



**REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE WORKING GROUP
FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE FOURTH REVIEW CONFERENCE**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In accordance with paragraph 22 of Article VIII of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Fourth Review Conference”) will take place from 21 to 30 November 2018. In order to undertake the necessary preparations for the Fourth Review Conference, the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) at its Twenty-Second Session in 2017:

“... decided to establish 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).

- 1.2 Following the recommendation above, the Conference at the same session:

“... further decided to establish the Bureau of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference and, in accordance with the practice of rotation (paragraph 9.4 of EC-68/3, dated 4 May 2012), agreed on the following nominations for the Bureau: H.E. Mr I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja of Indonesia (Asian Group) as Chairperson; and H.E. Mrs Odette Melono of Cameroon (African Group), H.E. Mr Marcin Czepelak of Poland (Eastern European Group), H.E. Mr Agustin Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador (GRULAC¹), and H.E. Mr Kenneth D. Ward of the United States of America (WEOG²) as Vice-Chairpersons of the Open-Ended Working Group” (paragraph 25.3 of C-22/5*).

- 1.3 The Conference also established the organisational arrangement for the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, stating that it “will be guided by a Bureau that will consist of one Chairperson, and four Vice-Chairpersons representing the regional groups, to ensure that the views of all

¹ GRULAC = Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

² WEOG = Western European and Other States Group.



delegations are taken into account in preparing for the Fourth Review Conference. The Working Group and the Bureau will be guided by the following understandings:

- (a) The Working Group will decide on all matters regarding its agenda, as well as the content, format, and status of its final document(s).
- (b) The Bureau members, as a management team, will help steer the work of the Working Group, and to that end they will meet at regular intervals.
- (c) Decision-making by consensus shall be the objective of the Working Group.
- (d) Active and broad participation of the States Parties in the deliberations and proceedings of the Working Group shall be encouraged. For that purpose, the programme of meetings of the Working Group should be arranged so as to facilitate, where they wish, the involvement of representatives from capitals”.

2. Organisation of the Open-Ended Working Group

- 2.1 The Open-Ended Working Group held its first meeting, which was chaired by H.E. Mr I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja of Indonesia, on 25 January 2018.
- 2.2 Between January and October 2018, the Working Group held 23 meetings. The Chairperson reported orally on the progress of the group’s work to the Council at each of its regular sessions, beginning with its Eighty-Seventh Session.
- 2.3 The Chairperson invited States Parties to submit papers for the consideration of the Working Group. The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) subsequently made such submissions available to delegations via the OPCW external server.

3. Tasks undertaken by the Open-Ended Working Group

Procedural issues

- 3.1 At its Twenty-Second Session, the Conference decided to hold the Fourth Review Conference from 21 to 30 November 2018 (paragraph 25.1 of C-22/5*).
- 3.2 At its Eighty-Ninth Session, the Council drew up the draft provisional agenda for the Fourth Review Conference (EC-89/DG.16, dated 14 September 2018).

Discussions and result

- 3.3 As with the First, Second, and Third Review Conferences, the Working Group held informal discussions from January to October 2018 on the full range of issues on the operation of the Convention since the Third Review Conference. A brief indication of the issues discussed at each meeting of the Working Group is attached as Annex 1.
- 3.4 The Working Group was briefed by the Secretariat on specific subjects during the meetings. Its proceedings were also informed by documents submitted by the Co-Chairpersons of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities of the OPCW, the Secretariat, the Scientific Advisory Board, the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), States Parties, and non-governmental organisations.

- 3.5 The list of documents and statements submitted in the framework of the preparatory process for the Fourth Review Conference is provided in Annex 2. In addition, the Working Group had the opportunity to hear the perspectives of chemical industry and civil society representatives invited to attend its eighth meeting on 16 May 2018. The Chairperson's informal summaries of each meeting have been drafted and made available to States Parties via email and posted on the external server. They were drafted in order to capture, for future reference, the main points raised at each meeting.
- 3.6 On 11 September 2018, the Working Group started the discussion of the Informal Chairperson's Provisional Text (circulated to the group through the OPCW external server and via email on 30 August 2018). The suggestions of States Parties for inclusion in the text were recorded in the rolling document, which was regularly updated and distributed to States Parties at the end of each week of proceedings.
- 3.7 On 26 October 2018, the Chairperson distributed the Draft Provisional Text based on the discussions that had been taking place in the Working Group and submitted it to the Fourth Review Conference.

Annexes:

- Annex 1: List of Meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference and Main Issues Discussed
- Annex 2: Documents Submitted by the Technical Secretariat, the Scientific Advisory Board, the International Council of Chemical Associations, the Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities of the OPCW, States Parties, and Civil Society

Annex 1

LIST OF MEETINGS OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE FOURTH REVIEW CONFERENCE AND MAIN ISSUES DISCUSSED

First meeting, 25 January 2018. Introductory comments by the Director-General; Presentation by the Chairperson of the OEWG; Programme of work and topics to be considered.

Verification

Second meeting, 6 February 2018. General obligations: destruction and elimination of chemical weapons and of related facilities (including old and abandoned chemical weapons); Activities not prohibited: declarations.

Third meeting, 21 February 2018. Activities not prohibited: industry verification (risk assessment and selection of facilities to be inspected, sampling and analysis, new technologies to augment the OPCW's verification capabilities, OCPFs:³ general provisions and risks).

Fourth meeting, 7 March 2018. Consultations, cooperation and fact finding; challenge inspections and investigations of alleged use; other verification-related issues.

Capacity development

Fifth meeting, 28 March 2018. National implementation of the Convention.

Sixth meeting, 11 April 2018. Assistance and protection against chemical weapons.

Seventh meeting, 25 April 2018. Economic and technological developments, including international cooperation and assistance (Article XI).

Engagement

Eighth meeting, 16 May 2018. Interaction with representatives of chemical industry and civil society.

Ninth meeting, 30 May 2018. Ensuring the universality of the Convention, cooperation with other relevant international organisations; engagement with other external partners, including chemical industry and other relevant stakeholders.

Tenth meeting, 6 June 2018. Developments in science and technology: their impact on the Convention.

Eleventh meeting, 13 June 2018. The role of the Convention in enhancing international peace and security; the Convention and the OPCW's contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts.

³ OCPF = other chemical production facility.

Organisational governance

Twelfth and thirteenth meetings, 18 June 2018. Articles XII to XV and final clauses; the general functioning of the OPCW, including its administrative aspects; confidentiality regime, privileges and immunities; miscellaneous issues.

Discussion of Chairperson's text

Fourteenth meeting, 11 September 2018: Informal Chairperson's Provisional Text

Fifteenth meeting, 13 September 2018: Informal Chairperson's Provisional Text

Sixteenth meeting, 18 September 2018: Informal Chairperson's Provisional Text

Seventeenth meeting, 20 September 2018: Informal Chairperson's Provisional Text

Eighteenth meeting, 25 September 2018: Informal Chairperson's Provisional Text

Nineteenth meeting, 27 September 2018: Informal Chairperson's Provisional Text

Twentieth meeting, 4 October 2018: Informal Chairperson's Provisional Text

Twenty-first meeting, 16 October 2018: Informal Chairperson's Provisional Text

Twenty-second meeting, 18 October 2018: Informal Chairperson's Provisional Text

Twenty-third meeting, 23 October 2018: Informal Chairperson's Provisional Text

Annex 2

DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT, THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD, THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHEMICAL ASSOCIATIONS, THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON THE FUTURE PRIORITIES OF THE OPCW, STATES PARTIES, AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Technical Secretariat

Note by the Technical Secretariat: Review of the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention since the Third Review Conference (WGRC-4/S/1, dated 29 May 2018)

Note by the Director-General: Response by the Director-General to the Report of the Scientific Advisory Board on Developments in Science and Technology for the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (RC-4/DG.2, dated 1 June 2018)

Scientific Advisory Board

Report of the Scientific Advisory Board on Developments in Science and Technology for the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (RC-4/DG.1, dated 30 April 2018)

International Council of Chemical Associations

ICCA Position Paper for the Fourth Review Conference, 24 July 2018

Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities of the OPCW

Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities of the OPCW – Recommendations to the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (RC-4/WP.1, dated 16 July 2018)

States Parties⁴

Australia

Statement on General Obligations: Second Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 6 February 2018

Australia, Canada, and New Zealand

Statement on Behalf of the Governments of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand: Third Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 21 February 2018

⁴ The papers are listed in alphabetical order by author.

Statement on Behalf of the Governments of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand: Fourth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 7 March 2018

Statement on Behalf of the Governments of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand: Fifth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 28 March 2018

Statement on Behalf of the Governments of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand: Sixth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 11 April 2018

Australia, Canada, and New Zealand: Ensuring the Universality of the Convention, Cooperation with other Relevant International Organisations; Engagement with other External Partners, including Chemical Industry and other Relevant Stakeholders: Ninth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 30 May 2018

Statement on Behalf of the Governments of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand: Tenth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 6 June 2018

Statement on Behalf of the Governments of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand: Eleventh Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 13 June 2018

Brazil

Brazil: Comments Regarding the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference Corresponding to the Subjects Covered During the First Ten Meetings, 11 June 2018

Brazil: Comments in the Context of the Eleventh and Twelfth Meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 20 June 2018

Cuba

Contributions of Cuba on the Subject of Verification to the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 8 February 2018

Comments of Cuba to the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference: Economic and Technological Development, 25 April 2018

European Union

Council of the European Union: Conclusions on Chemical Disarmament and Non-Proliferation with a View Towards the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention on the

Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, The Hague, 21 – 30 November 2018

GRULAC States Parties

Contribution of GRULAC to the Work of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 5 July 2018

Indonesia

Statement by the Indonesian Delegation at the First Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 25 January 2018

Statement by the Indonesian Delegation at the Fourth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 7 March 2018

Statement by the Indonesian Delegation at the Fifth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 28 March 2018

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Islamic Republic of Iran's Views at the Third Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 21 February 2018

Islamic Republic of Iran's Position on Article X at the Sixth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 11 April 2018

Islamic Republic of Iran: Comments at the Seventh Session of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 25 April 2018

Islamic Republic of Iran: Comments on Science and Technology, 6 June 2018

Islamic Republic of Iran: Comments at the Eleventh Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 13 June 2018

Islamic Republic of Iran: Comments on the Topics of the Twelfth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 17 June 2018

Morocco

Statement Delivered by H.E. Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki, Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of Morocco to the OPCW, at the Sixth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 11 April 2018

Statement by the Kingdom of Morocco on Article XI at the Seventh Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 25 April 2018

Pakistan

Statement by Pakistan at the Third Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 21 February 2018

Statement by Pakistan at the Fourth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 7 March 2018

Statement by Pakistan at the Fifth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 28 March 2018

Statement by Pakistan at the Ninth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 30 May 2018

Statement by Pakistan at the Eleventh Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 13 June 2018

Peru

Statement by Peru: Article X (Assistance and Protection), 11 April 2018

Poland, Lithuania, and Bulgaria

Statement by H.E. Marcin Czepelak Delivered on Behalf of the Permanent Representatives to the OPCW of Poland, Lithuania, and Bulgaria to the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 18 June 2018

Romania

Romania: Investigations of Alleged Use: Possible Ways to Enhance Chemical Forensics Capability, 7 March 2018

Russian Federation

Russian Federation: Consultations, Cooperation and Fact-Finding: Challenge Inspections and Investigations of Alleged Use, 7 March 2018

Switzerland

Switzerland: Consultations, Cooperation and Fact-Finding: Challenge Inspections and Investigations of Alleged Use; Other Verification-Related Issues, 7 March 2018

Switzerland: Assistance and Protection against Chemical Weapons at the Sixth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, 11 April 2018

Speaking Points by Switzerland: Agenda Item 2 – Engagement with Chemical Industry, 30 May 2018

Switzerland: Developments in Science and Technology, 6 June 2018

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Statement by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Verification, 21 February 2018

Statement by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Article VII, 28 March 2018

Statement by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Article X, 11 April 2018

Statement by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Article XI, 25 April 2018

Statement by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Universality, 30 May 2018

Statement by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Developments in Science and Technology, 6 June 2018

Statement by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: The Role of the Convention in Enhancing International Peace and Security. The Convention and the OPCW's Contribution to Global Anti-Terrorism Efforts, 13 June 2018

Statement by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: General Functioning of the OPCW, Including its Administrative Aspects, Confidentiality Regime, and Privileges and Immunities, 18 June 2018

Civil society⁵

Written submission: Some Policy Inputs for the Fourth Review Conference of the Convention: Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, Dr Ajey Lele, IDSA, New Delhi, India

Written submission: Recommendations by ArgIQ – Argentina Information Quality

Written submission: Peace Foundation and International Cooperation, Tawfiq Asaad, Chairman PFIC

Written submission: Halabja Chemical Victims Society

Written submission: Organization for Defending Sardasht Victims of Chemical Weapons (ODVCW)

⁵ The list contains documents received in response to a request for written submissions.

Written submission: Association for Supporting Victims of Chemical Weapons

Written submission: Organisation for Defending Victims of Chemical Weapons, Asad Ardalan

Written submission: Policy Inputs for Fourth Review Conference of Chemical Weapons Convention and OPCW Agenda, Society for Chemical Weapons Victims Support – Tehran Peace Museum

Written submission: Association for the Defence of Chemical Injuries, Fars Province (SCWVSF)

Written submission: Submission by Prof Ulf Schmidt (University of Kent), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to the Fourth Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention

Written submission: Contribution for the Fourth Review Conference of the OPCW, Abdourahamane Ibrahim Issa

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