



**NOTE BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**NOMINATION BY DENMARK OF A CANDIDATE  
FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

1. At its Eighty-Fourth Session, the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) adopted a decision on the process for the appointment of the Director-General (EC-84/DEC.7, dated 9 March 2017), requesting the Chairperson of the Council to invite, on the Council’s behalf, States Parties to present their nominations of candidates for the position of Director-General of the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) by no later than 23 June 2017, to enable their consideration at the Eighty-Fifth Session of the Council.
2. The Permanent Representation of Denmark to the OPCW has submitted to the Chairperson of the Council a note verbale informing her of the nomination by the Government of Denmark of H.E. Ambassador Jesper Vahr, Ambassador of Denmark to Israel, as candidate for the position of Director-General.
3. Pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, the above-mentioned note verbale is herewith circulated to the members of the Council and all other States Parties.

Annex (English only): Note Verbale of the Permanent Representation of Denmark to the OPCW



**ROYAL DANISH EMBASSY**

**NOTE VERBALE**

The Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of Denmark presents its compliments to the Chairperson of the Executive Council, H.E. Odette Melono and has the honour to refer to letter L/PMO/208935/17 dated 14 March 2017 inviting States to present nominations of candidates for the position of Director General of the Technical Secretariat.

The Permanent Representation herewith presents the nomination of the Government of Denmark of H.E. Ambassador Jesper Vahr as candidate for the aforementioned position. Ambassador Vahr is currently serving as Ambassador of Denmark to Israel. He has long and extensive experience within multilateral diplomacy and security policy. Prior to his appointment as Ambassador to Israel, he held the position as Chef de Cabinet to NATO Secretary General Rasmussen. Ambassador Vahr previously also headed a reform process at the request of the then NATO Secretary General, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. Other postings include Turkey (Ambassador) and Syria.

The curriculum vitae of Ambassador Vahr is enclosed.

The Permanent Representation kindly requests that the nomination of the Government of Denmark is brought to the attention of the members of the Executive Council and States Parties in general, in accordance with established procedures.

The Permanent Representation avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Chairperson of the Executive Council the assurances of its highest consideration.

Encl. as mentioned



The Hague, 3 May 2017

H.E. Ambassador Ms. Odette Melono  
Chairperson of the Executive Council  
Embassy of the Republic of Cameroon  
Amaliastraat 12  
2514 JC Den Haag

cc: Mr. Konstantin Gavrilov  
Director of the Secretariat for the Policy-making Organs  
OPCW  
Johan De Wittlaan 32  
2517 JR Den Haag

### **Ambassador Jesper Vahr – CV**



Ambassador Jesper Vahr (born 1962) has extensive experience in bi- and multilateral diplomacy, particularly on security policy issues.

Since August 2013 he has served as Ambassador of Denmark to Israel. In this position his focus has been on the Middle East Peace Process, regional security, and bilateral Danish-Israeli political and commercial relations.

Ambassador Vahr was Chef de Cabinet to the Secretary General of NATO (former Danish Prime Minister Fogh Rasmussen) 2009 – 2013, with rank of Assistant Secretary General. As the Secretary General's closest advisor Ambassador Vahr played a key role in forging consensus on a number of NATO's key achievements in those years, including the 2010 Strategic Concept, NATO's efforts to protect the population of Libya, and reforming NATO's structure and working methods. On behalf of the Secretary General Ambassador Vahr also managed NATO's International Staff (1,200 staff) on a daily basis.

From 2007 – 2009 Ambassador Vahr served as Denmark's Ambassador to Turkey and Azerbaijan (resident in Ankara, Turkey). Key issues during this assignment included Turkey's EU-relations, migration, security policy, and cooperation with Turkey in the fight against terrorism.

From 2003 till 2007 Ambassador Vahr was Director for Security Policy in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Copenhagen. His portfolio included NATO institutional issues, international operations, including Denmark's military engagement in Iraq and in Afghanistan, and the issues of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. During this time, at the request of the then Secretary General of NATO, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, Ambassador Vahr was seconded to NATO HQ to head the Secretary General's Reform Task Force and to elaborate a catalogue of reform proposals.

From 1999 – 2003 Jesper Vahr served as Denmark's Deputy Permanent Representative to NATO. He played a key role in promoting the NATO's enlargement and in extending partnership relations..

Previous assignments include the Middle East Peace Process desk and three years (1993 – 1996) as Deputy Chief of Mission at the Royal Danish Embassy in Damascus, Syria (also covering the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Lebanon).

He earned a Master's degree in Political Science and a Bachelor degree in English literature from the University of Aarhus, Denmark.