



Sixty-First Meeting
5 November 2018

EC-M-61/1
31 October 2018
Original: ENGLISH

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

NOTIFICATION OF A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1. The Chairperson of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”), Ambassador Jana Reinišová of the Czech Republic, in consultation with the Director-General, and in accordance with Rule 12(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, has requested that a meeting of the Council be convened, with a view to addressing the matter of the draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2019.
2. The meeting of the Council will be held at 13:30 on Monday, 5 November 2018 in the Ieper Room of the OPCW Headquarters building (Johan de Wittlaan 32, The Hague).
3. As the Director-General has discussed with the Chairperson, in order to continue to operate in 2019, the Organisation must have a programme and budget approved by the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”). In the absence of a programme and budget approved by the Conference, the OPCW most likely would not be able to conduct its activities next year.
4. It is against this backdrop that the Director-General looks forward to continuing to engage in dialogue with States Parties and regional groups regarding the programmatic and budgetary requirements of the Organisation in 2019, and to supporting the Chairperson and the Budget Facilitator, Mr Hassan Zeran from the Permanent Representation of Chile, in their dedicated efforts to seek to submit a draft 2019 programme and budget decision for the Conference’s consideration. In this regard, annexed hereto is a Note from the Chairperson to Council members providing an update on the Chairperson’s consultations and explaining the envisioned purpose of the 5 November Council meeting and the decision to be proposed for action.
5. In accordance with Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, the provisional agenda is also annexed hereto.

Annexes:

- Annex 1: Letter from the Chairperson of the Executive Council to Council Members (English only)
- Annex 2: Provisional Agenda for the Sixty-First Meeting of the Executive Council



Annex 1

**LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
TO COUNCIL MEMBERS**



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the Kingdom of the Netherlands

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Jana Reinišová

Ambassador

Chairperson of the OPCW
Executive Council

The Hague, 31 October 2018

Dear Colleagues,

I wish to take this opportunity to update you on my efforts to determine a way forward on the Organisation's draft 2019 Programme and Budget, following the last sitting of the 89th Executive Council session on 22 October at which the Council did not reach an agreement.

As I committed to do, I have conducted an intensive round of consultations with Council Members regarding their views on the outcome of the 89th Council session and next steps. I have done so in close cooperation with the Budget Facilitator, Mr Hassan Zeran of the Chilean Delegation; with the current and in-coming Chairs of the Conference of States Parties, His Excellency, Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki (Morocco) and His Excellency, Ambassador Yun-young Lee (Republic of Korea) respectively; and with the continuing advice and support of the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat. I have found these consultations constructive and useful, perceiving a shared determination among Council Members to meet our responsibilities.

As the Secretariat has noted, in order to continue to operate in 2019, the OPCW must have a Programme and Budget approved by the Conference of States Parties. Faced with this stark reality, I have welcomed the efforts of Delegations to go to extra lengths to seek a constructive way forward. I would respectfully submit that it is time for the Members of the Council to redouble our efforts and work together in a spirit of multilateral cooperation in order to advance the objectives for which the Convention was created.

While acknowledging that it may remain elusive for the Council to agree on a substantive recommendation with regard to the draft 2019 Programme and Budget, I believe it should still be within our reach to fulfil our responsibility to submit to the Conference a draft text for further consideration in support of timely action by the Conference to ensure the OPCW's continuing operations in 2019. In this regard, I believe the draft procedural decision considered in the 22 October sitting of the Council continues to present the best prospect for the Council to fulfil its expected role. It is in this context that the Secretariat has recirculated that draft decision as EC-M-61/DEC/CRP.1 in preparation for the 05 November 61st Meeting of the Council, during which I have the intention of requesting the Council's reconsideration of the proposal under agenda item 3 of the provisional agenda.

In the hope that the Conference will be taking up its responsibilities for the draft 2019 Programme and Budget very soon, I welcome that the Budget Facilitator remains ready to address any further queries regarding its contents with the support of the Secretariat, and that the Director-General will continue to engage in dialogue on the matter with States Parties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jan A. van der Stoep". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Annex 2

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE
SIXTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2019 and all items pertaining to this budget
4. Any other business
5. Adoption of the report
6. Closure

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