRP.7, dated 31 October 2017).

14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Scale of assessments for 2018

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 2018 (C-22/DEC/CRP.6, dated 31 October 2017).

15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – External Auditor's report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2016

At its Eighty-Sixth Session, the Council noted the Financial Statements of the OPCW and the report of the External Auditor for the year ending 31 December 2016

(EC-86/DG.3 C-22/DG.5, dated 24 July 2017). 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): Cash deficit for 2014 and cash surplus for 2015

- 16.1 At its Eighty-Sixth Session, the Council adopted a decision on the cash deficit for 2014 and cash surplus for 2015 (EC-86/DEC.2, dated 11 October 2017) and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Second Session. The Conference is **requested** to consider and adopt a draft decision on the matter (C-22/DEC/CRP.9, dated 2 November 2017).

Subitem 16(b): Cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2017

- 16.2 At its Eighty-Sixth Session, the Council considered and forwarded to the Conference at its Twenty-Second 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 2017 (EC-86/DG.20 C-22/DG.16, dated 21 September 2017). The Conference is **requested** to note this Note.

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

- 16.3 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.

- 16.4 The Conference is **requested** to consider and note the report that the Council, at its Eighty-Sixth Session, considered and forwarded to it pursuant to the above-mentioned decision (EC-86/DG.11 C-22/DG.11, dated 30 August 2017).

- 16.5 Also pursuant to C-11/DEC.5, the Council at its Eighty-Sixth Session recommended that the Conference at its Twenty-Second Session approve the multi-year payment plan submitted by Libya to regularise the payment of its outstanding annual contributions (EC-86/DEC.6, dated 11 October 2017). The Conference is **requested** to consider and approve the plan (C-22/DEC/CRP.13, dated 2 November 2017).

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

- 16.6 The Council at its Eighty-Sixth Session considered a Note by the Director-General on the recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and recommended that the Conference at its Twenty-Second Session approve these

write-offs, totalling EUR 14,828.28 (EC-86/DG.4 C-22/DG.7, dated 24 July 2017). The Conference is **requested** to adopt a draft decision approving the said proposals (C-22/DEC/CRP.3, dated 17 October 2017).

Subitem 16(e): Transfers of funds between programmes during 2016

- 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-84/DG.17 C-22/DG.3, dated 16 February 2017).

Subitem 16(f): Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2016

- 16.8 In accordance with Regulation 12.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, the Council at its Eighty-Fifth 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 2016, and the accompanying Note by the Director-General (EC-85/DG.10 C-22/DG.4, dated 24 May 2017). The Conference is **requested** to note this report.

Subitem 16(g): Establishment of a special fund for the Fourth Review Conference in 2018

- 16.9 At its Eighty-Sixth Session, the Council considered and noted a Note by the Director-General entitled “Request for Establishment of a Special Fund for the Fourth Review Conference in 2018” (EC-86/DG.25, dated 28 September 2017). The Council also adopted a decision on the establishment of a special fund for the Fourth Review Conference³ in 2018 (EC-86/DEC.3, dated 11 October 2017), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Second Session. The Conference is **requested** to consider and adopt a draft decision on the matter (C-22/DEC/CRP.12, dated 2 November 2017).

Subitem 16(h): Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions

- 16.10 At its Eighty-Sixth Session and in accordance with a decision by the Conference at its Twentieth Session (C-20/DEC.11, dated 3 December 2015), the Council considered and adopted a decision to extend the Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions for a period of one further year (EC-86/DEC.5, dated 11 October 2017), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Second Session. The Conference is **requested** to consider and adopt a draft decision on the matter (C-22/DEC/CRP.11, dated 2 November 2017).

Subitem 16(i): Amendments to the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules

- 16.11 At its Eighty-Sixth Session, the Council adopted a decision entitled “Amendments to the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules” (EC-86/DEC.7, dated 11 October 2017), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Second Session. The

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

Conference is **requested** to consider and adopt a draft decision on the matter (C-22/DEC/CRP.14, dated 9 November 2017).

Subitem 16(j): Amendments to the OPCW Staff Regulations

- 16.12 At its Eighty-Sixth Session, the Council adopted a decision entitled “Amendments to the OPCW Staff Regulations and Interim Staff Rules” (EC-86/DEC.8, dated 11 October 2017), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Second Session. The Conference is **requested** to consider and adopt a draft decision on the matter (C-22/DEC/CRP.4, dated 18 October 2017).

Subitem 16(k): Rehiring of inspectors

- 16.13 At its Nineteenth Session, the Conference adopted a decision on the rehiring of inspectors (C-19/DEC.11, dated 4 December 2014) and decided to review the implementation of this decision at its Twenty-Second Session in 2017, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF) to the Council on the matter.
- 16.14 At its Eighty-Sixth Session, the Council adopted a decision on the rehiring of inspectors (EC-86/DEC.11, dated 13 October 2017), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Second Session. The Conference is **requested** to consider and adopt a draft decision on the matter (C-22/DEC/CRP.8, dated 1 November 2017).

Subitem 16(l): OPCW confidentiality regime

- 16.15 The Conference is requested to **note** a report by the Director-General on the OPCW confidentiality regime (EC-85/DG.22 C-22/DG.6, dated 23 June 2017).
- 16.16 At its Eighty-Fifth Session, the Council adopted a decision on amendments to the OPCW Policy on Confidentiality (EC-85/DEC.6, dated 12 July 2017), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Second Session. The Conference is **requested** to consider and adopt a draft decision on the matter (C-22/DEC/CRP.2, dated 16 August 2017).
- 16.17 The Council also adopted a decision on amendments to the OPCW Media and Public Affairs Policy (EC-85/DEC.7, dated 12 July 2017) and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Second Session. The Conference is **requested** to consider and adopt a draft decision on the matter (C-22/DEC/CRP.1, dated 16 August 2017).

Subitem 16(m): Appointment of the External Auditor

- 16.18 According to Article 13.1 of the OPCW Financial Regulations, the Conference shall appoint the External Auditor, who shall be the Auditor-General (or an officer holding an equivalent title) of a State Party, and such appointment shall be in the manner and for the period determined by the Conference and for a single period of not less than two years, but not exceeding six years.

16.19 At its Eighty-Sixth Session, the Council considered a Note by the Director-General containing a summary of nominations for this post (EC-86/DG.5, dated 23 August 2017). The Council made a recommendation on the re-appointment of the External Auditor of the OPCW, and forwarded it to the Conference at its Twenty-Second Session. The Conference is **requested** to consider and adopt a draft decision on the matter (C-22/DEC/CRP.10, dated 2 November 2017).

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 26 August 2016 to 25 August 2017 (EC-86/DG.19 C-22/DG.15, dated 14 September 2017).

17.3 The Conference at its Twenty-First Session took note of the report by the facilitator in regard to the first “Review and Evaluation Workshop of the Components of an Agreed Framework for the Full Implementation of Article XI”. The Conference agreed that such a workshop was important for the promotion of the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of the provisions of Article XI. Consistent with decision EC-83/DEC.2 (dated 13 October 2016), the Conference encouraged the widest participation of States Parties at the workshop on Article XI to take place in 2017. States Parties, in coordination with the Secretariat, will agree on the content of the workshop to promote implementation of Article XI, including consensus recommendations on concrete measures. The Conference requested the facilitator to report on developments in this regard to the Conference at its next session (paragraph 17.4 of C-21/5, dated 2 December 2016).

18. AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Ensuring the universality of the Chemical Weapons 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 2016 to 15 August 2017 (EC-86/DG.12 C-22/DG.12, dated 30 August 2017), 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-86/DG.18 C-22/DG.14, dated 12 September 2017).

20. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY – Appointment of the Director-General

Based on the recommendation of the Council at its Eighty-Sixth Session (EC-86/DEC.12, dated 13 October 2017), the Conference is **requested** to appoint Mr Fernando Arias as the Director-General of the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, for a term of office beginning on 25 July 2018 and ending on 24 July 2022 (C-22/DEC/CRP.5, dated 19 October 2017).

21. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-ONE – Engagement with the chemical industry and the scientific community

The Conference is **requested** to note a Note by the Director-General on engaging the chemical industry associations (C-22/DG.18, dated 10 October 2017). Representatives of the global chemical industry and the scientific community are expected to address the Conference.

22. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-TWO – Reports of subsidiary bodies

Committee of the Whole

- 22.1 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

- 22.2 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

- 22.3 The Conference is **requested** to note the report of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Commission for the Settlement of Disputes Related to Confidentiality (CC-19/1, dated 19 May 2017).

Credentials Committee

- 22.4 The Conference is **requested** to consider and approve the report of the Credentials Committee on the credentials of representatives to the Twenty-Second 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

- 22.5 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). The Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal of Bangladesh, will report to the Conference on the status of the work of the Host Country Committee.

Scientific Advisory Board

- 22.6 The Chairperson of the Scientific Advisory Board, Dr Christopher Timperley, will address the Conference on the ongoing work of the Board and on its preparation for the report on developments in science and technology to the Fourth Review Conference that was initiated in 2016.

Advisory Board on Education and Outreach

- 22.7 The Conference is **requested** to consider and note a Note by the Director-General reporting on the activities of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO) in 2016 (EC-84/DG.7 C-22/DG.1, dated 5 January 2017).
- 22.8 The Conference is also **requested** to consider and note a Note by the Director-General reporting on the activities of the ABEO in 2017 (EC-86/DG.29 C-22/DG.17, dated 4 October 2017).
- 22.9 The Chairperson of the ABEO, Dr Jean-Pascal Zanders, will address the Conference on the work of the Board in 2017.

23. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-THREE – 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 Eighty-Sixth Sessions have included an item on the follow-up to the Third Review Conference. 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-86/S/6 (dated 28 September 2017). 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 RC-3/3*.

24. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FOUR – Dates and duration of the next regular sessions of the Conference of the States Parties

24.1 The Conference is **requested** to consider the following dates for the next regular sessions of the Conference:

Twenty-Fourth Session: from 25 to 29 November 2019;

Twenty-Fifth Session: from 30 November to 4 December 2020;

Twenty-Sixth Session: from 29 November to 3 December 2021; and

Twenty-Seventh Session: from 28 November to 2 December 2022.

24.2 The Conference is further **requested** to authorise the Director-General to conclude 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.

25. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FIVE – Any other business

Specific dates and duration of the Twenty-Third Session of the Conference of the States Parties and the Fourth Review Conference

25.1 The Conference at its Twentieth Session decided to combine the dates for its Fourth Review Conference and for its regular session in 2018. The Conference considered and approved the dates of 19 to 30 November 2018 for the combined sessions (C-20/5, dated 4 December 2015). The Conference is now **requested** to decide on the specific dates and duration of its Twenty-Third Session and the Fourth Review Conference.

Establishment of an open-ended working group for the preparations for the Fourth Review Conference

25.2 The Conference is requested to establish an open-ended working group to begin preparations, in cooperation with the Secretariat, for the Fourth Review Conference, which will be convened in accordance with paragraph 22 of Article VIII of the Convention.

25.3 The Conference is also requested to establish a Bureau of the open-ended working group for preparations for the Fourth Review Conference, consisting of a Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons.

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

27. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-SEVEN – Closure