



### REPORT OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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

The Chairperson of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”), Ambassador Jana Reinišová of the Czech Republic, opened its Eighty-Eighth Session in The Hague at 10:09 on 10 July 2018.

#### 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 Chemical Weapons 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) Elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme
  - (d) Other verification-related issues
  - (e) Facility agreements
  - (f) Verification Implementation Report for 2017
  - (g) Technical Secretariat’s activities: update on the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria
  - (h) Timely submission of declarations under Article VI



- (i) Article VII: briefings by the facilitator and by the Technical Secretariat
  - (j) The content of the assistance and protection data bank and its use
  - (k) Article X: briefings by the facilitator and by the Technical Secretariat
  - (l) Article XI: briefings by the facilitator and by the Technical Secretariat
  - (m) Report by the Director-General on the Technical Secretariat's readiness to conduct a challenge inspection or an investigation of alleged use
7. OPCW Central Analytical Database
  8. Report of the Scientific Advisory Board
  9. Countering chemical terrorism
  10. Draft annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2017
  11. Reports of the Office of Internal Oversight:
    - (a) Implementation in 2017 of the recommendations contained in the 2016 annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight
    - (b) Annual Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017
  12. Administrative and financial matters:
    - (a) Report of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
    - (b) Nominations for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
    - (c) Transfers of funds during 2017
    - (d) Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise resource planning system
    - (e) Composition of the Technical Secretariat
    - (f) Report by the Director-General on the implementation of the tenure policy in 2017
  13. Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference<sup>1</sup>

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

14. Credentials of representatives of the members of the Executive Council
15. Provisional agenda for the Twenty-Third Session of the Conference of the States Parties
16. Dates for the regular sessions of the Executive Council in 2019
17. Briefing by the Co-Chairpersons of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities of the OPCW
18. Briefing by the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference<sup>2</sup>
19. Any other business
20. Adoption of the report
21. Closure

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

The Council **noted** the opening statement by the Director-General (EC-88/DG.22, dated 10 July 2018).

**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 Yun-young Lee of the Republic of Korea on chemical weapons issues, Mr Wolfgang Rechenhofer of Germany on behalf of Ambassador Paul van den IJssel of the Netherlands on chemical industry and other Article VI issues, Ambassador Gladys Marithza Ruíz Sánchez de Vielman of Guatemala on administrative and financial issues, and Ambassador Oji Nyimenuate Ngofa of Nigeria on legal, organisational, and other issues. The Chairperson also reported on her own activities during the intersessional period.
- 4.2 The Council **welcomed** the appointment of H.E. Ambassador Oji Nyimenuate Ngofa of Nigeria as Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T) and Mr Hassan Zeran of Chile as the new facilitator for the OPCW Programme and Budget.

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

## 5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – General debate

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

## 6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – Status of implementation of the Chemical Weapons 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-88/DG.20, dated 2 July 2018).
- 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-88/DG.9, dated 6 July 2018).

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

- 6.3 The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) briefed the Council on its destruction-related verification activities.
- 6.4 The United States of America, Japan, and China briefed the Council on their destruction-related activities.
- 6.5 The Council **took note** of the additional information provided by the delegation of the Netherlands on its destruction-related verification activities (EC-88/NAT.5, dated 11 July 2018).
- 6.6 The Council **noted** the statements and comments made by States Parties on the destruction of the only remaining declared chemical weapons by the sole possessor State Party, 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 only remaining declared chemical weapons by the sole possessor State Party should continue in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and its Annex on Implementation

and Verification (hereinafter “the Verification Annex”) 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 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-88/NAT.3, dated 18 June 2018), 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.
- 6.8 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6) and the destruction plan beyond the year 2016 for the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China (EC-84/NAT.6, dated 2 March 2017) attached as Annex 2 to Council decision EC-67/DEC.6, and adopted by the Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session (paragraph 6.14 of EC-84/2, dated 9 March 2017), a national paper by China (EC-88/NAT.4, dated 28 June 2018) and a national paper by Japan (EC-88/NAT.2, dated 18 June 2018) 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. The Council **recalled** 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 chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China as early as possible in accordance with the Council’s decision (EC-67/DEC.6) and its Annex 2 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.
- 6.9 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 chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China.
- 6.10 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).

**Subitem 6(c): Elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme**

- 6.11 Further to its decision at its Eighty-Third Session (EC-83/DEC.5, dated 11 November 2016), the Council decided to place “Elimination of the Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme” on the agenda of all future Council sessions until the Council determines that all elements of the Syrian chemical weapons programme have been eliminated.
- 6.12 The Council **noted** four Notes by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme (EC-88/DG.1, dated 23 March 2018; EC-88/DG.3, dated 24 April 2018; EC-88/DG.8, dated 24 May 2018; and EC-88/DG.16, dated 22 June 2018).
- 6.13 The Council **noted** four national papers by the Syrian Arab Republic on the activities related to the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and their production facilities (EC-88/P/NAT.1, dated 21 March 2018; EC-88/P/NAT.2, dated 18 April 2018; EC-88/P/NAT.3, dated 22 May 2018; and EC-88/P/NAT.4, dated 20 June 2018).
- 6.14 Pursuant to decision EC-83/DEC.5, the Director-General shall report to the Council at all future sessions. The Council **noted** a report by the Director-General entitled “Status of Implementation of Executive Council Decision EC-83/DEC.5 (dated 11 November 2016)” (EC-88/DG.13, dated 14 June 2018).
- 6.15 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General entitled “Report on the Work of the Declaration Assessment Team” (EC-88/HP/DG.2, dated 28 June 2018).
- 6.16 The Director-General informed the Council that the Secretariat had received a response to his letter dated 10 April 2018 regarding clarifications on certain aspects of the Syrian Arab Republic’s declaration. This response is being examined by the Declaration Assessment Team.

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

- 6.17 The Secretariat briefed the Council on its other verification-related activities.
- 6.18 Further to the decision of the Council at its Sixty-Sixth Session on the policy guidelines for determining the number of Article VI inspections (EC-66/DEC.10, dated 7 October 2011), the Council **noted** a report by the Director-General on the results of the sixth year of implementation of these policy guidelines (EC-88/DG.2, dated 10 April 2018).

**Subitem 6(e): Facility agreements**

- 6.19 The Secretariat submitted to the Council a Note on amendments, modifications, and updates to the facility arrangement with Japan regarding on-site inspections at a Schedule 1 facility for protective purposes (EC-88/S/1, dated 14 May 2018).
- 6.20 Proposed amendments to the aforementioned facility arrangement had been submitted separately to the Council, which **considered** and **approved** them (EC-88/DEC.1 and EC-88/HP/DEC.1, both dated 11 July 2018).

- 6.21 The Secretariat submitted to the Council a Note on amendments to the facility agreement with Slovakia regarding on-site inspections at a Schedule 1 facility for protective purposes (EC-88/S/2, dated 30 May 2018).
- 6.22 Proposed amendments to the aforementioned facility agreement had been submitted separately to the Council, which **considered** and **approved** them (EC-88/DEC.2 and EC-88/P/DEC.2, both dated 11 July 2018).
- 6.23 The Secretariat had also submitted a Note on modifications to the facility agreement with the United States of America regarding on-site inspections at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Explosive Destruction System Chemical-Weapons Destruction Facility Pueblo, Colorado, the United States of America (EC-88/S/6, dated 2 July 2018).

**Subitem 6(f): Verification Implementation Report for 2017**

- 6.24 The Council **considered** and **noted** the Verification Implementation Report for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017 (EC-88/HP/DG.1, dated 16 May 2018 and Corr.1, dated 3 July 2018). The Council **noted** the Chairperson's summary of the informal consultations on it (EC-88/2, dated 28 June 2018).

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

- 6.25 The Secretariat circulated the "Report of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria regarding Alleged Incidents in Ltamenah, the Syrian Arab Republic, 24 and 25 March 2017" (S/1636/2018\*, dated 13 June 2018).
- 6.26 The Secretariat circulated the "Interim Report of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria Regarding the Incident of Alleged Use of Toxic Chemicals as a Weapon in Douma, Syrian Arab Republic, on 7 April 2018" (S/1645/2018, dated 6 July 2018 and Corr. 1, dated 10 July 2018).
- 6.27 The Secretariat circulated the "Report of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria Regarding the Incidents in Al-Hamadaniyah on 30 October 2016 and in Karm Al-Tarrab on 13 November 2016" (S/1642/2018, dated 2 July 2018).
- 6.28 The Director-General and the Secretariat briefed the Council on the above-mentioned reports of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria and responded to questions. The Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Belarus (observer), and the Syrian Arab Republic (observer) submitted questions to the Secretariat and the Director-General indicated that the Secretariat would provide written responses to those questions submitted in writing.
- 6.29 The following delegations took part in the discussion under this agenda item: the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (observer), the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), Belarus (observer), France, the United States of America, and Canada.

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

- 6.30 Further to a decision by the Council at its Fifty-First Session (EC-51/DEC.1, dated 27 November 2007), the Council **noted** a status report by the Director-General on the timely submission by States Parties of declarations under Article VI of the Convention for the period from 1 January to 31 May 2018 (EC-88/DG.14, dated 20 June 2018).

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

- 6.31 The facilitator for this issue, Mr Stefano Dell'Aquila of Italy, reported on the consultations carried out during the intersessional period.
- 6.32 The Secretariat made a presentation on the status of implementation of Article VII.

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

- 6.33 The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Secretariat on the content of the assistance and protection data bank and its use (EC-88/S/5, dated 14 June 2018).

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

- 6.34 The facilitator for this issue, Mr Martin Pizinger of the Czech Republic, reported on the consultations carried out during the intersessional period.
- 6.35 The Secretariat made a presentation on the status of implementation of Article X.

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

- 6.36 The facilitator for this issue, Ms Kani Shareef of Iraq, reported on the consultations carried out during the intersessional period.
- 6.37 The Secretariat made a presentation on the programme of activities for 2018 in relation to Article XI.
- 6.38 The Council **encouraged** the States Parties and the Secretariat to continue discussions in existing bodies, including the facilitation process and the future Review and Evaluation Workshops on Article XI in order to advance the development of concrete measures to enhance the implementation of this Article.
- 6.39 The Council **expressed appreciation** for the work and efforts of the Secretariat to support the implementation of Article XI, and its collaboration with the States Parties and the facilitator.
- 6.40 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: Cuba (observer) and the Islamic Republic of Iran.



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

6.41 The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General reporting on the readiness of the Secretariat to conduct a challenge inspection or an investigation of alleged use (EC-88/DG.19, dated 29 June 2018).

**7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – OPCW Central Analytical Database**

7.1 The Council **considered** a Note by the Director-General on the lists of newly validated data on non-scheduled chemicals relevant to the Convention for approval by the Council for inclusion in the OPCW Central Analytical Database (EC-88/DG.12, dated 6 June 2018) and **adopted** a decision on the matter (EC-88/DEC.4, dated 12 July 2018).

7.2 The Council **also considered** a Note by the Director-General on the lists of newly validated data on scheduled chemicals for approval by the Council for inclusion in the OPCW Central Analytical Database (EC-88/DG.11, dated 6 June 2018 and Corr.1, dated 3 July 2018) and **adopted** a decision on the matter (EC-88/DEC.3, dated 12 July 2018).

**8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Report of the Scientific Advisory Board**

8.1 The report of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB-27/1, dated 23 March 2018) was circulated to the members of the Council.

8.2 The Council **noted** the response by the Director-General to the report of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Scientific Advisory Board (EC-88/DG.5, dated 9 May 2018).

**9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Countering chemical terrorism**

9.1 The Chairperson of the OEWG-T, Ambassador Oji Nyimenuate Ngofa of Nigeria, briefed the Council on the work of the OEWG during the intersessional period.

9.2 The Council **expressed appreciation** for the report provided by the Chairperson of the OEWG-T. 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-88/WP.1, dated 3 July 2018).

9.3 The delegation of Germany informed the Council about an ongoing investigation in Germany in a case of alleged chemical terrorism.

**10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Draft annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2017**

The Council **considered** the “Draft Report of the OPCW on the Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction in 2017” (EC-88/3 C-23/CRP.1,

dated 12 July 2018), and **forwarded** it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Third Session. The Council **requested** the Secretariat to post this document on the OPCW external website, clearly indicating that it had yet to be considered and approved by the Conference.

## **11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Reports of the Office of Internal Oversight**

### **Subitem 11(a): Implementation in 2017 of the recommendations contained in the 2016 annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight**

- 11.1 The Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the implementation in 2017 of the recommendations contained in the 2016 annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight (OIO) (EC-88/DG.10, dated 1 June 2018).
- 11.2 The facilitator for this issue, Ms Bettina Gorczynski of the United States of America, reported on the consultations held during the intersessional period.

### **Subitem 11(b): Annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017**

- 11.3 The Council **considered** and **noted** the annual report of the OIO for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017 (EC-88/DG.6 C-23/DG.3, dated 16 May 2018), which the Director-General has submitted to it, along with his comments.
- 11.4 In accordance with Financial Regulation 12.5, the Director-General transmitted the report, along with his own comments and any other comments made by the Council, to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Third Session.

## **12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Administrative and financial matters**

### **Subitem 12(a): Report of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters**

- 12.1 The Council **considered** and **noted** the report of the Forty-Fourth Session of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF), which took place from 5 to 8 June 2018 (ABAF-44/1, dated 8 June 2018 and Corr.1, dated 10 July 2018), and a Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-88/DG.18, dated 28 June 2018).

### **Subitem 12(b): Nominations for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters**

- 12.2 The Council **noted** a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-88/S/3, dated 8 June 2018) and **appointed** Mr Milan Kerber of the Czech Republic for a fourth term with the ABAF, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Mr Kerber (29 May 2018).
- 12.3 The Council **also noted** a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-88/S/4, dated 8 June 2018), and **appointed** Ms Qian Wang of China, replacing Mr Zhongkun Hu, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Ms Qian Wang (25 May 2018).

**Subitem 12(c): Transfers of funds during 2017**

- 12.4 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 2017 (EC-87/DG.13 C-23/DG.2, dated 15 February 2018).

**Subitem 12(d): Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise resource planning system**

- 12.5 Further to the decision by the Conference at its Nineteenth Session on the implementation on 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-88/DG.17, dated 25 June 2018).

**Subitem 12(e): Composition of the Technical Secretariat**

- 12.6 The Council **noted** the Director-General's annual report on the composition of the Secretariat (EC-88/DG.7, dated 22 May 2018).

**Subitem 12(f): Report by the Director-General on the implementation of the tenure policy in 2017**

- 12.7 The Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the tenure policy in 2017 (EC-88/DG.4, dated 7 May 2018).

**13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference**

At its Seventy-Third Session, 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" (paragraph 13.1 of EC-73/6, dated 19 July 2013), which the Council **considered** and **noted** (EC-86/S/6/Add.2, dated 28 June 2018).

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

The Council **considered** and **approved** a report by the Director-General on the credentials of representatives of members of the Council, which covers the credentials of the newly elected members of the Council (EC-88/DG.21, dated 5 July 2018).

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

The Council **drew up** the provisional agenda for the Twenty-Third Session of the Conference (EC-88/DG.15, dated 21 June 2018).

**16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Dates for the regular sessions of the Executive Council in 2019**

The Council **decided** that the Ninetieth Session of the Council shall be held from 12 to 15 March 2019, that the Ninety-First Session of the Council shall be held from 9 to 12 July 2019, and that the Ninety-Second Session of the Council shall be held from 8 to 11 October 2019.

**17. AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Briefing by the Co-Chairpersons of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities of the OPCW**

Pursuant to the decision of the Council on the establishment of an OEWG on the Future Priorities of the OPCW (OEWG-FP) (EC-82/DEC.2, dated 14 July 2016), the Co-Chairpersons of the OEWG-FP, Ambassador Sabine Nölke of Canada and Ambassador Vusi Bruce Koloane of South Africa, were requested to keep the policy-making organs informed of their work. Ambassador Sabine Nölke of Canada reported on behalf of the Co-Chairpersons to the Council on the progress achieved.

**18. AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Briefing by the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference**

18.1 The Conference at its Twenty-Second Session established an open-ended working group to begin preparations, in cooperation with the Secretariat, for the Fourth Review Conference, which will be convened in accordance with paragraph 22 of Article VIII of the Convention (paragraph 25.2 of C-22/5\*, dated 1 December 2017).

18.2 The Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference (OEWG-RC), Ambassador I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja of Indonesia, briefed the Council on the activities of the OEWG-RC.

**19. AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – Any other business**

The Director-General designate, H.E. Ambassador Fernando Arias, addressed the Council under this agenda item.

**20. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY – Adoption of the report**

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

**21. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-ONE – Closure**

The Chairperson closed the session at 16:45 on 12 July 2018.