



### REPORT OF THE SEVENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

#### 1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

The Chairperson of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”), Ambassador Francesco Azzarello of Italy, opened its Seventy-Ninth Session in The Hague at 10:06 on 7 July 2015.

#### 2. AGENDA ITEM TWO – Adoption of the agenda

The Council **considered** and **adopted** the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Opening statement by the Director-General
4. Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on the activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues
5. General debate
6. Status of implementation of the Convention:
  - (a) Reports by the Director-General on destruction-related issues
  - (b) Implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues
  - (c) Other verification-related issues
  - (d) Destruction-related plans and facility agreements
  - (e) Verification Implementation Report for 2014
  - (f) OPCW Fact Finding on the allegations of use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic
  - (g) Timely submission of declarations under Article VI
  - (h) Article VII: briefings by the facilitator and by the Technical Secretariat



- (i) The content of the assistance-and-protection data bank and its use
  - (j) Article X: briefings by the facilitator and by the Technical Secretariat
  - (k) Article XI: briefings by the facilitator and by the Technical Secretariat
  - (l) Report by the Director-General on the Technical Secretariat's readiness to conduct a challenge inspection or an investigation of alleged use
7. Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference<sup>1</sup>
8. Draft annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2014
9. Education and outreach:
- (a) Briefing by the Technical Secretariat on ongoing and planned awareness-raising, education and outreach activities
  - (b) Establishment of an Advisory Board on Education and Outreach
10. Reports of the Office of Internal Oversight:
- (a) Implementation in 2014 of the recommendations contained in the 2013 annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight
  - (b) Annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014
11. Administrative and financial matters:
- (a) Status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor
  - (b) Report of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
  - (c) Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise-resource-planning system
  - (d) Composition of the Technical Secretariat
  - (e) Report by the Director-General on the implementation of the tenure policy in 2014
12. Establishment of an OPCW Day
13. Agreement on the privileges and immunities of the OPCW

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<sup>1</sup> Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

14. Credentials of representatives of the members of the Executive Council
15. Provisional agenda for the Twentieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties
16. Dates for regular sessions of the Executive Council in 2016
17. Any other business
18. Adoption of the report
19. Closure

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

The Council **noted** the opening statement by the Director-General (EC-79/DG.19, dated 7 July 2015).

**4. AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on the activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues**

- 4.1 The Vice-Chairpersons and coordinators for clusters of issues reported to the Council on informal consultations held during the intersessional period: Ambassador Māris Klišāns of Latvia on chemical weapons issues, Ambassador Jong-hyun Choe of the Republic of Korea on chemical-industry and other Article VI issues, Ambassador Willys Delvalle of Panama on administrative and financial issues, and Ambassador Rose Makena Muchiri of Kenya on legal, organisational, and other issues. The Chairperson also reported on his own activities on behalf of the Council during the intersessional period.
- 4.2 The facilitators for issues under regular consultation reported on consultations held during the intersessional period: Ambassador Robert Mikulak of the United States of America on implementation of the verification regime, Mr Aladdin Al Hamdawi of Iraq on the Secure Information Exchange (SIX) project, Mr Sébastien Braha of France on the implementation of the action plan on Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), and Mrs Abeer S. Khaleefah of Iraq on the implementation of Article XI of the Convention.
- 4.3 The Council **expressed appreciation** for the work done by the facilitator for the implementation of the verification regime, Ambassador Robert Mikulak of the United States of America, and **welcomed** the appointment of Mr Rudiger Zettel of Germany as the new facilitator.
- 4.4 The Council **also expressed appreciation** for the work done by the facilitator for the SIX project, Mr Aladdin Al Hamdawi of Iraq.
- 4.5 The Council **further expressed appreciation** for the work done by the co-facilitator for the Programme and Budget, Mr Domingos Maria de Saldanha Melo e Alvim of Portugal, and **welcomed** the appointment of Mr Antti Vaaras of Finland as the new co-facilitator.

- 4.6 The Council **further expressed appreciation** for the work done by the facilitator for the implementation of Article XI of the Convention, Mrs Abeer S. Khaleefah of Iraq.

**5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – General debate**

- 5.1 The following delegations made statements during the general debate: Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Union), the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China), South Africa (on behalf of the African Group), Belarus, the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, China, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Cuba (observer) Switzerland (observer), Spain, Kenya, Finland, New Zealand, France, India, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Chile, the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), Pakistan, Japan, Canada (observer), the Netherlands, Peru, Argentina, Iraq, Nigeria (observer), Qatar, Turkey (observer), Guatemala, Afghanistan (observer), Algeria, Cameroon, Ecuador (observer), Panama, Senegal, the Russian Federation, and Sri Lanka (observer).
- 5.2 The Council was addressed by H.E. Mr U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, who informed the Council of the deposition with the United Nations of Myanmar's instrument of ratification of the Convention. The Council **expressed its appreciation** of Myanmar's decision and welcomed it as a State Party.

**6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – Status of implementation of the Convention**

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

- 6.1 Further to a decision by the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter "the Conference") at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011), the Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the overall progress of destruction activities by possessor States Parties (EC-79/DG.18\*, dated 1 July 2015).
- 6.2 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012), the Council **noted** a report by the Director-General on the overall progress of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons (EC-79/DG.17, dated 29 June 2015).

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

- 6.3 The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") briefed the Council on its destruction-related verification activities.
- 6.4 The Russian Federation, the United States of America, Libya, China, and Japan briefed the Council on their destruction-related activities.
- 6.5 The Council **considered** and **noted** the report of the visit by the Chairperson of the Council and representatives of the Council to the Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant and Explosive Destruction System in Colorado, the United States of America, from 22 to 27 March 2015 (EC-79/1, dated 1 June 2015).

- 6.6 The Council **noted** the statements and comments made by States Parties on the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons by possessor States Parties, recalling the relevant obligations under the Convention, and relevant decisions by the Conference and the Council. The Council **recalled** that the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons by possessor States Parties should continue in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and its Annex on Implementation and Verification and with the application of the measures contained in decision C-16/DEC.11.
- 6.7 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the Council **considered** and **noted** a national paper by the Russian Federation on the progress made on the completion of the destruction of its chemical weapons, including information on measures to accelerate such progress, as well as appropriate measures in order to meet the planned completion date (EC-79/P/NAT.4, dated 10 June 2015), along with comments on the issue as mentioned above. The Council **noted** the confirmation provided by the delegation of the Russian Federation that the necessary measures continue to be undertaken in order to meet the planned completion date of 31 December 2020 for its destruction activities, as submitted to the Council at its Sixty-Eighth and Seventy-Seventh Sessions in accordance with subparagraph 3(c) of C-16/DEC.11.
- 6.8 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the Council **considered** and **noted** a national paper by the United States of America on the progress made on the completion of the destruction of its chemical weapons, including information on measures to accelerate such progress, as well as appropriate measures in order to meet the planned completion date (EC-79/NAT.2, dated 11 June 2015), along with comments on the issue as mentioned above. The Council **noted** the confirmation provided by the delegation of the United States of America that the necessary measures continue to be undertaken in order to meet the planned completion date of September 2023 for its destruction activities, as submitted to the Council at its Sixty-Eighth Session in accordance with subparagraph 3(c) of C-16/DEC.11.
- 6.9 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the Council **considered** and **noted** a national paper by Libya on the progress made on the completion of the destruction of its chemical weapons, including information on measures to accelerate such progress, as well as appropriate measures in order to meet the planned completion date (EC-79/NAT.4, dated 26 June 2015), along with comments on the issue as mentioned above. The Council **noted** the confirmation provided by the delegation of Libya that the necessary measures continue to be undertaken in order to meet the planned completion date of December 2016 for its destruction activities, as submitted to the Council at its Sixty-Eighth Session in accordance with subparagraph 3(c) of C-16/DEC.11.
- 6.10 The Council **considered** and **noted** a national paper by Libya entitled “Concept plan for destruction of the remaining Category 2 chemical weapons in Libya” (EC-79/NAT.1, dated 1 June 2015).

- 6.11 The Council **noted** two Notes by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme (EC-79/DG.8, dated 22 May 2015 and EC-79/DG.15, dated 23 June 2015).
- 6.12 The Council **noted** two national papers by the Syrian Arab Republic on the activities related to the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and their production facilities (EC-79/P/NAT.2, dated 15 May 2015 and EC-79/P/NAT.3, dated 15 June 2015).
- 6.13 Further to its consideration of this issue at its previous session, the Council **decided** to defer to its next regular session the consideration of a Note by the Secretariat on the retention of samples of Syrian chemical weapons (EC-77/S/3, dated 12 September 2014) and a draft decision on the matter (EC-77/DEC/CRP.2, dated 12 September 2014).
- 6.14 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6), a national paper by China (EC-79/NAT.5\*, dated 18 June 2015) and a national paper by Japan (EC-79/NAT.3, dated 17 June 2015) on the overall progress of the destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China had been circulated to the members of the Council. Bearing in mind the destruction progress was less than expected in the destruction plan attached to the relevant decision (EC-67/DEC.6), while welcoming close cooperation between relevant States Parties, the Council **considered** and **decided** to remain seized of the matter, and **urged** the relevant States Parties to continue to make the fullest possible efforts to complete destruction of abandoned chemical weapons as soon as possible in accordance with the Council decision (EC-67/DEC.6) in a faithful manner and to address challenges including the safety of people and protecting the environment. Both States Parties reaffirmed their effective commitment to the abovementioned decision.
- 6.15 The Council **welcomed** the review of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons conducted by the Third Review Conference and the report of the Third Review Conference (RC-3/3\*, dated 19 April 2013), which reaffirmed the role of the Council, the Conference and the Review Conference with regard to the abandoned chemical weapons destruction-related issues as defined in the provisions of the Convention and in the Council's decision EC-67/DEC.6. The Council **noted** the report of the visit by a delegation of the Council to the Haerbaling abandoned chemical weapons site, jointly invited by China and Japan, from 8 to 12 June 2015 (EC-79/4, dated 9 July 2015) and **expressed its appreciation** for the first-hand information on the destruction progress and the bilateral cooperation of the relevant States Parties obtained through the visit.

**Subitem 6(c): Other verification-related issues**

- 6.16 The Secretariat briefed the Council on its other verification-related activities.
- 6.17 The Secretariat provided a follow-up briefing on the activities of the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT). The following delegations took the floor under this agenda item: Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, Brazil, the United States of America, China, the Russian Federation, and the Syrian Arab Republic (observer).

- 6.18 The Council **noted** a status report on the activities of the DAT (EC-79/P/S/1, dated 1 July 2015).
- 6.19 The Secretariat briefed the Council on the destruction of the chemical weapons production facilities in the Syrian Arab Republic.

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

- 6.20 The Council **considered** and **approved** the facility agreement with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan regarding on-site inspections at a Schedule 1 single small-scale facility (EC-79/DEC.1 and EC-79/R/DEC.1, both dated 8 July 2015).
- 6.21 The Secretariat submitted to the Council a Note on amendments, modifications, and updates to the facility agreement regarding on-site inspections at the Rabta Toxic Chemicals Destruction Facility, Libya, and amendments to the agreed detailed plan for verification for that facility (EC-79/S/7, dated 26 June 2015).
- 6.22 Proposed amendments to the aforementioned facility agreement had been submitted separately to the Council, which **considered** and **approved** them (EC-79/DEC.2, dated 8 July 2015). Related amendments to the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons at the Rabta Toxic Chemicals Destruction Facility, Libya, are treated in paragraph 6.23 below.
- 6.23 The Council **considered** and **approved** amendments to the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons at the Rabta Toxic Chemicals Destruction Facility, Libya (EC-79/DEC.3, dated 8 July 2015).
- 6.24 The Council **considered** and **noted** a national paper by Iraq entitled “An Urgent Action to Eliminate the Risk of Remnants in Bunker 13” (EC-79/P/NAT.5, dated 7 July 2015).

**Subitem 6(e): Verification Implementation Report for 2014**

- 6.25 The Council **considered** and **noted** the Verification Implementation Report (VIR) for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014 (EC-79/HP/DG.1, dated 1 May 2015 and Corr.1, dated 1 July 2015). The Council **also noted** the comments and views received on the 2014 VIR (EC-79/HP/DG.2, dated 16 June 2015 and EC-79/DG.20, dated 7 July 2015), as well as the Chairperson’s summary of the informal consultations on it (EC-79/3, dated 30 June 2015).

**Subitem 6(f): OPCW Fact Finding on the allegations of use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic**

- 6.26 The Director-General provided an update in regard to the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria. The following delegations took the floor under this agenda item: Iran (the Islamic Republic of), France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and China.

**Subitem 6(g): Timely submission of declarations under Article VI**

6.27 Further to a decision by the Council at its Fifty-First Session (EC-51/DEC.1, dated 27 November 2007), the Council **noted** a status report by the Director-General on the timely submission by States Parties of declarations under Article VI of the Convention for the period from 1 January to 31 May 2015 (EC-79/DG.13, dated 11 June 2015).

6.28 Further to the decision of the Council at its Sixty-Sixth Session on the policy guidelines for determining the number of Article VI inspections (EC-66/DEC.10, dated 7 October 2011), the Council **noted** a report by the Director-General on the results of the implementation of these policy guidelines (EC-79/DG.4, dated 7 April 2015).

**Subitem 6(h): Article VII: briefings by the facilitator and by the Technical Secretariat**

6.29 The facilitator for this issue, Mr Sébastien Braha of France, reported on the consultations carried out during the intersessional period.

6.30 The Secretariat made a presentation on the status of implementation of Article VII.

**Subitem 6(i): The content of the assistance-and-protection data bank and its use**

6.31 The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Secretariat on the content of the assistance-and-protection data bank and its use (EC-79/S/5, dated 17 June 2015).

**Subitem 6(j): Article X: briefings by the facilitator and by the Technical Secretariat**

6.32 The facilitator for this issue, Mr Szymon Bocheński of Poland, reported on the consultations carried out during the intersessional period.

6.33 The Secretariat made a presentation on the status of implementation of Article X.

**Subitem 6(k): Article XI: briefings by the facilitator and by the Technical Secretariat**

6.34 The Secretariat made a presentation on the programme of activities for 2015 related to Article XI. The Council **received** an oral report by the facilitator, Mrs Abeer S. Khaleefah of Iraq, on activities held during the intersessional period. The facilitator informed the Council about the informal consultations held on 2 July 2015, where concrete proposals were presented by States Parties of the Non-Aligned Movement and China, the United States of America, and the Secretariat, which, among others, aimed at the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of all the provisions of Article XI.



**Subitem 6(l): Report by the Director-General on the Technical Secretariat's readiness to conduct a challenge inspection or an investigation of alleged use**

6.35 The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General reporting on the readiness of the Secretariat to conduct a challenge inspection or an investigation of alleged use (EC-79/DG.12, dated 3 June 2015).

**7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference**

The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Secretariat entitled “Updated Matrix of Actionable Items Identified at the Third Review Conference” (EC-79/S/3, dated 11 June 2015).

**8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Draft annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2014**

The Council **considered** the “Draft Report of the OPCW on the Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction in 2014” (EC-79/5 C-20/CRP.1, dated 9 July 2015), and **forwarded** it to the Conference for consideration at its Twentieth Session. The Council **requested** the Secretariat to post this document on the OPCW external website, clearly indicating that it had yet to be considered and approved by the Conference.

**9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Education and outreach**

**Subitem 9(a): Briefing by the Technical Secretariat on ongoing and planned awareness-raising, education and outreach activities**

9.1 The Secretariat provided a briefing to the Council on ongoing and planned awareness-raising, education and outreach activities.

9.2 The Council **noted** a Note by the Secretariat on ongoing and planned awareness-raising, education and outreach activities (EC-79/S/2, dated 10 June 2015).

**Subitem 9(b): Establishment of an Advisory Board on Education and Outreach**

9.3 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the establishment of an Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (EC-79/DG.11, dated 29 May 2015). There was broad support for the establishment of an Advisory Board on Education and Outreach. Informal consultations will be held with a view to the adoption of a draft decision (EC-79/DEC/CRP.4, dated 29 May 2015) by consensus during the October session of the Council, and its recommendation to the Conference of the States Parties.

**10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Reports of the Office of Internal Oversight**

**Subitem 10 (a) Implementation in 2014 of the recommendations contained in the 2013 annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight**

- 10.1 The Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the implementation in 2014 of the recommendations contained in the 2013 annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight (OIO) (EC-79/DG.2, dated 25 March 2015).
- 10.2 The facilitator for this issue, Mr Eric Smith of the United States of America, reported on consultations held during the intersessional period.

**Subitem 10 (b) Annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014**

- 10.3 The Council **considered** and **noted** the annual report of the OIO for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014 (EC-79/DG.3 C-20/DG.3, dated 3 April 2015), which the Director-General had submitted to it, along with his comments, in accordance with Financial Regulation 12.5.
- 10.4 The facilitator for this issue, Mr Eric Smith of the United States of America, reported on consultations held during the intersessional period.
- 10.5 The Council **transmitted** this report, and the covering Note by the Director-General, to the Conference for consideration at its Twentieth Session.

**11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Administrative and financial matters**

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

- 11.1 Further to its consideration of this issue at its previous session, the Council **deferred** the consideration of a Note by the Secretariat on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor (EC-78/S/2, dated 23 January 2015).
- 11.2 The facilitator for this issue, Mr Eric Smith of the United States of America, reported on the consultations held during the intersessional period.

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

- 11.3 The Council **considered** and **noted** the report of the Thirty-Eighth Session of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF), which took place from 1 to 3 June 2015 (ABAF-38/1, dated 3 June 2015), and a Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-79/DG.14, dated 22 June 2015).
- 11.4 The Council **noted** a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-79/S/4, dated 12 June 2015) and **appointed** Mr Milan Kerber of the Czech Republic to a third term with the ABAF, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Mr Kerber (28 April 2015).

- 11.5 The Council **also noted** a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-79/S/6, dated 24 June 2015) and **appointed** Mrs Katrina Leonard-Johnston of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Mrs Leonard-Johnston (17 June 2015).

**Subitem 11(c): Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise-resource-planning system**

- 11.6 Further to the decision by the Conference at its Nineteenth Session on the implementation of an enterprise-resource-planning (ERP) system and the establishment of a special fund for this purpose (C-19/DEC.7, dated 3 December 2014), the Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General reporting on the status of implementation of the ERP system (EC-79/DG.9, dated 1 June 2015).

**Subitem 11(d): Composition of the Technical Secretariat**

- 11.7 The Council **noted** the Director-General's annual report on the composition of the Secretariat (EC-79/DG.6, dated 19 May 2015).

**Subitem 11(e): Report by the Director-General on the implementation of the tenure policy in 2014**

- 11.8 The Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the tenure policy in 2014 (EC-79/DG.5, dated 4 May 2015).

**12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Establishment of an OPCW Day**

- 12.1 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).

- 12.2 The Council **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.

**13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Agreement on the privileges and immunities of the OPCW**

The Council **considered** and **concluded** an agreement between the OPCW and Hungary on the privileges and immunities of the OPCW (EC-79/DEC.5, dated 9 July 2015).

**14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Credentials of representatives of the members of the Executive Council**

The Council **considered** and **approved** a report by the Director-General on the credentials of representatives of members of the Council, covering the credentials of the newly elected members of the Council (EC-79/DG.7/Rev.1, dated 26 June 2015).

**15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – Provisional agenda for the Twentieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties**

The Council **drew up** the provisional agenda for the Twentieth Session of the Conference (EC-79/DG.10, dated 28 May 2015).

**16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Dates for regular sessions of the Executive Council in 2016**

The Council **decided** that the Eighty-First Session of the Council shall be held from 15 to 18 March 2016, that the Eighty-Second Session of the Council shall be held from 12 to 15 July 2016, and that the Eighty-Third Session of the Council shall be held from 11 to 14 October 2016.

**17. AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Any other business**

17.1 The Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Terrorism, Ambassador Nimota Akanbi, reported to the Council on the meeting of the OEWG held on 6 July 2015.

17.2 Delegations discussed the Secretariat Note on the production of Schedule 1 chemicals as unavoidable by-products (S/1272/2015, dated 1 May 2015) and agreed that further consultations were welcome on this issue, with a view to reaching a consensus decision of the Council on this subject.

17.3 The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic (observer) delivered a statement.

17.4 The Council **received** an oral statement from the outgoing Deputy Director-General, Ambassador Grace Asirwatham. The Council **expressed its warmest appreciation** for the work of the Deputy Director-General and wished her all the best for the future.

17.5 The Council **expressed its warmest appreciation** also to the outgoing Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives, thanking them for their great contribution to the work of the Council.

**18. AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Adoption of the report**

The Council **considered** and **adopted** the report of its Seventy-Ninth Session.

**19. AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – Closure**

The Chairperson closed the session at 18:20 on 9 July 2015.