



Eighty-Third Session
11 – 14 October and 11 November 2016

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REPORT OF THE EIGHTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

The Chairperson of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”), Ambassador Odette Melono of Cameroon, opened its Eighty-Third Session in The Hague at 10:12 on 11 October 2016. The session was suspended on 14 October 2016¹ and subsequently resumed on 11 November 2016 (EC-83/3, dated 7 November 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) Supplement to the Verification Implementation Report for 2015
 - (e) Destruction-related plans and facility agreements

¹ The suspension of the session was requested by the delegation of the United States of America and, in accordance with Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, the motion was immediately voted upon. The voting results were 23 for, three against, and 13 abstentions.



- (f) Technical Secretariat's activities: update on the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria
 - (g) Status of implementation of Article VII
 - (h) Status of implementation of Article X
 - (i) Status of implementation of Article XI
 - (j) Progress made in the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention
7. Countering chemical terrorism
8. Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference²
9. Education and outreach
10. Administrative and financial matters:
- (a) Report of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
 - (b) Cash deficit for 2014
 - (c) Transfers of funds during 2015
 - (d) Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise resource planning system
 - (e) Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2017, and all items pertaining to this Budget
 - (f) Financial Statements of the OPCW and the External Auditor's report for the year ending 31 December 2015
 - (g) Status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor
 - (h) Cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2016
 - (i) Status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions
 - (j) Recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and of losses of assets

²

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

- (k) Implementation of the amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward classification of posts during the period from 14 August 2015 to 13 August 2016
 - (l) Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions
11. The OPCW Programme for Africa
 12. Draft report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities
 13. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
 14. Memorandum of understanding between the OPCW and the World Customs Organization
 15. Any other business
 16. Adoption of the report
 17. Closure

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

The Council **noted** the opening statement by the Director-General (EC-83/DG.22, dated 11 October 2016).

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

The Vice-Chairpersons and coordinators for clusters of issues reported to the Council on informal consultations held during the intersessional period: Ambassador Dziunik Aghajanian of Armenia on chemical weapons issues, Mr Wolfgang Rechenhofer of Germany on behalf of Ambassador Christoph Israng of Germany on chemical-industry and other Article VI issues, Ambassador Willys Delvalle of Panama on administrative and financial issues, and Ambassador Alireza Jahangiri of the Islamic Republic of Iran on legal, organisational, and other issues.

5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – General debate

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

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 with respect to the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles (EC-83/DG.20, dated 29 September 2016 and Corr.1, dated 5 October 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-83/DG.21, dated 4 October 2016).
- 6.3 The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the schedule for submission by chemical weapons possessor States of the reports on their destruction activities after the extended deadline of 29 April 2012 (EC-83/DG.12, dated 14 September 2016).

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.
- 6.5 The Russian Federation, the United States of America, Libya, China, and Japan briefed the Council on their destruction-related activities.
- 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 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.
- 6.7 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-83/P/NAT.4/Rev.1, dated 30 September 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.

- 6.8 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 achieved towards complete 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-83/NAT.2, dated 16 September 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.
- 6.9 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-83/NAT.1, dated 19 September 2016), along with comments on the issue as mentioned above.
- 6.10 Further to the decision at its Fifty-Third Meeting on the “Plan for the Destruction of Libya’s Remaining Category 2 Chemical Weapons Outside the Territory of Libya” (EC-M-53/DEC.1, dated 26 August 2016), the Council **considered** and **noted** the report by the Director-General on the implementation of the plan, including any problems relating to its implementation (EC-83/DG.19, dated 26 September 2016).
- 6.11 The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Secretariat entitled “Technical Secretariat’s Evaluation of the Amended Declaration Submitted by Libya with Regard to the Category 2 Chemical Weapons Stored at the Ruwagha Chemical Weapons Storage Facility” (EC-83/S/2, dated 12 August 2016).
- 6.12 The Council **took note** of the Secretariat’s Note (EC-83/S/2) related to the decrease of a part of Libya’s Category 2 chemical weapons stockpile. The Secretariat was requested to undertake a visit to the facility in question, as soon as security conditions permit, in connection with the verification of the Note’s assessments in accordance with the requirements of the Convention and to report to the Council as appropriate.
- 6.13 The Council **noted** three Notes by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme (EC-83/DG.2, dated 22 July 2016; EC-83/DG.6, dated 22 August 2016; and EC-83/DG.18, dated 26 September 2016).
- 6.14 The Council **noted** three national papers by the Syrian Arab Republic on the activities related to the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and their production facilities as at the cut-off dates of 15 July, 15 August, and 15 September 2016 respectively (EC-83/P/NAT.1, dated 14 July 2016; EC-83/P/NAT.2, dated 15 August 2016; and EC-83/P/NAT.3, dated 14 September 2016).
- 6.15 Further to its consideration of this issue at 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/Rev.1, dated 23 March 2016).

- 6.16 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6), a national paper by China (EC-83/NAT.3, dated 15 September 2016) and a national paper by Japan (EC-83/NAT.4, dated 30 September 2016) on the overall progress of the destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China were 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.
- 6.17 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.
- 6.18 The Council **noted with concern** that according to the information provided by the delegation of Japan, although more than 37,000 ACWs have been destroyed in accordance with the provisions of the destruction plan for the destruction of JACWs with the mobile destruction facilities annexed to the decision of the Council (EC-67/DEC.6), the destruction will not be fully completed in the proposed timeframe, which is preferably within the year 2016. The Council **requested** the relevant States Parties to address this issue as soon as practical, preferably within the year 2016, through consultation in accordance with the relevant provisions of the abovementioned decision and to inform the Twenty-First Session of the Conference about activities relating to this issue.
- 6.19 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

- 6.20 The Secretariat briefed the Council on its other verification-related activities.
- 6.21 The United States of America withdrew a previously submitted draft decision entitled “Report by the Director-General on the Outcome of Consultations with the Syrian Arab Republic Regarding its Chemical Weapons Declaration” (EC-82/DEC/CRP.5, dated 7 July 2016).
- 6.22 The United States of America submitted a draft decision entitled “Report of the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism Regarding Chemical Weapons Use in the Syrian Arab Republic” (EC-83/DEC/CRP.5, dated 5 October 2016 and Corr.1, dated 6 October 2016). Subsequently, the United States of America revised its draft decision, which was circulated as EC-83/DEC/CRP.5/Rev.1, dated 13 October 2016.
- 6.23 The Russian Federation submitted a draft decision entitled “Addressing the Situation Around the Alleged Use of Chemicals as Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic and this State Party’s Initial Declaration Under Article III of the Chemical Weapons Convention” (EC-83/DEC/CRP.6, dated 6 October 2016). Subsequently, the Russian Federation revised its draft decision, which was circulated as EC-83/DEC/CRP.6/Rev.1, dated 4 November 2016.
- 6.24 Spain submitted a draft decision entitled “OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism Reports on Chemical Weapons Use in the Syrian Arab Republic” (EC-83/DEC/CRP.7, dated 3 November 2016). Subsequently, Spain revised its draft decision, which was circulated as EC-83/DEC/CRP.7/Rev.1, dated 10 November 2016.
- 6.25 In accordance with Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, the Director-General submitted a report on the financial, administrative, and programme and budget implications of draft decision EC-83/DEC/CRP.7 regarding the follow-up activities related to the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism reports on chemical weapons use in the Syrian Arab Republic (EC-83/DG.23, dated 9 November 2016).
- 6.26 The Director-General received a letter from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America (EC-83/DG.24, dated 9 November 2016), requesting the Secretariat to withdraw, pursuant to Rule 32 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, the proposed draft decision contained in EC-83/DEC/CRP.5/Rev.1, entitled “Report of the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism Regarding Chemical Weapons Use in the Syrian Arab Republic”.
- 6.27 The Council **considered** and **adopted** by voting, under Rule 42(b) of its Rules of Procedure, the aforementioned decision entitled “OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism Reports on Chemical Weapons Use in the Syrian Arab Republic” (EC-83/DEC.5, dated 11 November 2016), with the voting result of 28 for (Latvia, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Panama, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Viet Nam, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, France, Germany, Guatemala, Italy, and

Japan), four against (the Russian Federation, Sudan, China, and the Islamic Republic of Iran), and nine abstentions (Pakistan, South Africa, Algeria, Armenia, Bangladesh, Ghana, India, Iraq, and Kenya).

- 6.28 The following delegations made statements: Peru, Argentina, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation, China, Ghana, Bangladesh, Algeria, Morocco, Pakistan, Brazil, India, Sudan, Iraq, Turkey (observer), Ecuador (observer), Cuba (observer), Belarus (observer), and the Syrian Arab Republic (observer). The delegation of the Russian Federation expressed its specific opinion referring to the adoption of the decision, which is reflected in its national statement (EC-83/NAT.20, dated 11 November 2016).

Subitem 6(d): Supplement to the Verification Implementation Report for 2015

- 6.29 The Council **considered** and **noted** the supplement to the Verification Implementation Report for 2015 (EC-83/HP/DG.1, dated 24 August 2016 and Corr.1, dated 13 October 2016).

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

- 6.30 The Secretariat submitted to the Council a Note on amendments to the facility arrangement with Australia regarding on-site inspections at a Schedule 1 facility for protective purposes at the Defence Science and Technology Group, Melbourne, Australia (EC-83/S/4, dated 1 September 2016).
- 6.31 Proposed amendments to the aforementioned facility arrangement were submitted separately to the Council, which **considered** and **approved** them (EC-83/DEC.1 and EC-83/R/DEC.1, both dated 13 October 2016).

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

- 6.32 The Director-General provided an update in regard to the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria.
- 6.33 The Russian Federation informed the Council about the discovery recently made by the Russian military in Aleppo-city pointing out to the use of the chemical weapons by terrorists (EC-83/NAT.19, dated 11 November 2016). The Russian Federation noted that, if the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission experts are unable to visit the site to investigate this case, the Russian military personnel are available to bring the collected samples to The Hague for the OPCW certified laboratory.

Subitem 6(g): Status of implementation of Article VII

- 6.34 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Fourteenth Session regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations (C-14/DEC.12, dated 4 December 2009), the Council **noted** 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 2016” (EC-83/DG.11 C-21/DG.11, dated 16 September 2016); a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2016: Article VII – Initial Measures” (EC-83/DG.8 C-21/DG.9, dated 16 September 2016); and a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2016: Additional Measures for States Parties that Possess Industrial Facilities Which Are Declarable Under the Convention” (EC-83/DG.9 C-21/DG.10, dated 16 September 2016). The Council **forwarded** the documents to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-First Session.

Subitem 6(h): Status of implementation of Article X

- 6.35 The Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the status of implementation of Article X of the Convention as at 30 June 2016 (EC-83/DG.4/Rev.1, dated 5 September 2016).
- 6.36 The facilitator for this issue, Mr Martin Brož of Czechia, reported on the consultations carried out during the intersessional period.

Subitem 6(i): Status of implementation of Article XI

- 6.37 The Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the progress made and review of the status of the implementation of Article XI of the Convention (EC-83/DG.17 C-21/DG.14, dated 21 September 2016).
- 6.38 The Council **received** a report by the facilitator, Mr Shoaib Sarwar of Pakistan, on the consultations carried out during the intersessional period on activities related to Article XI.
- 6.39 The Council **expressed appreciation** for the Secretariat’s work on the implementation of Article XI and its efforts to organise the “Review and Evaluation Workshop on the Components of an Agreed Framework for the Full Implementation of Article XI” (C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011) on 22 November 2016.
- 6.40 The Council **encouraged** active participation of all States Parties in the workshop, with a view to providing consensus recommendations to the policy-making organs of the OPCW to promote further the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI.
- 6.41 The Council **further requested** the Vice-Chairperson of the Council for the cluster of legal, organisational, and other issues, or the facilitator for Article XI, to report on the outcomes of the workshop to the Conference at its Twenty-First Session.

Subitem 6(j): Progress made in the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention

- 6.42 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.
- 6.43 The Council **considered** and **noted** the annual report on the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention during the period from 16 August 2015 to 15 August 2016, which was being submitted to both the Council and the Conference (EC-83/DG.5 C-21/DG.7, dated 18 August 2016).

7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Countering chemical terrorism

Subitem 7(a): Report by the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism

- 7.1 The Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Terrorism, Ambassador Joe Tony Aidoo of Ghana, briefed the Council on the work of the OEWG during the intersessional period (EC-83/WP.2, dated 13 October 2016).
- 7.2 The Council **expressed appreciation** for the report provided by the facilitator of the OEWG on Terrorism. The Council also **noted** the work done by the facilitator of the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors of the OEWG, Ambassador María Teresa Infante of Chile, whose report was circulated to the Council (EC-83/WP.1, dated 7 October 2016).
- 7.3 Further to its consideration of this issue at its previous session, the Council **deferred** until its next regular session consideration of a draft decision entitled “Addressing the Threat Posed by the Use of Chemical Weapons by Non-State Actors” (EC-82/DEC/CRP.4/Rev.1, dated 14 July 2016).

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference

At its Seventy-Third Session (paragraph 13.1 of EC-73/6, dated 19 July 2013), the Council requested the Director-General to submit to each regular session of the Council the updated version of the “Matrix of Actionable Items Identified at the Third Review Conference”, which the Council **considered** and **noted** (EC-83/S/5, dated 21 September 2016).

9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Education and outreach

The Chairperson of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO), Dr Jean-Pascal Zanders of Belgium, provided a briefing to the Council on the proceedings of the second session of the ABEO, as well as on its future plans.

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Administrative and financial matters

Subitem 10(a): Report of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

- 10.1 The Council **considered** and **noted** the report of the Forty-First Session of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF), which took place from 30 August to 1 September 2016 (ABAF-41/1, dated 1 September 2016), and a Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-83/DG.16, dated 19 September 2016).

Subitem 10(b): Cash deficit for 2014

- 10.2 The Council **deferred** until its future regular session consideration of the final cash deficit for 2014, amounting to EUR 680,232, as stated in the Report by the Director-General entitled “Financial Statements of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and Report of the External Auditor for the Year Ending 31 December 2015” (EC-83/DG.1 C-21/DG.5, dated 8 August 2016), and reported to the ABAF at its Fortieth Session (ABAF-40/1, dated 9 June 2016 and Corr.1, dated 24 June 2016), and a draft decision on the matter (EC-83/DEC/CRP.2, dated 22 September 2016).

Subitem 10(c): Transfers of funds during 2015

- 10.3 Further to its consideration of this issue at its previous session, the Council **noted** 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).

Subitem 10(d): Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise resource planning system

- 10.4 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-83/DG.10, dated 7 September 2016).

Subitem 10(e): Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2017, and all items pertaining to this Budget

- 10.5 The Council **considered** the Draft Programme and Budget for 2017, which the Director-General had submitted to the Council in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.4 (EC-83/CRP.1, dated 8 July 2016) and **transmitted** it to the Conference at its Twenty-First Session, together with its comments and recommendations (EC-83/DEC.2, dated 13 October 2016).
- 10.6 The co-facilitator for this issue, Mr Gerhard Eisl of Austria, reported on the consultations held during the intersessional period.
- 10.7 The Medium-Term Plan of the OPCW for the period 2017 to 2021 (EC-83/S/1 C-21/S/1, dated 8 April 2016) was circulated to the members of the Council.

- 10.8 A Note by the Secretariat on the programme performance for the year 2015 (S/1377/2016, dated 22 April 2016) was also circulated to the members of the Council.

Subitem 10(f): Financial Statements of the OPCW and the External Auditor's report for the year ending 31 December 2015

- 10.9 The Council **noted** the Financial Statements of the OPCW and the report of the External Auditor for the year ending 31 December 2015 (EC-83/DG.1 C-21/DG.5) and **forwarded** them to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-First Session. The Council **received** a presentation of the External Auditor's report by his representative, Mr Damian Brewitt, Director, National Audit Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (EC-83/2, dated 12 October 2016). The Council **expressed its gratitude** for the work done by Mr Brewitt and his team.
- 10.10 The facilitator for this issue, Mr Hiroshi Sanomura of Japan, reported on the consultations held during the intersessional period.

Subitem 10(g): Status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor

- 10.11 The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Secretariat on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor (EC-83/S/3, dated 29 August 2016).

Subitem 10(h): Cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2016

- 10.12 The Council **considered** and **forwarded** to the Conference at its Twenty-First 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 2016 (EC-83/DG.13 C-21/DG.12, dated 14 September 2016).

Subitem 10(i): Status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions

- 10.13 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Eleventh Session (C-11/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2006), the Council **considered** and **forwarded** to the Conference at its Twenty-First Session a Note by the Director-General reporting on the status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans (EC-83/DG.7 C-21/DG.8, dated 1 September 2016).

Subitem 10(j): Recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and of losses of assets

- 10.14 The Council **considered** a Note by the Director-General on the recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and of losses of assets, and **recommended** that the Conference at its Twenty-First Session approve these write-offs, totalling EUR 1,694.46 (EC-83/DG.3 C-21/DG.6, dated 2 August 2016).

Subitem 10(k): Implementation of the amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward classification of posts during the period from 14 August 2015 to 13 August 2016

- 10.15 The Council **noted** the report by the Director General on the implementation of the amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward classification of posts during the period from 14 August 2015 to 13 August 2016 (EC-83/DG.14, dated 14 September 2016).

Subitem 10(l): Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions

- 10.16 Further to 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-83/DEC.4, dated 14 October 2016).

11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – The OPCW Programme for Africa

The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (EC-83/DG.15 C-21/DG.13, dated 15 September 2016).

12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Draft report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities

- 12.1 The Council **considered** and **approved** a report on the performance of its activities in the period from 10 July 2015 to 27 July 2016 (EC-83/4 C-21/2, dated 11 November 2016), and **submitted** it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-First Session.

- 12.2 A note by the Secretariat entitled “The Destruction of Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People’s Republic of China” was attached to the above-mentioned report.

13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

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

14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Memorandum of understanding between the OPCW and the World Customs Organization

Further to its consideration of this issue at its previous session, the Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General on a memorandum of understanding on cooperation between the OPCW and the World Customs Organization (EC-82/DG.15, dated 14 June 2016) and **considered** and **adopted**, as amended, a decision on the matter (EC-83/DEC.3, dated 13 October 2016).

15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – Any other business

Report by the Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities of the OPCW

- 15.1 Pursuant to the decision of the Council at its previous session on the establishment of an Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities of the OPCW (OEWG-FP) (EC-82/DEC.2, dated 14 July 2016), the Co-Chairperson of the OEWG-FP, Ambassador Sabine Nölke of Canada, reported on the progress achieved.

OPCW Policy on Confidentiality

- 15.2 The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement regarding breaches of confidentiality and requested an internal investigation. The Director-General stated that an investigation had been conducted, appropriate action had been taken, and the Secretariat will submit to the policy-making organs recommendations for improvements to the OPCW Policy on Confidentiality. The Secretariat will also examine new allegations of breaches of confidentiality.

16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Adoption of the report

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

17. AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Closure

The Chairperson closed the session at 19:05 on 11 November 2016.

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