



REPORT OF THE EIGHTY-FIRST 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 Eighty-First Session in The Hague at 10:03 on 15 March 2016.

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) Timely submission of declarations under Article VI of the Convention
 - (f) Article XI: briefings by the facilitator and by the Technical Secretariat
 - (g) Implementation by the Technical Secretariat in 2015 of the regime governing the handling of confidential information
 - (h) Status of implementation of the Verification Information System



- (i) Technical Secretariat's activities: update on the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria
- 7. Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference¹
- 8. Education and outreach: briefing by the Technical Secretariat
- 9. The OPCW's contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts
- 10. Administrative and financial matters:
 - (a) Status of implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations
 - (b) Transfers of funds during 2015
 - (c) Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise-resource-planning (ERP) system
 - (d) Financial situation of the OPCW as at 29 February 2016
 - (e) Nomination for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
 - (f) Adjustment to the Director-General's gross salary
- 11. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council
- 12. Report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
- 13. Establishment of an open-ended working group on the future priorities of the OPCW
- 14. Any other business
- 15. Adoption of the report
- 16. Closure

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

The Council **noted** the opening statement by the Director-General (EC-81/DG.15, dated 15 March 2016).

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 Ilze

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

Rūse of Latvia on chemical weapons issues, Mr Rudiger Zettel of Germany on behalf of 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 facilitator for the implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor on the Financial Statements of the OPCW, Mr Eric Smith of the United States of America, reported on consultations held during the intersessional period.

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

The following delegations made statements during the general debate: the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union), the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China), Kenya (on behalf of the African Group), Spain, the United States of America, China, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Cuba (observer), Canada (observer), France, Mexico, Peru, Brazil, Chile, Malaysia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, India, Sudan, the Republic of Korea, Panama, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Guatemala, Ecuador (observer), New Zealand, Turkey (observer), Poland (observer), the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), Qatar, Iraq, Algeria, Australia (observer), Morocco, Argentina, the Russian Federation, Finland, Japan, and Croatia.

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-81/DG.12, dated 29 February 2016 and Corr.1*, dated 3 March 2016).
- 6.2 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012), the Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the overall progress of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons (EC-81/DG.13, dated 4 March 2016).
- 6.3 Further to a decision by the Council at its Fifty-First Meeting (paragraph 2 of EC-M-51/DEC.1, dated 24 February 2016), the Director-General reported to the Council on the destruction of Libya’s remaining chemical weapons stockpile.

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

- 6.4 The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) briefed the Council on its destruction-related verification activities. The Council **took note** of the additional information provided by the delegation of the Netherlands (EC-81/NAT.10, dated 16 March 2016).

- 6.5 The Council **noted** a voluntary presentation by Italy on the destruction of its old chemical weapons pursuant to Council decision EC-67/DEC.8 (dated 17 February 2012).
- 6.6 The Russian Federation, the United States of America, Libya, Japan, and China briefed the Council on their destruction-related activities.
- 6.7 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 Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “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.
- 6.8 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-81/P/NAT.6, dated 16 February 2016), 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.
- 6.9 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 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-81/NAT.2, dated 19 February 2016), 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.
- 6.10 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-81/NAT.1*, dated 18 February 2016), along with comments on the issue as mentioned above. Further to Council decision EC-M-51/DEC.1, dated 24 February 2016, the Council **took note** of the Director-General’s oral report, as well as his intention to continue consultations with the Libyan authorities and all relevant States Parties, including the regional group coordinators, with a view to reaching an urgent and practical solution.

- 6.11 The Council **expressed** the need to urgently address the destruction of the remaining stockpiles of chemical weapons in Libya and the Council **decided** to remain seized of the matter.
- 6.12 The Council **noted** five Notes by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme (EC-81/DG.1, dated 22 October 2015; EC-81/DG.2, dated 24 November 2015; EC-81/DG.3, dated 22 December 2015; EC-81/DG.5, dated 25 January 2016; and EC-81/DG.11, dated 24 February 2016).
- 6.13 The Council **noted** five national papers by the Syrian Arab Republic on activities related to the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and their production facilities (EC-81/P/NAT.1, dated 13 October 2015; EC-81/P/NAT.2, dated 12 November 2015; EC-81/P/NAT.3, dated 18 December 2015; EC-81/P/NAT.4, dated 15 January 2016; and EC-81/P/NAT.5, dated 15 February 2016).
- 6.14 Further to its consideration of this issue at its previous sessions, the Council **deferred** consideration of a draft decision on the retention of samples of Syrian chemical weapons to its next regular session (EC-77/DEC/CRP.2, dated 12 September 2014).
- 6.15 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6), a national paper by China (EC-81/NAT.4, dated 26 February 2016) and a national paper by Japan (EC-81/NAT.3, dated 25 February 2016) 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 that the destruction progress was less than expected in the destruction plan attached to the relevant decision (EC-67/DEC.6), the Council, while recalling the provisions of the Convention that the Abandoning State Party undertakes to destroy all chemical weapons it abandoned on the territory of another State Party and shall provide all necessary financial, technical, expert, facility as well as other resources, **expressed its determination** to remain seized of the matter, and **urged** the Abandoning State Party to continue to make the fullest possible effort to complete destruction of abandoned chemical weapons as soon as possible in accordance with the Council's decision (EC-67/DEC.6) in a faithful manner and to address challenges including ensuring the safety of people and protecting the environment. The Council **reaffirmed** that the Territorial State Party shall provide appropriate cooperation.
- 6.16 The Council **also reaffirmed** the obligation of the Abandoning State Party to provide all available information including, to the extent possible, the location, type, quantity as well as information on the abandonment in accordance with relevant provisions of the Convention, so as to facilitate the expedite destruction of JACWs.
- 6.17 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 **welcomed** the visit by a delegation of the Council to the Haerbaling abandoned chemical weapons site, jointly invited by China and Japan, from 8 to 11 June 2015, during which the Council

delegation was impressed by the progress made since its last visit, while concerns were expressed by members of Council delegation that according to the current destruction pace, the completion of ACW destruction in Haerbaling will significantly fall behind schedule. The Council **expressed its appreciation** for the first-hand information on the destruction-related progress and the bilateral cooperation of the relevant States Parties obtained through the visit.

Subitem 6(c): Other verification-related issues

- 6.18 The Secretariat briefed the Council on its other verification-related activities.
- 6.19 The Secretariat also provided a follow-up briefing on the activities of the Declaration Assessment Team.
- 6.20 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General entitled “Report on the work of the Declaration Assessment Team Regarding the Declaration and Related Submissions by the Syrian Arab Republic” (EC-81/HP/DG.1, dated 22 February 2016).
- 6.21 The Council **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the above-mentioned report (EC-81/DEC.4, dated 23 March 2016).

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

- 6.22 The Council **noted** a Note on modifications to the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons at the Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Facility, Pueblo, Colorado, the United States of America (EC-81/S/5, dated 12 February 2016).
- 6.23 The Secretariat submitted to the Council a Note on amendments, modifications, and updates to the facility agreement regarding inspections at the Rabta Toxic Chemicals Destruction Facility, Libya, and amendments to the agreed detailed plan for verification for that facility (EC-81/S/3, dated 22 January 2016).
- 6.24 Proposed amendments to the aforementioned facility agreement with Libya had been submitted separately to the Council, which **considered** and **approved** them (EC-81/DEC.1, dated 16 March 2016). 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 6.25 below.
- 6.25 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-81/DEC.2, dated 16 March 2016).

Subitem 6(e): Timely submission of declarations under Article VI of the Convention

- 6.26 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 December 2015 (EC-81/DG.4, dated 14 January 2016).

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

- 6.27 The Council **received** a report by the facilitator, Mr Shoaib Sarwar of Pakistan, on the consultations carried out during the intersessional period and a presentation by the Secretariat on the programme of activities relating to Article XI.
- 6.28 The Council **expressed appreciation** for the Secretariat's work on the implementation of Article XI and its efforts in putting forward a consolidated text that consists of proposals by the States Parties and the Secretariat.
- 6.29 The Council **requested** the Secretariat and the facilitator to continue consultations with States Parties to develop a concept plan for a review workshop of the "Components of an Agreed Framework for the Full Implementation of Article XI" (C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011), with a view to holding this workshop in advance of the Eighty-Second Session of the Council.
- 6.30 The Council **further requested** the Vice-Chairperson of the Council for the cluster of legal, organisational, and other issues, as well as the facilitator for Article XI, to report on the results and developments thereof at the next session of the Council.

Subitem 6(g): Implementation by the Technical Secretariat in 2015 of the regime governing the handling of confidential information

- 6.31 The Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Secretariat in 2015 (EC-81/DG.10 C-21/DG.3, dated 19 February 2016).

Subitem 6(h): Status of implementation of the Verification Information System

- 6.32 The Council **noted** a status report on the Verification Information System (EC-81/S/2, dated 12 January 2016).

Subitem 6(i): Technical Secretariat's activities: update on the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria

- 6.33 The Secretariat had circulated an addendum to the "Report of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria regarding the incidents described in the communications from the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates and Head of the National Authority of the Syrian Arab Republic" (S/1318/2015/Rev.1/Add.1, dated 29 February 2016).

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-81/S/1, dated 11 November 2015 and Add.1, dated 17 February 2016).

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Education and outreach: briefing by the Technical Secretariat

- 8.1 The Secretariat briefed the Council on ongoing and future activities related to education and outreach.
- 8.2 Further to a decision of the Conference at its Twentieth Session (C-20/DEC.9, dated 3 December 2015), the Secretariat circulated a Note by the Director-General on the membership of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (EC-81/DG.9 C-21/DG.2, dated 18 February 2016).
- 8.3 Further to the above-mentioned decision, the Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General entitled “Rules of Procedure for the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach and its Temporary Working Groups” (EC-81/DG.14, dated 4 March 2016).

9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – The OPCW’s contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts

- 9.1 The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the status of the OPCW’s contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts (EC-81/DG.7, dated 9 February 2016).
- 9.2 Ambassador Vusi Bruce Koloane of South Africa, on behalf of the facilitator for this issue, Ambassador Joe Tony Aidoo of Ghana, reported on the consultations held by the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Terrorism during the intersessional period and the work of its Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors.
- 9.3 The Council **expressed appreciation** for and **noted** the work done by Ambassador María Teresa Infante of Chile as the facilitator of the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors of the OEWG, whose report was circulated to the Council (EC-81/WP.1, dated 22 February 2016 and Corr.1, dated 17 March 2016). The Council **encouraged** her to continue facilitating discussions on legal, prevention, and response aspects of chemical terrorism.

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Administrative and financial matters

Subitem 10(a): Status of implementation of the External Auditor’s recommendations

- 10.1 A Note by the Secretariat on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor (EC-81/S/4, dated 22 January 2016) was circulated to the Council. The Council **deferred** consideration of this item to its next regular session.

Subitem 10(b): Transfers of funds during 2015

- 10.2 A Note by the Director-General on a request for transfers of funds between chapters and transfers of funds during 2015 (EC-81/DG.8 C-21/DG.1, dated 16 February 2016) was circulated to the Council. The Council **deferred** consideration of this item to its next regular session.

Subitem 10(c): Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise-resource-planning (ERP) system

- 10.3 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) a Note by the Director-General reporting on the status of implementation of the ERP system (EC-81/DG.6, dated 8 February 2016) was circulated to the Council. The Council **deferred** consideration of this item to its next regular session.

Subitem 10(d): Financial situation of the OPCW as at 29 February 2016

- 10.4 At its Twentieth Session, the Conference requested the Council to monitor the financial situation of the OPCW in 2016. In this regard, the Conference requested further that the Director-General provide detailed monthly updates about the overall financial situation, and particularly cash flow, to States Parties (subparagraphs 5(t) and 5(u) of C-20/DEC.6, dated 3 December 2015).
- 10.5 Accordingly, the Secretariat had circulated a Note on the cash situation of the OPCW as at 31 January 2016 (S/1354/2016, dated 18 February 2016) and another Note on the cash situation as at 29 February 2016 (S/1364/2016, dated 8 March 2016).
- 10.6 The Council **expressed concern** over the overall difficult financial situation of the OPCW.
- 10.7 The Council **welcomed** the Director-General's monthly financial situation reports and **called on** all States Parties to pay their outstanding financial obligations to the Organisation in full and without delay. The Council **requested** the Director-General to manage the cash flow and financial situation of the Organisation and to keep the Council informed about the measures it has taken, or is considering, to mitigate as much as possible the situation.
- 10.8 The delegation of the United States of America made a statement under this agenda item (EC-81/NAT.11, dated 17 March 2016).

Subitem 10(e): Nomination for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

- 10.9 The Council **noted** a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF) (EC-81/S/6, dated 2 March 2016) and **appointed** Mr John Fox of the United States of America to the ABAF, to replace Mr Max McClellan, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Mr Fox (26 February 2016).

Subitem 10(f): Adjustment to the Director-General's gross salary

- 10.10 In accordance with a decision of the Conference at its First Special Session (C-SS-1/DEC.4, dated 25 July 2002) stipulating that the terms of appointment of the Director-General shall be subject to adjustments by the Council to keep the terms in line with those of other executive heads within the United Nations system, the

Council **adopted** a decision adjusting the Director-General's gross salary (EC-81/DEC.3, dated 17 March 2016).

11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council

In accordance with Rule 6 of its Rules of Procedure, and with effect from 12 May 2016, the Council **elected** Ambassador Odette Melono of Cameroon as its new Chairperson for a term of office ending on 11 May 2017, and its new Vice-Chairpersons for the same period: Ambassador Christoph Israng of Germany, Ambassador Alireza Jahangiri of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Ambassador Willys Delvalle of Panama. The Eastern European Group will notify in writing the Chairperson and the Director-General of its designation in due course.

12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The Chairperson of the Council reported on the status of the work by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Establishment of an open-ended working group on the future priorities of the OPCW

13.1 At its Twentieth Session, the Conference requested the Council to establish at its Eighty-First Session an open-ended working group to discuss and formulate recommendations on the future priorities of the OPCW, to be considered at the Fourth Review Conference² in 2018. The working group should provide all States Parties to the Convention with an opportunity to consult regarding all aspects of the Convention (paragraph 25.3 of C-20/5, dated 4 December 2015).

13.2 The Council **agreed** to defer this matter to its next regular session.

14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Any other business

15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – Adoption of the report

The Council **considered** and **adopted** the report of its Eighty-First Session.

16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Closure

The Chairperson closed the session at 12:00 on 23 March 2016.

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