



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Twenty-Third Session
19, 20 and 29 November 2018

C-23/5
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**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-THIRD SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES
19, 20 AND 29 NOVEMBER 2018**

1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

1.1 The Twenty-Third Session of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) was opened at 10:14 on 19 November 2018 by the Chairperson of the Conference for its Twenty-Second Session, Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki of Morocco in the King Willem Alexander Theater in the World Forum.

1.2 The following 160 States Parties participated in the Twenty-Third Session: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, the Comoros, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, the Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, the Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.



- 1.3 In accordance with Rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the following signatory State participated in this session of the Conference as an observer: Israel.
- 1.4 In accordance with Rule 30 of the Rules of Procedure, and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-23/DEC.1, dated 19 November 2018), the following non-signatory State was accorded observer status: South Sudan.
- 1.5 In accordance with Rules 31 and 32 of the Rules of Procedure, and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-23/DEC.2, dated 19 November 2018), six international organisations, specialised agencies, and other international bodies attended the Twenty-Third Session.
- 1.6 In accordance with the recommendations of 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”) (RC-3/3*, dated 19 April 2013), and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-23/DEC.3, dated 19 November 2018), the Conference **invited** representatives of the global chemical industry and scientific community to attend the Twenty-Third Session.
- 1.7 In accordance with Rule 33 of these Rules of Procedure, and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-23/DEC.4, dated 19 November 2018), 75 non-governmental organisations were **invited** to attend the Twenty-Third Session.

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 Yun-young Lee of the Republic of Korea, 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: Bangladesh, Burundi, Ecuador, Indonesia, Ireland, Kenya, Norway, Panama, the Russian Federation, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
- 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 Sophia Horner-Sam of Ghana, 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 Twenty-Third Session was circulated under cover of C-23/1, dated 11 July 2018.

4.2 The Conference approved the following agenda for its Twenty-Third 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 – Status of implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention

AGENDA ITEM NINE – Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2017

AGENDA ITEM TEN – Annual Report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 15 July 2017 to 12 July 2018

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

AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2019, submitted by the Executive Council, and all items pertaining to this Budget

AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Scale of assessments for 2019

AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – External Auditor's report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2017

AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – Administrative and financial matters

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

AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Ensuring the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention

AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – The OPCW Programme for Africa

AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – Engagement with the chemical industry and the scientific community

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY – Reports of subsidiary bodies

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-ONE – Follow-up to the Third Review Conference

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-TWO – Any other business

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

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FOUR – 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: Angola, Colombia, Ghana, Japan, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

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

The Conference **noted** the opening statement made by the Director-General (C-23/DG.18, and C-23/DG.19, both dated 19 November 2018).

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Status of implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention

Subitem 8(a): Progress report on the implementation of the plan of action regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations

- 8.1 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** 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 2018” (EC-89/DG.9 C-23/DG.8, dated 24 August 2018); a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2018: Article VII – Initial Measures” (EC-89/DG.7 C-23/DG.6, dated 24 August 2018); and a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2018: Additional Measures for States Parties that Possess Industrial Facilities Which Are Declarable Under the Convention” (EC-89/DG.8 C-23/DG.7, dated 24 August 2018).

Subitem 8(b): Implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Technical Secretariat in 2017

- 8.2 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 Secretariat in 2017 (EC-87/DG.12 C-23/DG.1, dated 12 February 2018).

Subitem 8(c): Implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues

- 8.3 The Conference **noted** that, at its Sixteenth Session, it had adopted a decision on the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 (C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011). The Conference **expressed its concern** regarding the Director-General's statement in his report to the Sixty-Eighth Session of the Executive Council (hereinafter "the Council"), provided in accordance with paragraph 2 of C-16/DEC.11, that "three possessor States Parties, namely Libya, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America, have been unable to fully meet the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 for the destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles" (EC-68/DG.9, dated 1 May 2012). The Conference **noted further** that the measures that had been identified in paragraph 3 of its decision (C-16/DEC.11) were now being implemented.
- 8.4 The Conference **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 Convention, and relevant decisions by the Conference and the Council. The Conference **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 Verification Annex and with the application of the measures contained in decision C-16/DEC.11.
- 8.5 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (subparagraph 3(g) of C-16/DEC.11), the Director-General provided an annual written report to the Conference on the overall progress with respect to the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles (C-23/DG.15, dated 14 November 2018), based on the independent information that is received by the Secretariat from the Organisation's inspectors undertaking verification in accordance with Part IV(A) D of the Verification Annex, which included information on:
- (i) The progress achieved to meet the planned completion date(s).
 - (ii) The effectiveness of any specific measures that have been undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes.
- 8.6 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the United States of America provided an annual report (C-23/NAT.1, dated 8 November 2018), and an annual briefing, on the progress in the destruction of its remaining stockpiles of chemical weapons, including on any specific measures undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes and information on the projected schedule for destruction activities to meet the planned completion date, which were **considered** and **noted** by the Conference, along with comments on the issue as mentioned above. The Conference **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.

- 8.7 Pursuant to the above-mentioned decision at its Sixteenth Session (subparagraph 3(f) of C-16/DEC.11), the Conference **undertook** an annual review of the implementation of this decision at a specially designated meeting of the Conference. In furtherance of the implementation of subparagraphs 3(d), 3(f), and 3(h) of its decision C-16/DEC.11, the Conference **encouraged** the possessor State Party concerned to include confirmation in the required reporting to the Council and the Conference that it remains on schedule to complete destruction activities by its planned completion date.
- 8.8 The Conference **welcomed** the Council's decision at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012) 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 its Annex 2 adopted by the Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session, bearing in mind that the destruction progress was less than expected in the previous destruction plan attached to the decision "The Deadline of 29 April 2012 and Future Destruction of the Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People's Republic of China" (EC-67/DEC.6), and **encouraged** continued cooperation between China and Japan in the implementation of EC-67/DEC.6.
- 8.9 The Conference **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 abandoned chemical weapons as soon 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 Conference **reaffirmed** that the Territorial State Party shall provide appropriate cooperation.
- 8.10 The Conference **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 expedited destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China.
- 8.11 The Conference **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*), 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 8(d): Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use

- 8.12 In accordance with the decision adopted by the Conference at its Fourth Special Session entitled "Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons

Use” (C-SS-4/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2018), the Director-General circulated Notes entitled “Report Pursuant to Paragraph 20 of Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 (dated 27 June 2018) on Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use” (C-23/DG.17, dated 15 November 2018) and “Report on Proposals and Options Pursuant to Paragraph 21 of Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2018, on Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use” (C-23/DG.16 RC-4/DG.4, dated 15 November 2018).

- 8.13 China and the Russian Federation submitted a draft decision entitled “Preserving the Integrity of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons” (C-23/DEC/CRP.14, dated 16 November 2018).
- 8.14 The following delegations made statements on this agenda item: the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, China, the United States of America, Canada, the Syrian Arab Republic, Colombia, Cuba, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Netherlands, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Pakistan, Mexico, and Bulgaria. Diverse views with regard to the substance of the draft decision were expressed.
- 8.15 Kyrgyzstan presented a joint statement entitled “Strengthening the Chemical Weapons Convention and Depoliticization of the OPCW” on behalf of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan).
- 8.16 Under Rule 69 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the draft decision submitted by China and the Russian Federation (C-23/DEC/CRP.14) was voted on. The vote led to the following result: 30 for (Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, China, Comoros, the Congo, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, South Africa, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, and Zimbabwe); 82 against (Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guyana, the Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, and Vanuatu); and 31 abstentions (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Libya, Malaysia, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, the Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, and Uganda). In light of that result, the draft decision was not adopted. The following

delegations explained their vote: Belarus, Viet Nam, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, India, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and Algeria.

9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2017

The Conference **considered** and **approved** the draft report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2017 (C-23/4, dated 19 November 2018), which was considered and forwarded to it by the Council at its Eighty-Eighth Session.

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Annual report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 15 July 2017 to 12 July 2018

The Conference **noted** the report of the Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 15 July 2017 to 12 July 2018, its Attachment entitled “Note by the Technical Secretariat: The Destruction of Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People’s Republic of China”, and its Annex entitled “Actions Taken by the Conference of the States Parties at Its Twenty-Second Session in Response to Recommendations Made by the Executive Council” (EC-89/4 C-23/2, dated 11 October 2018). The report was introduced by the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Jana Reinišová of the Czech Republic, who also briefed the Conference on any developments that had taken place since the cut-off date for the report.

11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – 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 the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Conference **elected** 21 members to serve on the Council for a term of two years, starting on 12 May 2019. To ensure that the Council is constituted in accordance with paragraph 23 of Article VIII, the regional distribution of the elective places to be filled is to be as follows:

Africa:	Cameroon, Kenya, Morocco, Senegal, the Sudan
Asia:	Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia
Eastern Europe:	Bulgaria, Romania
Latin America and the Caribbean:	Argentina, Brazil, Mexico
Western Europe and other States:	France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2019, submitted by the Executive Council, and all items pertaining to this Budget

12.1 The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation submitted three amendments to the draft decision on the OPCW Draft Programme and Budget for 2019 (C-23/DEC/CRP.16, dated 18 November 2018) in order to ensure its

compliance, consistent with their national positions, with the traditional principle of “zero nominal growth”. Under Rule 76 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, “Amendment 1” was voted on. The vote led to the following result: 29 for (Angola, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, China, Comoros, the Congo, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, South Africa, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, and Zimbabwe; 85 against (Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, the Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), the United States of America, Uruguay, and Vanuatu); and 31 abstentions (Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Libya, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, the Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Thailand, Tunisia, and Uganda). In light of that result, “Amendment 1” was not adopted.

- 12.2 Under Rule 76 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, “Amendment 2” was voted on. The vote led to the following result: 27 for (Angola, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, China, Comoros, the Congo, Cuba, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, South Africa, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), and Zimbabwe); 86 against (Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, the Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, and Vanuatu); and 30 abstentions (Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia,

Ghana, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Libya, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, the Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, and Viet Nam). In light of that result, “Amendment 2” was not adopted.

12.3 Under Rule 76 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, “Amendment 3” was voted on. The vote led to the following result: 27 for (Angola, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, China, Comoros, the Congo, Cuba, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, South Africa, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), and Zimbabwe); 86 against (Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, the Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, and Vanuatu); and 30 abstentions (Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Libya, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, the Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, and Viet Nam). In light of that result, “Amendment 3” was not adopted.

12.4 Under Rule 69 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the draft decision on the OPCW Draft Programme and Budget for 2019 (C-23/DEC/CRP.8, dated 9 November 2018) was voted on. The vote led to the following result: 99 for (Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, the Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, and Viet Nam); 27 against (Angola, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, China, Comoros, the Congo, Cuba, Guatemala, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People’s

Democratic Republic, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, South Africa, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), and Zimbabwe); and 18 abstentions (Afghanistan, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, India, Iraq, Jordan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Suriname, and Uganda). In light of that result, the decision was **adopted** (C-23/DEC.10, dated 20 November 2018).

- 12.5 The following delegations explained their vote: Peru, Bangladesh, Brazil, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Algeria, Indonesia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Viet Nam, Guatemala, Thailand, India, Singapore, the Sudan, Chile, and Cuba.

13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Scale of assessments for 2019

In accordance with Financial Regulation 3.6(b), the Conference **adopted** a decision on the scale of assessments to be paid by States Parties for the financial year 2019 (C-23/DEC.14, dated 20 November 2018). The Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement under this agenda item.

14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – External Auditor’s report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2017

The Conference **noted** the Financial Statements of the OPCW and the report of the External Auditor for the year ending 31 December 2017 (EC-89/DG.3 C-23/DG.4, dated 7 August 2018), forwarded to it by the Council in accordance with Regulation 13.10 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules.

15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – Administrative and financial matters

Subitem 15(a): Cash surplus for 2016

- 15.1 Under Rule 69 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the draft decision on the cash surplus for 2016 (C-23/DEC/CRP.10, dated 9 November 2018) was voted on. The vote led to the following result: 97 for (Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, the Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, and Vanuatu); 25 against (Angola, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, China, Comoros, the Congo, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan,

the Russian Federation, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), and Zimbabwe); and 22 abstentions (Afghanistan, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, India, Iraq, Jordan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, Uganda, and Viet Nam). In light of that result, the decision was **adopted** (C-23/DEC.11, dated 20 November 2018). The following delegations explained their vote: the Russian Federation, China, the Syrian Arab Republic, Peru, and Bangladesh. The Russian delegation made a statement that if its share of cash surplus is not credited as part of Russia's regular contribution to the OPCW for 2019 it reserves the right to unilaterally withhold the corresponding amount from its regular contribution.

Subitem 15(b): Establishment of a special fund for cybersecurity, business continuity, and physical infrastructure security

- 15.2 The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the establishment of a Special Fund for Cybersecurity, Business Continuity, and Physical Infrastructure Security (C-23/DEC.12, dated 20 November 2018).

Subitem 15(c): Establishment of a special fund for IT infrastructure to support the implementation of C-SS-4/DEC.3

- 15.3 Under Rule 69 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the draft decision on the establishment of a Special Fund for IT Infrastructure to Support the Implementation of Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 (C-23/DEC/CRP.12, dated 9 November 2018) was voted on.
- 15.4 The vote led to the following result: 94 for (Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brunei-Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, the Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, and Vanuatu); 26 against (Angola, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, China, Comoros, the Congo, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, South Africa, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), and Zimbabwe); and 23 abstentions (Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, India, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka,

Suriname, Thailand, Uganda, and Viet Nam). In light of that result, the decision was **adopted** (C-23/DEC.13, dated 20 November 2018).

Subitem 15(d): Submission of the 2018 Financial Statements to the External Auditor

- 15.5 At its Eighty-Ninth Session, the Council adopted a decision on the submission of the 2018 OPCW Financial Statements to the External Auditor (Financial Rule 11.1.02) (EC-89/DEC.1, dated 11 October 2018) and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Third Session. The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-23/DEC.5, dated 19 November 2018).

Subitem 15(e): Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions

- 15.6 At its Eighty-Ninth Session and in accordance with 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-89/DEC.2, dated 11 October 2018), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Third Session. The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-23/DEC.6, dated 19 November 2018).

Subitem 15(f): Status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions

- 15.7 At its Eleventh Session, the Conference adopted a decision (C-11/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2006) on a mechanism to encourage States Parties that are in arrears to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions through the use of multi-year payment plans, requesting the Secretariat to submit a report to it each year, through the Council, on the status of implementation of agreed multi-year payment plans as at the end of the quarter that falls immediately before the session of the Council that precedes the session of the Conference.
- 15.8 The Conference **considered** and **noted** the report that the Council, at its Eighty-Ninth Session, considered and forwarded to it pursuant to the above-mentioned decision (EC-89/DG.6 C-23/DG.5, dated 23 August 2018).
- 15.9 The Conference **considered** and **approved** the multi-year payment plan submitted by El Salvador to regularise the payment of its outstanding annual contributions (C-23/DEC.7, dated 19 November 2018).

Subitem 15(g): Charter of the Office of Internal Oversight

- 15.10 At its Eighty-Ninth Session, the Council noted a Note by the Director-General on the Charter of the Office of Internal Oversight (EC-89/DG.26, dated 28 September 2018). The Director-General transmitted the Charter, along with his own comments and any other comments made by the Council, to the Conference for consideration and approval at its Twenty-Third Session. The Conference **considered** and **adopted** the decision (C-23/DEC.8, dated 19 November 2018).

Subitem 15(h): Amendments to the Staff Regulations of the OPCW

- 15.11 The Council at its Eighty-Ninth Session noted a Note by the Director-General on proposed amendments to the Staff Regulations of the OPCW (EC-89/DG.19, dated 14 September 2018), considered and adopted a corresponding decision on the matter (EC-89/DEC.4, dated 11 October 2018), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Third Session. The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-23/DEC.9, dated 19 November 2018).

Subitem 15(i): Cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2018

- 15.12 At its Eighty-Ninth Session, the Council considered and forwarded to the Conference at its Twenty-Third 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 2018 (EC-89/DG.23 C-23/DG.13, dated 21 September 2018). The Conference **noted** this Note.

Subitem 15(j): Transfers of funds during 2017

- 15.13 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** a Note by the Director-General on this matter (EC-87/DG.13 C-23/DG.2, dated 15 February 2018).

Subitem 15(k): Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2017

- 15.14 In accordance with Regulation 12.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, the Council at its Eighty-Eighth 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 2017, and the accompanying Note by the Director-General (EC-88/DG.6 C-23/DG.3, dated 16 May 2018). The Conference **noted** this report.

16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Fostering of international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities

- 16.1 The Conference at its Sixteenth Session adopted a decision regarding components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of Article XI of the Convention (C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011), and requested the Secretariat to report to the Conference at each annual session on the progress of concrete measures undertaken in implementing the decision, and on the status of implementation of Article XI.
- 16.2 The Conference **noted** a report by the Director-General on the progress made and review of the status of implementation of Article XI of the Convention for the period from 26 August 2017 to 25 August 2018 (EC-89/DG.20 C-23/DG.11, dated 14 September 2018).
- 16.3 The Conference **received** an oral report by the facilitator, Mr Junaid Sadiq of Pakistan, on activities held during the intersessional period.

16.4 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: the Islamic Republic of Iran, Cuba, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

17. AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Ensuring the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention

17.1 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.

17.2 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 August 2017 to 15 August 2018 (EC-89/DG.12 C-23/DG.9, dated 3 September 2018).

17.3 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: the State of Palestine and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

18. AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – The OPCW Programme for Africa

The Conference **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (EC-89/DG.14 C-23/DG.10, dated 5 September 2018).

19. AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – Engagement with the chemical industry and the scientific community

The Conference **noted** a Note by the Director-General on engaging the chemical industry associations (C-23/DG.14, dated 13 November 2018).

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 Twentieth Meeting of the Commission for the Settlement of Disputes Related to Confidentiality (hereinafter “the Confidentiality Commission”) (CC-20/1, dated 8 May 2018).

- 20.4 In accordance with paragraph 23 of the Confidentiality Annex to the Convention and Rule 2(b) of the Operating Procedures of the Confidentiality Commission (C-III/DEC.10/Rev.2, dated 4 December 2013), the Conference **elected** the following 20 members of the Confidentiality Commission for a term of two years, beginning on 1 May 2019:

Africa	Mr Amine Sid (Algeria) Mr John Billy-Eko (Cameroon) Mr Kevin Thuo (Kenya) Colonel Mr Amadou Ousmane Ba (Senegal)
Asia	Mr Jiang Bo (China) Mr Indra Danardi Haryanto (Indonesia) Mr Alireza Kazemi Abadi (Iran, Islamic Republic of) Mr Masahiko Asada (Japan)
Eastern Europe	Mr Štěpán Kochanek (Czech Republic) Mr Călin Fabian (Romania) Mr Mihajlo Zhevaïrovski (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) Mr Serhii Trotskyi (Ukraine)
Latin America and the Caribbean	Ms Mariela Fogante (Argentina) Mr Jorge Carvajal (Chile) Mr Jesús María Cuevillas Domínguez (Cuba) Mr Jorge Hagime Shimizu Matsumoto (Mexico)
Western European and Other States	Ms Aster Boeye (Belgium) Ms Sumita Dixit (Canada) Prof. Dr Christoph Vedder (Germany) Mr Ioannis Seimenis (Greece)

Credentials Committee

- 20.5 The report of the Credentials Committee (C-23/3, dated 19 November 2018) was presented by its Chairperson, Ambassador Rosa Batoréu of Portugal. Ambassador Rosa Batoréu reported orally that, following the close of the Credentials Committee meeting, original credentials had been received from Algeria, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ecuador, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, the Republic of Moldova, South Africa, the State of Palestine, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and copies of credentials had been received from Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, and the United Arab Emirates. The Conference **noted** this additional information and **approved** the report.

Committee on Relations with the Host Country

- 20.6 At its Eleventh Session, the Conference adopted a decision establishing a Committee on Relations with the Host Country (hereinafter "the Host Country Committee") (C-11/DEC.9, dated 7 December 2006). Pursuant to this decision, the Conference **considered** and **noted** a report by the Host Country Committee on the performance of its activities (EC-87/HCC/1 C-23/HCC/1, dated 5 March 2018). The Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Jana Reinišová of the Czech Republic, reported to the Conference on the status of the work of the Host Country Committee.

Advisory Board on Education and Outreach

- 20.7 The Conference **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General reporting on the activities of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach covering the period from 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018 (EC-89/DG.22 C-23/DG.12, dated 20 September 2018).

21. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-ONE – Follow-up to the Third Review Conference

In paragraph 9.17 of its report (RC-3/3*, dated 19 April 2013), the Third Review Conference expressed its intention to keep the declarations contained in paragraphs 9.3 to 9.16 of that document under review at each regular session of the Conference. Subsequently, the agendas of the Council from its Seventy-Third through Eighty-Ninth Sessions have included an item on the follow-up to the Third Review Conference. Starting from the Eightieth Session of the Council, it was decided to introduce a new procedure whereby updates are provided to the Council by way of an addendum to the matrix that encompasses only new activities and developments during the reporting period. A full version of the matrix is produced only once a year, the most recent being document EC-89/S/2 (dated 19 September 2018). The Conference **noted** the activities in furtherance of its review of the declarations contained in paragraphs 9.3 to 9.16 of RC-3/3*.

22. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-TWO – Any other business

Burundi presented a joint statement entitled “Upholding the Chemical Weapons Convention” on behalf of Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, China, Comoros, the Congo, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the State of Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, and Zimbabwe.

23. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-THREE – Adoption of the report of the Conference of the States Parties

The Conference **considered** and **adopted** the report of its Twenty-Third Session.

24. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FOUR – Closure

The Chairperson closed the session at 15:41 on 29 November 2018.