



**REPORT OF THE SIXTEENTH SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES  
28 NOVEMBER – 2 DECEMBER 2011**

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

- 1.1 The Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) was opened at 10:39 on 28 November 2011 by the acting Chairperson of the Fifteenth Session of the Conference, Juan Martabit of Chile. The Conference received a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, delivered by his special representative, Mr Kassym Jomart Tokayev, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva.
- 1.2 The following 131 States Parties participated in the Sixteenth Session: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
- 1.3 In accordance with Rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the following signatory States participated in this session of the Conference as observers: Israel and Myanmar.



- 1.4 In accordance with Rules 31 and 32 of these Rules of Procedure, and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-16/DEC.1, dated 28 November 2011), five international organisations, specialised agencies, and other international bodies attended the Sixteenth Session.
- 1.5 The Conference **approved** the participation of 29 non-governmental organisations in its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.2, dated 28 November 2011).

**2. AGENDA ITEM TWO – Election of the Chairperson**

In accordance with Rules 34 and 35 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference, by acclamation, **elected** as its Chairperson Ambassador Paul Arkwright of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, who shall hold office until his successor is elected at the next regular session of the Conference.

**3. AGENDA ITEM THREE – Election of Vice-Chairpersons and other officers**

- 3.1 In accordance with Rules 34 and 35 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference **elected** representatives of the following 10 States Parties as Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference, to hold office until their successors are elected at its next regular session: Algeria, Belgium, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, the Russian Federation, Sudan, Ukraine, the United States of America, and Uruguay.
- 3.2 Also in accordance with Rules 34 and 35 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference **elected**, as Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole, Ambassador Allan Wagner of Peru, who shall hold office until a new Chairperson is elected at the next regular session of the Conference.

**4. AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Adoption of the agenda**

- 4.1 The provisional agenda for the Sixteenth Session was circulated under cover of C-16/1, dated 13 July 2011.
- 4.2 The Conference **approved** the following agenda for its Sixteenth Session:

AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

AGENDA ITEM TWO – Election of the Chairperson

AGENDA ITEM THREE – Election of Vice-Chairpersons and other officers

AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Adoption of the agenda

AGENDA ITEM FIVE – Organisation of work and establishment of subsidiary bodies

AGENDA ITEM SIX – Appointment of the Credentials Committee

AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Statement by the Director-General

AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – General debate

AGENDA ITEM NINE – Status of implementation of the Convention

AGENDA ITEM TEN – Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2010

AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Annual report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 3 July 2010 to 15 July 2011

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

AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2012, submitted by the Executive Council, and all items pertaining to this Budget

AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Scale of assessments to be paid by States Parties

AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – External Auditor's report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW for 2010

AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Administrative and financial matters

AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Fostering of international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities

AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Ensuring the universality of the Convention

AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – The OPCW Programme for Africa

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY – Reports of subsidiary bodies

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-ONE – Any other business

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-TWO – Adoption of the report of the Conference of the States Parties

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-THREE – Closure

**5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – Organisation of work and establishment of subsidiary bodies**

The Conference **considered** and **adopted** the recommendations of the General Committee that were reported to it in accordance with Rule 43(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference.

**6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – Appointment of the Credentials Committee**

In accordance with Rule 27 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference, on the recommendation of its Chairperson, **appointed** the following 10 members of the Credentials Committee to hold office until new members are appointed at the next regular session of the Conference: Cameroon, Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, Germany, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Switzerland, and Ukraine.

**7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Statement by the Director-General**

The Conference **noted** the opening statement by the Director-General (C-16/DG.18, dated 28 November 2011).

**8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – General debate**

The following delegations made statements during the general debate: Poland (on behalf of the European Union and associated countries), Cuba (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China), South Africa (on behalf of the African Group), India, Brazil, Namibia, Mexico, Belarus, Croatia, Iraq, Switzerland, Australia, the Russian Federation, New Zealand, Ukraine, Bahrain, China, Peru, Yemen, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Algeria, Pakistan, Japan, Saudi Arabia, the United States of America, Turkey, Lebanon, Serbia, Norway, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Israel (observer), Ecuador, Thailand, Sudan, Argentina, the Philippines, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Kenya, Colombia, Uruguay, the United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Bolivia, Libya, Canada, Tunisia, Cameroon, Qatar, and Sri Lanka.

**9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Status of implementation of the Convention**

**Subitem 9(a): Progress report on the implementation of the plan of action regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations**

- 9.1 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Fourteenth Session regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations (C-14/DEC.12, dated 4 December 2009), the Conference **considered** and **noted** the report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 29 July 2011: Article VII(1)(a) to (c) and Other Obligations” (EC-66/DG.7 C-16/DG.10, dated 29 August 2011); the report by the Director General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 29 July 2011: Further Obligations Pursuant to Article VII” (EC-66/DG.8 C-16/DG.11, dated 29 August 2011 and Corr.1, dated 4 November 2011); and the Note by the Director General on the “Overview of the Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 29 July 2011” (EC-66/DG.9 C-16/DG.12, dated 29 August 2011 and Corr.1, dated 4 November 2011).

**Subitem 9(b): Implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Technical Secretariat in 2010**

- 9.2 The Conference **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) in 2010 (EC-63/DG.7 C-16/DG.1, dated 26 January 2011).

**Subitem 9(c): Progress reports on destruction activities**

- 9.3 Pursuant to a decision by the Conference at its Eleventh Session (paragraph 9.12(b) of C-11/5, dated 8 December 2006), the Conference **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the progress made by those States Parties that have been granted extensions of deadlines for the destruction of their Category 1 chemical weapons (C-16/DG.16, dated 16 November 2011 and Corr.1, dated 23 November 2011).

**Subitem 9(d): Issues related to meeting the final extended deadline and other destruction-related issues**

- 9.4 Pursuant to a recommendation by the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) at its Thirty-First Meeting, the Conference **considered** and **adopted**, by voting, the decision regarding the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 (C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011), with the voting result of 101 for and one against the decision.
- 9.5 In this context, the Conference **recalls** paragraph 3.2 of the report of Thirty-First Meeting of the Council (EC-M-31/3, dated 2 December 2011), which reads as follows:

“Having considered the Draft Decision of the Conference regarding the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 submitted by the Chairperson of the Council (EC-M-31/DEC/CRP.2, dated 22 November 2011; hereinafter referred to as the “Draft Decision”), the Council, underlining the unequivocal commitment by Libya, the Russian Federation and the United States of America to their obligations under Articles I and IV of the Convention for the complete destruction of their remaining chemical weapons in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and with the application of the measures contained in the Draft Decision; emphasising that the Draft Decision is to be adopted on the basis of the powers and functions of the Conference to promote the object and purpose of the Convention, to oversee implementation, or to ensure compliance with the Convention’s provisions; emphasising that the Draft Decision does not provide for an open-ended timeline for the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons, and emphasising further that the plan submitted by each possessor State, which is to also be considered and noted by the Council at its Sixty-Eighth Session, is to specify the planned completion date by which the destruction of its remaining chemical weapons is to be completed, approved the Draft Decision and decided, pursuant to Rule 42 of its Rules of Procedure<sup>1</sup>, to transmit the Draft Decision to the Conference at its Sixteenth Session, together with its recommendation that the Draft Decision be adopted by the Conference (EC-M-31/DEC.3, dated 24 November 2011). In accordance with Rule 44 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, after the vote, a number of representatives explained their votes.”

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<sup>1</sup> The Draft Decision was approved with 39 votes for (Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Libya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America), and one vote against (Islamic Republic of Iran). One delegation was absent (Namibia).

9.6 The report by the Director-General on financial, administrative, and programme and budget implications of the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 (EC-M-31/DG.2 C-16/DG.17, dated 28 November 2011) had been circulated to the Member States.

9.7 The delegation of China referred to the destruction-related issue of particular interest to it on the territory of China.

The delegation of Japan stressed the particular role of the Council on this issue.

**Subitem 9(e): Extension of deadline for the destruction of Category 1 chemical weapon stockpiles**

9.8 The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the extension of the final deadline for the destruction by Libya of its Category 1 chemical weapons (C-16/DEC.3, dated 29 November 2011).

**Subitem 9(f): Implementation of Article X**

9.9 The Conference at its Fourteenth Session requested the Council to continue to deliberate, with a view to developing further measures for emergency assistance to Member States, including with regard to the victims of chemical weapons, as provided in Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), and to report back to the Conference at its Fifteenth Session (paragraph 9.11 of C-14/5, dated 4 December 2009).

9.10 The Conference at its Fifteenth Session requested the Council to continue its deliberations in this regard, by taking into account all proposals from the States Parties relevant to this issue that had been brought forward to the Conference at its Fifteenth Session and/or that had been received by the Council. The Conference noted the proposal by the Islamic Republic of Iran on the establishment of an “International Support Network for the Victims of Chemical Weapons” (C-15/NAT.2, dated 29 November 2010). The Conference requested the Council to report back to the Conference at its Sixteenth Session, along with any appropriate recommendations (paragraph 9.17 of C-15/5, dated 3 December 2010).

9.11 The Conference **considered** the text transmitted by the Council at its Thirty-First Meeting, through its Chairperson, and **adopted** a decision on the establishment of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons and on the establishment of a voluntary Trust Fund for this purpose (C-16/DEC.13, dated 2 December 2011).

**Subitem 9(g): Modalities for Schedule 2 facility agreements**

9.12 Pursuant to the recommendation by the Council at its Sixty-Sixth Session, the Conference **considered** the issue of modalities for Schedule 2 facility agreements as closed and not requiring any further action (C-16/DEC.4, dated 29 November 2011).

**10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2010**

The Conference **considered** and **approved** the report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2010 (C-16/4, dated 30 November 2011).

**11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Annual report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities in the period from 3 July 2010 to 15 July 2011**

The Conference **noted** the report of the Council on the performance of its activities in the period from 3 July 2010 to 15 July 2011 (EC-66/3 C-16/2, dated 5 October 2011). The report was introduced by the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Peter Goosen of South Africa, who also briefed the Conference on the developments that had taken place since the cut-off date for the report.

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

In accordance with paragraph 23 of Article VIII of the Convention, and with Rule 83 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference **elected** 20 members for the following elective places on the Council for a term of two years, starting on 12 May 2012:

Africa:	Algeria, Libya, South Africa, Sudan
Asia:	Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Pakistan, Qatar
Eastern Europe:	Czech Republic, Russian Federation, Ukraine
Latin America and the Caribbean:	Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru
Western Europe and Other States:	Belgium, Canada, Ireland, Norway, Portugal

**13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2012, submitted by the Executive Council, and all items pertaining to this Budget**

13.1 In accordance with subparagraph 21(a) of Article VIII of the Convention, and pursuant to Financial Regulation 3.6(a), the Conference **considered** and **adopted** the Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2012, which the Council had submitted to it (C-16/DEC.12, dated 2 December 2011).

13.2 The Medium-Term Plan for the period from 2012 to 2014 (EC-66/S/1 C-16/S/1, dated 8 July 2011 and Corr.1, dated 30 September 2011) had been circulated to the Member States, along with the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012.

**14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Scale of assessments to be paid by States Parties**

In accordance with paragraph 21(b) of Article VIII of the Convention, the Conference **adopted** the scale of assessments to be paid by States Parties for the financial year 2012 (C-16/DEC.15, dated 2 December 2011).

**15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – External Auditor’s report on the audited financial statements of the OPCW for 2010**

- 15.1 The Conference **noted** the financial statements of the OPCW and the report of the External Auditor for the year ending 31 December 2010 (EC-66/DG.1 C-16/DG.5, dated 21 June 2011), forwarded to it by the Council in accordance with Regulation 13.10 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules.
- 15.2 The Conference **noted** the Note by the Director-General entitled “New External Auditor of the OPCW” (C-16/DG.4, dated 20 June 2011).

**Renewal of appointment of the External Auditor of the OPCW**

- 15.3 The Conference **renewed** the appointment of Professor Dieter Engels as External Auditor of the OPCW for a term of three years, from 2012 to 2014 (C-16/DEC.5, dated 30 November 2011).

**16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Administrative and financial matters**

**Subitem 16(a): OPCW income and expenditure for the financial year to 30 June 2011; and the cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2011**

- 16.1 The Council at its Sixty-Sixth Session considered and forwarded to the Conference a report by the Director-General on OPCW income and expenditure for the financial year to 30 June 2011 (EC-66/DG.2 C-16/DG.6, dated 19 July 2011). The Conference **noted** this report.
- 16.2 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Fifteenth Session (subparagraph 3(q) of C-15/DEC.6, dated 2 December 2010), the Conference **noted** 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 2011 (EC-66/DG.12 C-16/DG.13, dated 15 September 2011).

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

- 16.3 Pursuant to a decision by the Conference at its Eleventh Session (C-11/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2006), the Conference **considered** and **noted** the report on the status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans (EC-66/DG.5 C-16/DG.9, dated 4 August 2011).
- 16.4 Pursuant to the same decision, the Conference **considered** and **approved** the proposal from Uzbekistan for a multi-year payment plan to regularise the payment of its outstanding annual contributions (C-16/DEC.6\*, dated 30 November 2011).



**Subitem 16(c): Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2010**

- 16.5 In accordance with Regulation 12.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, the Council at its Sixty-Fifth Session considered and forwarded to the Conference the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2010, and the accompanying Note by the Director-General (EC-64/DG.4 C-16/DG.3, dated 30 March 2011 and Corr.1, dated 11 April 2011). The Conference **noted** this report.

**Subitem 16(d): Transfers of funds between programmes in 2010**

- 16.6 In accordance with Regulation 4.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, all transfers between Budget programmes shall be reported to the Conference. The Conference **noted** the Note by the Director-General on this matter (EC-63/DG.9 C-16/DG.2, dated 4 February 2011).

**Subitem 16(e): Amendments to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the OPCW**

- 16.7 Pursuant to the recommendation by the Council at its Sixty-Sixth Session contained in the Note by the Director-General on proposed amendments to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the OPCW (EC-66/DG.4/Rev.1 C-16/DG.8/Rev.1, dated 14 September 2011), the Conference **approved** the proposals contained therein (C-16/DEC.7, dated 30 November 2011).

**Subitem 16(f): Recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and of losses of assets**

- 16.8 Pursuant to the recommendation by the Council at its Sixty-Sixth Session contained in the Note by the Director-General on the recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and of losses of assets, the Conference **approved** these write-offs, totalling EUR 125,630.88 (C-16/DEC.8, dated 30 November 2011).

**Subitem 16(g): Tenure policy of the OPCW**

- 16.9 Pursuant to the recommendation by the Council at its Thirty-First Meeting, the Conference **considered** and **adopted** the decision on the future implementation of the tenure policy of the OPCW (C-16/DEC.9, dated 30 November 2011).

**17. AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Fostering of international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities**

- 17.1 Pursuant to the recommendation by the Council at its Thirty-First Meeting, the Conference **considered** and **adopted** the decision on the components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of Article XI (C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011).

- 17.2 Pursuant to previous decisions of the Conference, and according to the outcome of the workshop on Article XI held in November 2010, the Conference **noted** the progress achieved at informal consultations to develop concrete measures within an agreed

framework to ensure the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI.

- 17.3 The Conference **welcomed** the decision (C-16/DEC.10) on Article XI of the Convention, that identified components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of this article, and **requested** the Council to continue its facilitation process in order to deliberate and explore as appropriate, additional measures within the agreed framework to ensure the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of Article XI.

**18. AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Ensuring the universality of the Convention**

- 18.1 The Conference at its Fourteenth Session decided to continue with the action plan for the universality of the Convention, and further decided that, at its Sixteenth Session, it should review the results and implementation of that plan and take any decision it deemed necessary, in particular in regard to addressing the status of those States not Party whose non-adherence was a cause for serious concern (paragraph 5 of C-14/DEC.7, dated 2 December 2009).

- 18.2 The Conference **noted** the annual report by the Director-General on the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention during the period from 16 September 2010 to 15 September 2011 (EC-66/DG.16 C-16/DG.15, dated 30 September 2011).

- 18.3 The Conference **considered** and **adopted** the decision on this matter (C-16/DEC.16, dated 2 December 2011).

**19. AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – The OPCW Programme for Africa**

The Conference **noted** the Note by the Director-General on the “Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention” (EC-66/DG.13 C-16/DG.14, dated 20 September 2011).

**20. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY – Reports of subsidiary bodies**

**Committee of the Whole**

- 20.1 The Conference **noted** that, during this session of the Conference, no items had been allocated to the Committee of the Whole.

**General Committee**

- 20.2 The Conference **noted** the reports of the General Committee, and took appropriate action as required.

**Confidentiality Commission**

- 20.3 The Conference **noted** the report of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Commission for the Settlement of Disputes Related to Confidentiality (CC-13/1, dated 1 June 2011).

### **Credentials Committee**

- 20.4 The report of the Credentials Committee was presented by its Chairperson, Ambassador Vesela Mrđen Korać of Croatia. The Chairperson reported orally that, following the close of the Credentials Committee meeting, copies of credentials were received from Madagascar and Mozambique. The Conference **noted** this additional information and **approved** the report as amended (C-16/3/Rev.1, dated 1 December 2011).

### **Committee on Relations with the Host Country**

- 20.5 The Conference **considered** and **noted** a report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country on the performance of its activities from October 2010 to September 2011 (EC-66/HCC/1 C-16/HCC/1, dated 4 October 2011).

## **21. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-ONE – Any other business**

### **Establishment of an open-ended working group for preparations for the Third Review Conference**

- 21.1 The Conference **recommended** that the Council establish an open-ended working group to begin preparations, in cooperation with the Secretariat, for the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Third Review Conference”), which will be convened in accordance with paragraph 22 of Article VIII of the Convention.

### **Dates and duration of the Third Review Conference and of the next regular sessions of the Conference of the States Parties**

- 21.2 The Conference at its Twelfth Session decided to hold its Seventeenth Session from 26 to 30 November 2012 (paragraph 22.2 of C-12/7). The Conference **approved** the following dates for the Third Review Conference and for the next regular sessions of the Conference:

Third Review Conference: from 8 to 19 April 2013;

Eighteenth Session: from 2 to 6 December 2013;

Nineteenth Session: from 1 to 5 December 2014;

Twentieth Session: from 30 November to 4 December 2015;

Twenty-First Session: from 28 November to 2 December 2016; and

Twenty-Second Session: from 27 November to 1 December 2017.

- 21.3 The Conference **authorised** the Director-General to conclude appropriate agreements with the World Forum Convention Center, thus ensuring the availability of conference facilities on these dates, while maintaining the flexibility to make necessary adjustments, if so required.

**Amendment of Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the States Parties**

21.4 The Conference **considered** and **approved** the amendment of Rule 54 of the “Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the States Parties” (C-16/DEC.14, dated 2 December 2011, as amended).

**22. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-TWO – Adoption of the report of the Conference of the States Parties**

The Conference **considered** and **adopted** the report of its Sixteenth Session.

**23. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-THREE – Closure**

The Chairperson closed the Sixteenth Session of the Conference at 20:12 on 2 December 2011.

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