



**OPCW**

**Review Conference**

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**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOURTH SPECIAL  
SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO REVIEW THE  
OPERATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION  
(FOURTH REVIEW CONFERENCE)**

The Chairperson of 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”) issues this report under the general powers of the presiding officer (Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the States Parties). Before presenting this report the Chairperson submitted a Draft Informal Report on the Review of the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention for the consideration of the Fourth Review Conference. Based on comments received, he concluded that, despite broad consultations and best efforts, consensus could not be achieved. The Review Conference worked on the principle that nothing was agreed until everything was agreed.



**1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the Fourth Review Conference**

- 1.1 The Fourth Review Conference was opened at 10:15 on 21 November 2018 by the Chairperson of the Twenty-Third Session of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”), Ambassador Yun-young Lee of the Republic of Korea, in the King Willem Alexander Theater in the World Forum.
- 1.2 The following 150 States Parties participated in the Fourth Review Conference: 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, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, 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, 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 Lucia, 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, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, 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, 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 the Fourth Review Conference as an observer: Israel.
- 1.4 In accordance with Rule 30 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (RC-4/DEC.1, dated 21 November 2018), the following non-signatory State was accorded observer status: South Sudan.
- 1.5 In accordance with Rules 31 and 32 of these Rules of Procedure, and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (RC-4/DEC.2, dated 21 November 2018), seven international organisations, specialised agencies, and other international bodies attended the Fourth Review Conference.
- 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 (RC-3/3\*, dated 19 April 2013), and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (RC-4/DEC.3, dated 21 November 2018), the Conference

**invited** representatives of the global chemical industry and scientific community to attend the Fourth Review Conference.

- 1.7 In accordance with Rule 33 of these Rules of Procedure, and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (RC-4/DEC.4, dated 21 November 2018), the Conference **invited** 75 non-governmental organisations to attend the Fourth Review Conference.

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

In accordance with Rule 8(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Fourth Review Conference, by acclamation, **elected** as its Chairperson Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador.

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

- 3.1 In accordance with Rule 8(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Fourth Review Conference **elected** representatives of the following 10 States Parties as Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference: Algeria, Chile, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, Lithuania, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

- 3.2 Also in accordance with Rule 8(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Fourth Review Conference **elected** as Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole, Ambassador Marcin Czepelak of Poland.

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

- 4.1 The provisional agenda for the Fourth Review Conference was circulated under cover of RC-4/1, dated 19 October 2018.

- 4.2 On the recommendation of the General Committee, the Fourth Review Conference **adopted** the following agenda:

AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the Fourth Review Conference

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 – Statement by the Director-General

AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Report of the Chairperson of the Executive Council on the preparations for the Fourth Review Conference

AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – General debate

AGENDA ITEM NINE – Review of the operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention as provided for in paragraph 22 of Article VIII, taking into account any relevant scientific and technological developments:

- (a) the role of the Chemical Weapons Convention in enhancing international peace and security and in achieving the objectives as set forth in the preamble of the Convention;
- (b) ensuring the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention;
- (c) implementation of the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention relating to:
  - (i) general obligations and declarations related thereto;
  - (ii) reports by the Director-General on destruction-related issues;
  - (iii) destruction of chemical weapons, including implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues;
  - (iv) destruction or conversion of chemical weapons production facilities;
  - (v) verification activities of the OPCW;
  - (vi) activities not prohibited under the Chemical Weapons Convention;
  - (vii) national implementation measures;
  - (viii) consultations, cooperation, and fact-finding;
  - (ix) assistance and protection against chemical weapons;
  - (x) economic and technological development;
  - (xi) Articles XII to XV and final clauses; and
  - (xii) the protection of confidential information; and
- (d) the general functioning of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

AGENDA ITEM TEN – Reports of subsidiary bodies

AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Any other business

AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Adoption of the final documents of the Fourth Review Conference

AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Closure

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

- 5.1 The Fourth Review 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.

**Appointment of the Credentials Committee**

- 5.2 In accordance with Rule 27 of its Rules of Procedure, the Fourth Review Conference, on the proposal of its Chairperson, **appointed** the following 10 members of the

Credentials Committee: Bangladesh, Colombia, Guatemala, Malaysia, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, the Sudan, Sweden, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

**6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – Statement by the Director-General**

- 6.1 The Fourth Review Conference **noted** the opening statement by the Director-General (RC-4/DG.5, dated 21 November 2018).
- 6.2 The Conference **received** a message from Ms Izumi Nakamitsu, Under-Secretary General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations.

**7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Report of the Chairperson of the Executive Council on the preparations for the Fourth Review Conference**

The Chairperson of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”), Ambassador Jana Reinišová of the Czech Republic, reported to the Conference on the work of the Council in preparation for the Fourth Review Conference.

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

- 8.1 The following delegations made statements during the general debate: the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China), Austria (on behalf of the European Union), Morocco (on behalf of the African Group), the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Ukraine, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Netherlands, Algeria, Germany, Saudi Arabia, New Zealand, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, the Republic of Korea, Brazil, France, Romania, the United Arab Emirates, Denmark, Costa Rica, Panama, Switzerland, China, the Holy See, Finland, Pakistan, Qatar, Peru, Morocco, Ireland, the United States of America, Slovenia, Cuba, Japan, Indonesia, Lithuania, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, Australia, Ecuador, Spain, Bangladesh, Guatemala, Burundi, Norway, Malaysia, Chile, Latvia, Sweden, Luxembourg, Uruguay, Bahrain, Belarus, Viet Nam, Argentina, Uganda, Malta, Italy, the Philippines, the Czech Republic, the State of Palestine, Estonia, Turkey, Kenya, Côte d’Ivoire, Mexico, Myanmar, Colombia, Ghana, Nigeria, Nepal, Tunisia, Thailand, South Africa, Belgium, Burkina Faso, India, Singapore, Fiji, Cameroon, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Kuwait, the Sudan, Kazakhstan, and Bulgaria. The following delegations spoke, exercising their right of reply: the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the Russian Federation.
- 8.2 The following signatory State made a statement during the general debate: Israel.
- 8.3 The following international organisation made a statement during the general debate: the International Committee of the Red Cross.
- 8.4 On behalf of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach, Professor Alastair Hay addressed the Fourth Review Conference on the importance of education and outreach for the work of the OPCW (RC-4/WP.12, dated 23 November 2018).

- 8.5 The following representatives from the chemical industry and the scientific community made a statement during the general debate: the International Council of Chemical Associations and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry.
- 8.6 In accordance with paragraph 2 of RC-4/DEC.4, the following non-governmental organisations gave presentations at the plenary meeting: Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, Organization for Defending Sardasht Victims of Chemical Weapons, Tehran Peace Museum, Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, ArgIQ, Colorado Citizens Advisory Commission for Chemical Demilitarization, University of Bradford – Department of Peace Studies, Centre for International Security Studies and Strategic Research, American Public Health Association, United Service Institution of India, African Centre for Science and International Security, Arms Control Association, Bulent Ecevit University, Pakistan House, Association for the Defence of Chemical Injuries Fars Province, Harvard Sussex Program, International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security, Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society, Society for the Study of Peace and Conflict, VERTIC, International Dialogue on Underwater Munitions, Association for Supporting Victims of Chemical Weapons, University of Melbourne, and Green Cross International.

**9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Review of the operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention as provided for in paragraph 22 of Article VIII, taking into account any relevant scientific and technological developments**

- 9.1 The Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, Ambassador I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja of Indonesia, reported to the Fourth Review Conference on the work of the open-ended working group and submitted to the Fourth Review Conference the Chairperson's Draft Provisional Text for agenda item nine of the provisional agenda of the Fourth Review Conference (WGRC-4/2 RC-4/CRP.1, dated 8 November 2018).
- 9.2 The Chairperson of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), Dr Christopher Timperley, briefed the Fourth Review Conference on the Board's report on developments in science and technology (RC-4/DG.1, dated 30 April 2018), highlighting the science review process, thematic areas of consideration, and recommendations.

**Review of the operation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (hereinafter "the Convention"), as provided for in paragraph 22 of Article VIII, taking into account any relevant scientific and technological developments:**

- 9.3 The Fourth Review Conference reaffirmed that full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions is essential for the realisation of the object and purpose of the Convention.
- 9.4 The Fourth Review Conference noted the importance of adequate funding from the regular budget for the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention and called upon all States Parties to pay their assessed contributions to the regular budget in accordance with the relevant provisions, while also noting with appreciation the voluntary contributions made to support its implementation.

**THE ROLE OF THE CONVENTION IN ENHANCING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND IN ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES AS SET FORTH IN THE PREAMBLE OF THE CONVENTION**

- 9.5 The Fourth Review Conference recalled that the Convention is a unique multilateral agreement banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction in a non-discriminatory and verifiable manner under strict and effective international control, and noted with satisfaction that overall, the Convention continues to be a remarkable success and an example of effective multilateralism.
- 9.6 The Fourth Review Conference noted with satisfaction that full and effective implementation of the Convention makes a major contribution to international peace and security, economic and technological development of all States Parties. The Fourth Review Conference further noted the successful operation of the Convention manifesting itself in the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to the OPCW in 2013. The Fourth Review Conference reaffirmed the commitment by all States Parties to achieving the object and purpose of the Convention, as set out in its Preamble and provisions.
- 9.7 The Fourth Review Conference reaffirmed that the obligation of the States Parties to complete the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles as well as the destruction or conversion of chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and its Verification Annex, and under verification by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”), is essential for the realisation of the object and purpose of the Convention.
- 9.8 The Fourth Review Conference stressed that the destruction of all categories of chemical weapons is a fundamental objective of the Organisation.
- 9.9 The Fourth Review Conference reiterated the obligation to destroy or otherwise dispose of old chemical weapons as soon as possible.
- 9.10 The Fourth Review Conference reaffirmed the obligation to complete the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, and the decision taken by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012), as amended by the Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session.
- 9.11 The Fourth Review Conference expressed its grave concern over the significant number of cases in which chemical weapons have been used since the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Third Review Conference”) and reaffirmed its condemnation, in the strongest possible terms, of the use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anyone, under any circumstances and expressed strong conviction that those responsible for the use of chemical weapons must be held accountable. The Fourth Review Conference paid respect to all victims of chemical weapons.
- 9.12 The Fourth review Conference noted with concern that the years since the Third Review Conference have seen uses of, variously, sulphur mustard, chlorine, sarin, VX a highly toxic nerve agent, and other agents as chemical weapons in Iraq, Malaysia,

the Syrian Arab Republic and in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

- 9.13 The Fourth Review Conference condemned the use of chemical weapons as referred to in C-SS-4/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2018. The Fourth Review Conference noted with concern that the Fact-Finding Mission had identified further uses of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic at Ltamenah on 24, 25 (S/1636/2018, dated 13 June 2018) and 30 March 2017 (S/1548/2017, dated 2 November 2017) and at Saraqib on 4 February 2018 (S/1626/2018, dated 15 May 2018), and continued to investigate allegations of chemical weapons use in Douma, Syria on 7 April 2018 (S/1645/2018, dated 6 July 2018).
- 9.14 The Fourth Review Conference noted with concern the alleged use on 24 November 2018 of chlorine in Aleppo, and encouraged the Secretariat to continue gathering information from all available sources to establish whether chemical weapons were used.
- 9.15 The Fourth Review Conference noted with concern that, despite the verified destruction of all 27 chemical weapons production facilities declared by the Syrian Arab Republic, the Secretariat, as reported by the Director General, cannot fully verify that the Syrian Arab Republic has submitted a declaration that can be considered accurate and complete in accordance with the Convention or Council decision EC-M-33/DEC.1, dated 27 September 2013.
- 9.16 The Fourth Review Conference condemned the use of chemical weapons by the so-called “Daesh” or “ISIL” which had been found to have used chemical weapons in Iraq and in the Syrian Arab Republic at Marea on 21 August 2015, and at Um-Housh on 15 and 16 September 2016.
- 9.17 The Fourth Review Conference condemned the use on 4 March 2018 of a nerve agent in Salisbury that also resulted in casualties in Amesbury in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and condemned that a chemical weapon – a Schedule 1 nerve agent VX – was used in an incident on 13 February 2017 in Kuala Lumpur International Airport 2, Malaysia.
- 9.18 The Fourth Review Conference noted the work of the Director-General and the Secretariat to develop the working methods and practices of the Secretariat, in line with the Convention and its Verification Annex, to tackle chemical weapons use.
- 9.19 The Fourth Review Conference noted the decision adopted by vote at the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) on Addressing the Threat of Chemical Weapons Use (C-SS-4/DEC.3), as reflected in C-SS-4/3, dated 27 June 2018.
- 9.20 The Fourth Review Conference emphasised that as the destruction of declared chemical weapons stockpiles nears completion, the Organisation should continue to implement its disarmament mandate and focus on preventing re-emergence of chemical weapons and avoiding risk of their proliferation, with a view to excluding the possibility of their use by anyone, anywhere, at any time.



- 9.21 The Fourth Review Conference reaffirmed the importance of the decision by the Council (EC-86/DEC.9, dated 13 October 2017) on addressing the threat posed by the use of chemical weapons by non-State actors, such as terrorists groups. In accordance with this decision, and in order to deal properly with the use of chemical weapons by these groups, the Fourth Review Conference underscored the importance to explore further cooperation, build on existing work or exchange experiences, as appropriate, with relevant international and regional organisations and bodies that deal with the potential threats of chemical terrorism.
- 9.22 The Fourth Review Conference recalled that in terms of Article XIII of the Convention “nothing in this Convention shall be interpreted as in any way limiting or detracting from the obligations assumed by any State under the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925”. The Fourth Review Conference also recalled that the Convention excludes completely the possibility of the use of chemical weapons thereby complementing the obligations assumed under the 1925 Geneva Protocol. It appealed to all High Contracting Parties to the 1925 Geneva Protocol to observe strictly its principles and objectives and called upon those States Parties that continue to maintain reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol related to the Convention to withdraw them and to notify the Depositary of the 1925 Geneva Protocol accordingly. The Fourth Review Conference invited States Parties to inform the next regular session of the Conference when a reservation to the 1925 Geneva Protocol is withdrawn.
- 9.23 The Fourth Review Conference acknowledged the impact of scientific and technological progress on the effective implementation of the Convention and the importance for the OPCW and its policy-making organs of taking due account of such developments. In that context, it stressed that the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) should continue its role in advising the Director-General and noted the report of the SAB prepared for the Fourth Review Conference (RC-4/DG.1, dated 30 April 2018), as well as the response by the Director-General thereto (RC-4/DG.2, dated 1 June 2018). It requested the Director-General and the Council to take into account the recommendations made therein.

#### **ENSURING THE UNIVERSALITY OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

- 9.24 The Fourth Review Conference reiterated that the universality of the Convention is essential to fully achieving its object and purpose and to enhancing the security of States Parties, as well as international peace and security. The Fourth Review Conference underlined that the objectives of the Convention will not be fully achieved as long as there remains even a single State not Party that could possess or acquire chemical weapons. The Fourth Review Conference recognised that membership of the Convention conferred international cooperation benefits for all States Parties.
- 9.25 The Fourth Review Conference welcomed the fact that since the Third Review Conference the number of States Parties to the Convention has risen to 193 with the ratification or accession of the Somali Democratic Republic, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of Angola, and the State of Palestine.

- 9.26 The Fourth Review Conference noted that there remain four States not Party, namely Israel, as signatory State, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, and South Sudan, which is a cause for serious concern.
- 9.27 The Fourth Review Conference reaffirmed the importance of the Action Plan on Universality (EC-M-23/DEC.3, dated 24 October 2003) and the subsequent decisions of the Conference to regularly review the results and implementation of it and to take any decision it deems necessary addressing this serious concern. The Fourth Review Conference also recalled that States that remain outside the Convention are not able to take advantage of the benefits that it offers to States Parties.
- 9.28 The Fourth Review Conference, having reviewed developments in the field of universality:
- (a) Strongly urged all four remaining States not Party to the Convention to ratify or accede to it as a matter of urgency and without preconditions, in the interests of enhancing their own national security as well as contributing to global peace and security;
  - (b) Requested the States Parties to intensify further their efforts with all States not Party to encourage them to ratify or accede to the Convention at the earliest, with a view to achieving full universality;
  - (c) Requested the Secretariat and the Director-General to make full use of all available opportunities and resources as and when considered appropriate by the Director-General, to pursue this goal at all levels, including in close cooperation with other international, regional, and subregional organisations, and to continue updating State Parties and policy-making organs on the activities done; and
  - (d) Requested the policy-making organs to continue to annually review ongoing efforts to achieve full universality.

## **VERIFICATION**

- 9.29 The Fourth Review Conference noted that the verification system is essential to the successful implementation of the Convention.
- 9.30 The Fourth Review Conference stressed the importance of the full and timely implementation by States Parties of all declaration obligations under Article III.
- 9.31 The Fourth Review Conference reaffirmed that declarations provided by States Parties under Article III, which establish a baseline for measuring progress in the elimination of all categories of chemical weapons, as well as CWPFs, need to be comprehensive and accurate.
- 9.32 The Fourth Review Conference reaffirmed that complete destruction of chemical weapons and conversion or complete destruction of CWPFs are essential for the realisation of the object and purpose of the Convention.

- 9.33 The Fourth Review Conference recalled that the Conference at its Sixteenth Session had adopted a decision regarding the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 (C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011). The Fourth Review Conference conducted a comprehensive review of the implementation of this decision since the Third Review Conference.
- 9.34 The Fourth Review Conference noted that, as at 31 October 2018, 68,046.848 MTs (96.5%) of declared Category 1 chemical weapons had been destroyed under strict verification by the Secretariat.
- 9.35 The Fourth Review Conference welcomed the completion of destruction of the declared chemical weapons stockpiles by Iraq, Libya, the Russian Federation, and the Syrian Arab Republic and the full destruction of all declared CWPFs of the Syrian Arab Republic.
- 9.36 The Fourth Review Conference reaffirmed that the destruction of the remaining declared chemical weapons by a 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.
- 9.37 The Fourth Review Conference noted the report by the Director-General on the overall progress with respect to the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles, in which he stated that he “confirms that the United States of America continues to undertake the necessary measures to meet the planned completion dates for destruction of its declared chemical weapons” (RC-4/DG.3, dated 14 November 2018).
- 9.38 The Fourth Review Conference noted the progress in the destruction of the remaining declared stockpiles of chemical weapons in the United States of America.
- 9.39 The Fourth Review Conference highlighted the grave threat of chemical weapons and urged the only possessor State Party to expedite destruction of its chemical weapons.
- 9.40 The Fourth Review Conference reaffirmed the importance of the destruction of all abandoned chemical weapons in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the relevant decisions of the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6) as well as the “Destruction Plan Beyond the Year 2016 for the Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People’s Republic of China” adopted by the Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session (EC-84/NAT.6, dated 2 March 2017, attached as Annex 2 to EC-67/DEC.6). The Fourth Review Conference noted with concern that the overall destruction progress was less than expected in the previous destruction plan attached to the decision “The Deadline of 29 April 2012 and the Future Destruction of the Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People’s Republic of China” (EC-67/DEC.6), in particular, the destruction with the mobile destruction facilities was not completed within the time frame which is preferably within the year 2016. In this regard, the Fourth Review Conference welcomed the Council’s decision 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 its Annex 2 adopted by the Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session.

- 9.41 The Fourth Review 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, and that the Territorial State Party shall provide appropriate cooperation, and expressed its determination to remain seized of the matter. The Fourth Review 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, as to facilitated the expedite destruction the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China. The Fourth Review Conference noted that, in implementing the relevant decision, technical coordination among relevant States Parties had been conducted and efforts had been made to address challenges including ensuring the safety of people and protecting the environment.
- 9.42 The Fourth Review Conference welcomed the close cooperation between relevant States Parties. Furthermore, the Fourth Review Conference welcomed visits of the Chairperson of the Council, the Director-General and a delegation representing the Council to destruction facilities in 2013, 2015 and 2017, which had provided first-hand information on the destruction-related progress and the bilateral cooperation between the relevant States Parties. The Fourth Review Conference 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 as amended by the Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session.
- 9.43 The Fourth Review Conference noted that an additional 27 CWPFs had been declared since the Third Review Conference. The Fourth Review Conference welcomed the destruction or conversion, as required by Part V of the Verification Annex, of all 97 CWPFs which had been declared since the entry into force of the Convention.
- 9.44 The Fourth Review Conference recalled that the Annex on Chemicals of the Convention clearly sets out the different levels of risk posed by scheduled chemicals to the Convention's object and purpose and that the Verification Annex sets out distinctive verification regimes for different types of facilities. In this context, the Fourth Review Conference recalled that the selection of a particular facility or plant site for inspection shall take into account, besides the risk posed by the relevant chemical, inter alia, the characteristics of the facility and the nature of the activities carried out there.
- 9.45 The Fourth Review Conference noted that the verification system should continue to be improved and adapted in a manner consistent with the Convention in response to advances in science and technology, taking into consideration, as appropriate, the SAB's advice to the Director-General, as circulated to the Council and the Review Conference.
- 9.46 The Fourth Review Conference recognised the continued need for the OPCW to have up-to-date, approved verification technologies at its disposal, informed by capability requirements subject to approval by procedures established consistent with the Convention, including those related to commercial availability such as C-8/DEC.3, of

22 October 2003, and encouraged the Secretariat to continue to work with States Parties that wish to familiarise themselves with approved verification equipment.

- 9.47 The Fourth Review Conference stressed the obligation for all States Parties to submit timely, accurate and complete declarations consistent with the provisions of the Convention under Article VI and reiterated that declarations provided by States Parties constitute the basis of the verification regime of the Convention.
- 9.48 The Fourth Review Conference welcomed the continued progress since the Third Review Conference in maintaining and enhancing the Verification Information System. The Fourth Review Conference further welcomed the development of the Secure Information Exchange system designed for exchange of sensitive information, including for secure and timely submission of declarations.
- 9.49 The Fourth Review Conference welcomed the establishment of the designated laboratories network for biomedical samples.
- 9.50 The Fourth Review Conference stressed the important role the OPCW Central Analytical Database (OCAD) is playing in analysis and welcomed the decision (EC-86/DEC.10, dated 13 October 2017) to include in the OCAD new validated data, including that of non-scheduled chemicals relevant to the Convention, while noting that their use in inspections is optional and subject to the agreement of the inspected State Party.
- 9.51 The Fourth Review Conference noted that the Article VI verification system should continue to be improved, subject to appropriate engagement of the policy-making organs and without placing excessive burden on industry, taking into account relevant changes in science and technology and industry, and including, where appropriate and consistent with the Convention, convergence of chemistry and biology.
- 9.52 The Fourth Review Conference noted a number of activities such as the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria (FFM), the Declaration Assessment Team and technical assistance visits. It further noted investigations under the United Nations Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons, the OPCW-United Nations Joint Mission and destruction of chemical weapons outside the territories of possessor States Parties.
- 9.53 The Fourth Review Conference noted the divergent views regarding the activities referred to in para. 9.52.
- 9.54 The Fourth Review Conference reaffirmed its support for the decision of the Director-General to create the FFM to establish the facts surrounding the allegations of the use of chemical weapons, including toxic chemicals, for hostile purposes in the Syrian Arab Republic, while stressing that the safety and security of mission personnel remains the top priority. The Fourth Review Conference noted the cooperation of the Syrian Arab Republic with the FFM.
- 9.55 The Fourth Review Conference emphasised the professionalism, impartiality and transparency required for the FFM.

- 9.56 The Fourth Review Conference stressed the role of the OPCW Laboratory and a robust network of the OPCW designated laboratories in ensuring the OPCW's readiness to effectively address any request for a challenge inspection or investigation of alleged use consistent with Articles IX and X and Parts X and XI of the Verification Annex and emphasised that the quality of their work and analytical reports is ensured by a thorough system of proficiency tests.
- 9.57 The Fourth Review Conference recognised that toxic chemicals which target the central nervous system (CNS) should be a matter of consideration among States Parties, including within the policy-making organs.
- 9.58 The Fourth Review Conference reviewed progress made in the implementation of the Conference decision on guidelines regarding low-concentration limits for declarations of Schedule 2A and 2A\* chemicals (C-14/DEC.4, dated 2 December 2009) and urged States Parties that had not yet implemented the decision to take necessary measures to expedite its implementation.
- 9.59 The Fourth Review Conference, having reviewed the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on verification:
- (a) Reiterated the importance to provide the information needed for the DAT to verify the declaration as accurate as referred in EC-81/DEC.4, dated 23 March 2016;
  - (b) Called upon the remaining State Party that has not yet submitted its initial declaration to do so as soon as possible;
  - (c) Encouraged the possessor State Party concerned to continue to provide 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 in furtherance of the implementation of decision C-16/DEC.11;
  - (d) Encouraged States Parties to continue addressing the issues related to old chemical weapons and to abandoned chemical weapons within the provisions of the Convention and declare new discoveries of such weapons in a timely manner;
  - (e) Urged the Abandoning States Party to continue to make the fullest possible efforts to complete destruction of abandoned chemical weapons as soon as possible in accordance with the Council decision (EC-67/DEC.6) as amended by the Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session, and to address challenges including ensuring the safety of people and protecting the environment, and encouraged continued cooperation between relevant States Parties to that effect. The Fourth Review Conference reaffirmed that the Territorial State Party shall provide appropriate cooperation;
  - (f) Reaffirmed that the OPCW should continue to ensure its resources inputs for the relevant verification, and the ACW issue should continue to be as an important subject to be reviewed regularly by the Council, the Conference and

the Review Conference, taking into account the progress made against the time frames as set forth in the destruction plan adopted by the Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session;

- (g) Encouraged States Parties' National Authorities in a position to do so to submit declarations in an electronic form whenever possible and consider using the Secure Information Exchange system, and further requested the Secretariat to continue providing States Parties with appropriate training and assistance;
- (h) Stressed the importance for the Secretariat to maintain verification expertise relating to chemical weapons and requested the policy-making organs to support this objective;
- (i) Encouraged the States Parties to consider thorough and inclusive discussion in the policy-making organs of the Organisation of the possibility for the Organisation to augment its verification capabilities in order to improve safety and security of inspectors performing non-routine verification activities related to an alleged chemical weapons use;
- (j) Encouraged the Secretariat to maintain and further develop, update, and improve its practices in regard to its capability to assess declarations and to perform sampling and analysis under the different scenarios envisaged in the Convention with a view to ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of verification without creating new obligations for States Parties, and in this context to maintain its efforts to keep updated the OCAD;
- (k) Called for the steady expansion of the OPCW Central Analytical Database based on appropriate technical aspects, and encouraged States Parties to continue submitting data on both scheduled and relevant non-scheduled chemicals, pursuing the important work described in the Council decisions EC-86/DEC.10, EC-88/DEC.3 and EC-88/DEC.4, both dated 12 July 2018, in order to further develop this analytical reference library as the most comprehensive database for chemical weapons analysis;
- (l) Urged States Parties to keep the Convention's Schedules under review and updated by adding newer, highly toxic agents and their precursors to the Schedules or adjusting the Schedules as needed, using the procedures as set out under Article XV of the Convention;
- (m) Encouraged the Director-General to continue to render specialised advice to the policy-making organs and States Parties in the areas of science and technology relevant to the Convention on the basis of advice from the SAB;
- (n) Encouraged States Parties and the Secretariat to continue to keep under review the convergence of chemistry and biology that could affect the operation of the Convention;
- (o) Stressed the essential role of the OPCW Laboratory for the effectiveness and integrity of the verification regime and called for the upgrade of the OPCW

Laboratory into a Centre for Chemistry and Technology to keep pace with current threats and scientific and technological developments, as well as to support capacity building in States Parties. It further encouraged States Parties in a position to do so to make voluntary financial contributions to support the OPCW Laboratory upgrade project;

- (p) Encouraged technical cooperation between designated laboratories and laboratories seeking designation;
- (q) Encouraged the Secretariat to develop proposals for establishing a designated laboratories network for toxins within the scope of the Convention;
- (r) Encouraged the Secretariat to consider addressing in the proficiency testing the identification of non-scheduled chemicals, in order to enable investigations of alleged use in which no match with a scheduled chemical could be found;
- (s) Urged States Parties to ensure that declarations are submitted in a timely, complete and accurate manner, consistent with the provisions of Article VI of the Convention, making use of the Secretariat's resources, as appropriate;
- (t) Requested the Director-General to continue dialogue with States Parties which have not made complete, accurate, and timely declarations, in line with their obligations under Article VI;
- (u) Called on the Secretariat to continue developing proposals in close consultation with States Parties to enhance the implementation of Article VI of the Convention as a contribution to countering chemical terrorism, including the proposals to strengthen the Secretariat's role in the exchange of national best practices and to assist States Parties that request support in carrying out national risk and threat assessments;
- (v) Encouraged the Secretariat to continue to develop and periodically update existing databases on declarable chemicals and also Discrete Organic Chemicals produced at declarable facilities under Part IX of Verification Annex, which facilitate the identification of such chemicals;
- (w) Encouraged the Secretariat, in close cooperation with States Parties, to continue to make efforts to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the verification system;
- (x) Called upon States Parties and the Secretariat to continue working to identify the causes of discrepancies related to Article VI declarations relating to aggregate national data for Schedule 2 and 3 transfers in accordance with the decision C-13/DEC.4, dated 3 December 2008, as well as other chemical production facility declarations, and recommend possible solutions and alternatives to the policy-making organs;
- (y) Called upon States Parties to engage more actively in the work of the cluster established by the Council on chemical-industry and other Article VI issues in



order to address outstanding issues and to continue to use it to develop ways to improve the implementation of the industry verification regime;

- (z) Requested the Secretariat to continue to improve the standard of readiness to conduct a challenge inspection or an investigation of alleged use in accordance with the provisions of the Convention. To this end, it should continue to conduct table-top and live exercises, mock inspections, as well as ensure an appropriate number of qualified, adequately trained and equipped inspectors; and
- (aa) Recognised the important experience the Secretariat gained since 2013 in the conduct of contingency missions and requested the Secretariat to integrate this experience into its training programme, while recognising the exceptional character of the Syrian dossier. Furthermore, it encouraged the Secretariat to continue to use the lessons learned from those operations and missions.

## **CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

9.60 The Fourth Review Conference, having reviewed the capacity development:

- (a) Requested the Secretariat to ensure a holistic and interconnected strategy towards programming, programme implementation, and results evaluation across international cooperation and assistance programme areas, in particular in delivery of assistance and capacity building on Articles VI, VII, X, and XI;
- (b) Requested the Secretariat to pursue an improved strategic approach to capacity development activities including the transition from an activity-based approach to a programme-based one, to ensure implementation of effective programmes;
- (c) Requested States Parties in receipt of capacity building initiatives and the Secretariat to intensify their engagement to make practical, implementable, and sustainable proposals for programmes that they consider beneficial to the full implementation of the Convention;
- (d) Requested the Secretariat to continue to provide tailor-made programmes and to enhance national and regional approaches to capacity building;
- (e) Requested the Secretariat to develop multiannual planning approaches for capacity building programmes to ensure continuity and predictability in addressing the needs of States Parties;
- (f) Encouraged the Secretariat to further engage with international organisations, regional and subregional organisations, chemical industry, and the scientific community, as well as civil society, in the area of capacity building of States Parties; and
- (g) Stressed that results-based management (RBM), including through needs assessments, monitoring, evaluation, impact studies, meaningful key performance indicators and a lessons-learned approach, is essential for increasing the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of capacity

development activities within the international cooperation and assistance programme and requested the Secretariat to pursue a more systematic application of RBM and integrated planning in its programmes and to build relevant skills and methodologies.

## **NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES**

- 9.61 The Fourth Review Conference underlined the obligations of all States Parties to adopt, in accordance with their constitutional processes, the necessary measures to implement their obligations under the Convention, including the obligation to prohibit natural and legal persons within their territory and in any other place within their jurisdiction, from undertaking any activity prohibited to a State Party under the Convention.
- 9.62 The Fourth Review Conference noted progress made in the implementation of Article VII since the Third Review Conference. The Fourth Review Conference welcomed the fact that since the Third Review Conference an additional 15 States Parties have adopted legislation to fully implement the provisions of the Convention. The Fourth Review Conference noted the importance of achieving the universal and full implementation of Article VII and further noted that only 122 States Parties have fully enacted legislation and/or adopted administrative measures to fully meet these obligations under the Convention. In this regard, the Fourth Review Conference noted the commitment of States Parties to adopt, in accordance with constitutional processes, the necessary measures to fully implement their obligations under the Convention as a matter of priority, and to keep the effectiveness of these measures under review.
- 9.63 The Fourth Review Conference highlighted the need for a comprehensive approach to national implementation in line with each State Party's constitutional requirements, to filling gaps in national implementation, and to ensuring that national implementation measures are consistent with the provisions of the Convention. In this context, the Fourth Review Conference underscored the requirement for States Parties to adopt and extend national penal legislation, in accordance with Article VII.
- 9.64 The Fourth Review Conference stressed the importance of the role of customs administrations in the application of national and international regulations concerning the transfer of scheduled chemicals listed in the Convention, which allows the effective implementation of this instrument. In this regard, the Fourth Review Conference welcomed and fully supported the expansion of the cooperation with the World Customs Organization, established in 2017.
- 9.65 The Fourth Review Conference, having reviewed national implementation measures:
- (a) Called upon States Parties to adopt, in accordance with constitutional processes, the necessary measures to fully implement their obligations under the Convention;
  - (b) Requested the States Parties which are yet to fulfil their obligations under Article VII to remain engaged with the Secretariat and cooperate with other States Parties on the steps that need to be undertaken for the national

implementation of the Convention, and further urged the Secretariat to enhance its outreach programme;

- (c) Encouraged the Director-General to sustain high level dialogue on a bilateral and regional approach with States Parties in order to engage decision-makers on the importance of implementation of Article VII;
- (d) Called upon States Parties to keep the effectiveness of national implementation measures under review so as to ensure at all times that the provisions of the Convention are implemented within their territory or in any other place under their respective jurisdiction;
- (e) Stressed that Article VII should remain on the agenda of the regional National Authorities' annual meeting;
- (f) Encouraged the Secretariat to continue supporting the States Parties to improve the systems of customs controls through capacity building programmes;
- (g) Requested the Secretariat and States Parties to continue to further explore and implement innovative means of assistance to improve the national implementation of the Convention, taking into consideration national and regional priorities;
- (h) Encouraged the Secretariat, in concert with the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO), to assist States Parties, upon request, in implementing education and outreach activities, including by disseminating materials and conducting workshops and regional meetings. These activities should be prioritised, upon request, for the States Parties that do not have a representation in The Hague or have limited capacity in engaging with the OPCW; and
- (i) Encouraged States Parties in a position to do so to continue to enhance their support for the implementation of Article VII obligations by those States Parties who so requested.

## **ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

- 9.66 The Fourth Review Conference welcomed the activities of the OPCW in relation to assistance and protection against chemical weapons and supported further efforts both by States Parties and the Secretariat to promote a high level of readiness to respond to chemical weapons threats as articulated in Article X, and also welcomed the effectiveness and efficiency of the increased focus on making full use of regional and subregional capacities and expertise, including taking advantage of established training centres and laboratories, as appropriate. The Fourth Review Conference further welcomed a new approach to capacity building at the regional and subregional level based on the OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter "the Africa Programme").

- 9.67 The Fourth Review Conference, in the light of the possibility of the use of chemical weapons against States Parties to the Convention through threat by actions or activities of any State as described by paragraph 8 of Article X as well as the threat of the possibility of the use of chemical weapons by non-State actors including terrorists, welcomed the measures taken by the Secretariat to strengthen its ability to respond promptly to requests for assistance made under Article X and to investigate the alleged use of chemical weapons.
- 9.68 The Fourth Review Conference noted with appreciation the establishment of the Rapid Response and Assistance Mission, which can be deployed at a request of a State Party affected by an incident of alleged use of toxic chemicals by non-State actors, and expressed appreciation for the support already pledged by some States Parties.
- 9.69 The Fourth Review Conference acknowledged with appreciation the establishment of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons and the establishment of a voluntary trust fund for that purpose. It further welcomed the issuance of the Practical Guide for Medical Management of Chemical Warfare Casualties.
- 9.70 The Fourth Review Conference, having reviewed the assistance and protection against chemical weapons:
- (a) Stressed, through the full implementation of the Convention, the importance of States Parties to have appropriate capability to prevent, protect themselves from and respond to chemical attacks and other incidents involving toxic chemicals, and highlighted the importance of building national ownership;
  - (b) Encouraged States Parties to support the Secretariat's efforts to provide expert advice and training to States Parties wishing to build their own capabilities for the protection against chemical weapons;
  - (c) Requested the Secretariat to further strengthen its capacity to respond promptly to requests for assistance under Article X and to increase readiness to conduct investigations of alleged use of chemical weapons including through further development of the rapid response capability;
  - (d) Requested the Secretariat to continue its efforts for capacity building and to make better use of regional and subregional capacities and expertise for providing assistance to States Parties upon request, and called on States Parties in the regions and subregions concerned to cooperate closely and to participate in joint exercises and training programmes;
  - (e) Requested the Secretariat to continue taking advantage of established regional and subregional training centres in order to strengthen regional cooperation and explore possibilities for creating networks of such centres, and further, encouraged the sponsorship and sharing of expertise by States Parties, especially in regions where resources are limited;

- (f) Requested the Secretariat to provide, upon request, advice, support and tools to assist States Parties in designing national measures to prevent and respond to chemical accidents;
- (g) Urged States Parties, as required by paragraph 4 of Article X, to make their annual submissions of information on their national programmes related to protective purposes in a timely fashion, and requested the Secretariat to assist States Parties with the timely completion of their submissions after having noted with the concern the low number of submissions;
- (h) Urged all States Parties that have yet to make offers of assistance to the OPCW to do so as required by paragraph 7 of Article X, and further encouraged States Parties that have made such offers to keep them under review;
- (i) Requested the Secretariat to continue to improve coordination and delivery of assistance, in particular offers made by States Parties under paragraph 7 of Article X;
- (j) Requested the Secretariat to continue evaluating the offers of technical assistance and donation of equipment and keep States Parties informed about how these can be optimised and about any problems requiring attention;
- (k) Urged States Parties to make equipment related to the means of protection against the use of chemical weapons available, without undue restrictions, to other States Parties;
- (l) Requested the Secretariat to review and keep up to date the OPCW data bank on protection;
- (m) Urged States Parties to facilitate and make materials and equipment-related assistance available to other States Parties to assist and support the victims of chemical weapons, without undue restrictions; and
- (n) Encouraged States Parties to further contribute to the voluntary fund regarding the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons in order to enhance the humanitarian aims of the Network.

## **ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT**

- 9.71 The Fourth Review Conference recognised that international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under this Convention is one of the pillars of the work of the OPCW and a key goal for all States Parties, as it can contribute to economic and technological development.
- 9.72 The Fourth Review Conference recognised that the decision entitled “Components of an Agreed Framework for the Full Implementation of Article XI” adopted by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011) provides guidance for the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI, as well as identifying avenues for further work that would advance its objectives. The Fourth Review Conference welcomed the annual review and evaluation workshops of

the components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of Article XI held at the OPCW in 2017 and 2018. The Fourth Review Conference further recognised that such workshops are a useful platform to advance the development of concrete measures to enhance the implementation of this Article. The Fourth Review Conference called upon the Secretariat to facilitate the allocation of time and resources necessary for the organisation of the above-mentioned workshops.

- 9.73 While noting States Parties' scientific and technological cooperation in the peaceful uses of chemistry on a non-discriminatory basis, the Fourth Review Conference called upon all States Parties to facilitate and enhance such cooperation.
- 9.74 The Fourth Review Conference underlined that the comprehensive implementation of Article XI reinforces capacity building in each State Party and in doing so reinforces the ability of States Parties to fully implement the Convention. In this context, the Fourth Review Conference underlined the importance of assistance and national capacity building in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention. The Fourth Review Conference welcomed national and regional efforts in this area.
- 9.75 The Fourth Review Conference recognised efforts by the Secretariat to adjust its capacity building programmes in line with the recommendations of the Third Review Conference to focus on integrated chemicals management, promotion of chemical knowledge and enhancing laboratory capabilities.
- 9.76 The Fourth Review Conference encouraged the promotion of a safety and security culture throughout the entire life-cycle of toxic chemicals. It noted the relevance of chemical safety and security efforts for prevention of re-emergence of chemical weapons as well as for misuse of toxic chemicals, including by non-State actors, such as terrorists.
- 9.77 The Fourth Review Conference welcomed and encouraged the establishment by States Parties of national and international resource centres and centres of excellence to offer expertise, training, and best-practice exchanges in the areas of international cooperation and assistance.
- 9.78 The Fourth Review Conference reaffirmed the provision of subparagraph 2(d) of Article XI that the States Parties shall not use the Convention as grounds for applying any measures other than those provided for or permitted under the Convention, nor any other international agreement for pursuing an objective inconsistent with the Convention.
- 9.79 The Fourth Review Conference recognised the commitment of the States Parties that the provisions of the Convention shall be implemented in a manner that avoids hampering the economic or technological development of States Parties and international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention, including the international exchange of scientific and technical information, and chemicals and equipment for the production, processing, or use of chemicals for purposes not prohibited under the Convention.
- 9.80 The Fourth Review Conference noted the United Nations General Assembly resolution "Cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of environmental

effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea”, adopted at its 71st session by consensus, and invited States Parties to support voluntary sharing of information, raising awareness and cooperation on this issue.

9.81 The Fourth Review Conference, having reviewed economic and technological developments:

- (a) Called upon States Parties to fully implement the provisions of Article XI, and encouraged States Parties to continue supporting the activities under Article XI, including through voluntary contributions;
- (b) Encouraged the Council to continue the ongoing facilitation process in order to deliberate and explore, as appropriate, additional measures within an agreed framework to ensure the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of Article XI;
- (c) Recognized the importance of revitalising discussions on the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI and recommended to the Council to consider establishing an open-ended working group for this purpose;
- (d) Requested the Secretariat to prepare and submit, on a regular basis, concrete programmes and actions relevant for States Parties related to the implementation of Article XI, as well as to report to the Conference on the progress made in the implementation of the decision on the components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of Article XI (C-16/DEC.10);
- (e) Encouraged the Secretariat and States Parties to continue to assist States Parties, upon request, in maintaining and developing their analytical skills and laboratory capabilities in support of National Authorities; it also underlined the need to build up the designated laboratory network, in particular within GRULAC and Africa regions that do not host any such a laboratory, including through the assistance of the Secretariat and, on a voluntary basis, of the OPCW designated laboratories. It is in the interest of the Organisation that all regions have an OPCW designated laboratory;
- (f) Requested the Secretariat to continue facilitating and promoting the provision, upon request, of expert advice on the peaceful uses of chemistry to and among States Parties, including supporting cooperation projects among States Parties;
- (g) While taking into account the independent and autonomous nature of the Organisation, encouraged the Secretariat to coordinate its activities with those of other relevant international and regional organisations as appropriate, in order to build on existing competencies, develop synergies, and avoid duplication of efforts;
- (h) Encouraged the States Parties and the Secretariat to continue to promote the OPCW’s role as a platform for voluntary consultation and cooperation among States Parties in the areas of safety and security of chemicals throughout their entire life cycle, including through the development, exchange and

dissemination of information and best practices, and to support national capacity building, upon request;

- (i) Requested the Secretariat to share best practices on integrated chemicals management, to help equip developing countries with the knowledge on where and how to start on chemical management, offer practical technical assistance to help States Parties to develop guidelines to their specific national conditions, and provide training, implementation tools and other forms of implementation support;
- (j) Called upon the Secretariat to continue implementing the Africa Programme, and other appropriate programmes, as well as to provide feedback on a regular basis on the activities and progress made in this regard and, while emphasising the importance of regular budgetary funding for these programmes, encouraged States Parties to make further voluntary contributions to support them;
- (k) Urged all stakeholders to engage in inclusive dialogue through the Secretariat and the States Parties, as well as the Steering Committee of the Africa Programme, to better address the specific needs of African States Parties;
- (l) Encouraged the Secretariat and States Parties to evaluate options for the creation of regional or subregional centres of excellence, with technical support from the OPCW, in partnership and with active participation of the States Parties in the region or subregion, and with sponsorship by donors, especially in regions where resources are limited. It further requested the Secretariat to explore the increased use of existing centres of excellence or laboratories and to coordinate its proposals with existing initiatives and to leverage possible synergies with other international organisations working in related fields;
- (m) Encouraged the Secretariat to continue to maintain and expand an alumni association of the Associate Programme and other capacity-building programmes in order to preserve lessons learned and experience gained;
- (n) Requested States Parties to review their existing national regulations in the field of trade in chemicals in order to ensure their consistency with the object and purpose of the Convention, as referred to in Article XI subparagraph 2(c) of the Convention; and
- (o) Notwithstanding the provision of paragraph 2 Article III of the Convention, encouraged States Parties in a position to do so to support voluntary sharing of information related to chemical munitions dumped at sea and further encouraged them to continue to raise awareness and facilitate cooperation on this issue.

## **ENGAGEMENT WITH EXTERNAL PARTNERS**

- 9.82 The Fourth Review Conference emphasised the importance of the contribution to the goals of the Convention that is made by the chemical industry associations, the



scientific community, academia, and civil society organisations engaged with issues relevant to the Convention. It underlined that cooperation with a wide variety of relevant external stakeholders is essential to achieving the object and purpose of the Convention.

- 9.83 The Fourth Review Conference welcomed the strengthened relationship of the OPCW with regional and international chemical industry associations.
- 9.84 The Fourth Review Conference welcomed the increased engagement of the SAB and the Secretariat with other scientific advisory boards, scientific communities and relevant international organisations, including security focused ones, to explore scientific and technological issues and share experiences to achieve the object and the purpose of the Convention.
- 9.85 The Fourth Review Conference emphasised that education and outreach, including public diplomacy, are increasingly important tools employed by the OPCW to engage with States Parties and with a wide variety of relevant stakeholder communities on the international, regional and local levels. It welcomed the establishment of the ABEO to provide strategic and practical advice to the Secretariat and States Parties, including National Authorities, on designing, developing and accessing educational strategies, materials and tools and contributing to education and outreach activities.
- 9.86 The Fourth Review Conference acknowledged the establishment of “The Hague Ethical Guidelines”, which constitute an important step to advance understanding among chemistry practitioners of the importance of nurturing responsible and ethical norms for scientific research and development.
- 9.87 The Fourth Review Conference, having reviewed engagement with external partners:
- (a) Encouraged the Secretariat to further enhance interaction and strengthen partnerships, as appropriate, with relevant regional and international organisations, as well as the chemical industry associations, academia, and civil society organisations engaged in issues relevant to the Convention;
  - (b) Stressed the relevance of civil society organisations’ attendance at OPCW events highlighting their contribution to the work of the Organisation;
  - (c) Encouraged the Secretariat to continue to engage with relevant scientific communities, scientific advisory boards and relevant international organisations, including security focused ones, to explore scientific and technological issues and share experiences, with a view to achieving the object and the purpose of the Convention;
  - (d) Requested the Secretariat to further strengthen education and outreach, and encouraged the Secretariat, in concert with the ABEO, to assist States Parties, upon request, in implementing education and outreach activities; and
  - (e) Called upon States Parties as well as the Secretariat and all relevant stakeholders, as part of efforts to promote awareness of “The Hague Ethical Guidelines” amongst scientists and engineers at an early stage in their training

to ensure that the knowledge and technologies should only be used for purposes not prohibited under this Convention.

## **ORGANISATIONAL GOVERNANCE**

- 9.88 The Fourth Review Conference reiterated the need to ensure that confidential data, including the information collected from the chemical industry, is effectively protected at all times, in accordance with the requirements of the Convention. In this context, the Fourth Review Conference emphasised the role of the Director-General in ensuring the protection of confidential information, the responsibility of each staff member of the Secretariat, as well as the obligation of States Parties to comply with all rules and regulations pertaining to the protection of confidential information.
- 9.89 The Fourth Review Conference requested that the Secretariat identify and address new security challenges, including malicious cyber activities, to OPCW operations, the protection of confidential information and physical infrastructure, by implementing strengthened physical and information technology measures.
- 9.90 The Fourth Review Conference stressed the importance of the procedures to be applied in cases of alleged breaches of confidentiality and noted with satisfaction that the Commission for the Settlement of Disputes Related to Confidentiality has had no disputes relating to such breaches of confidentiality brought before it since entry into force.
- 9.91 The Fourth Review Conference noted that the Secretariat conducted investigations in 2015 and 2016 on two cases related to breaches of confidentiality, and requested the Secretariat to continue to enhance its measures for protecting confidential information to avoid any breaches in the future.
- 9.92 The Fourth Review Conference noted the developments in implementing the confidentiality regime since the Third Review Conference. The Fourth Review Conference also welcomed amendments to the OPCW Policy on Confidentiality (C-22/DEC.15, dated 30 November 2017).
- 9.93 The Fourth Review Conference took note of the work of the OPCW Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T) and its Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors and further encouraged the OEWG-T and its Sub-Working Group to continue to fulfil its mandates.
- 9.94 The Fourth Review Conference noted the importance of the OPCW continuing to have at its disposal qualified and trained staff, equipment, and procedures fit for the tasks it must fulfil under the Convention, and reaffirmed the importance of recruiting staff in full adherence to the provisions of the Convention.
- 9.95 The Fourth Review Conference underlined the continuing importance of a well-trained, adequately equipped and informed Inspectorate that enjoys the necessary integrity and independence as a prerequisite for the implementation of the verification measures stipulated in the Verification Annex.

- 9.96 The Fourth Review Conference, while stressing the main role of assessed contributions by States Parties, noted that voluntary contributions by States Parties contributed significantly to the work and programmes of the OPCW.
- 9.97 In order to guarantee good results of the policy-making organs, it is highly necessary to ensure prompt and timely production of documents. In this context, the Fourth Review Conference stressed that more openness, transparency, and constructive engagement, also in relation to external stakeholders in accordance with confidentiality regime, will serve the multilateral effectiveness of the Organisation.
- 9.98 The Fourth Review Conference highlighted the relevance of the consensus principle in decision-making on matters of substance, as set out in Article VIII paragraph 18 and Rules 69 and 71 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference;
- 9.99 While noting the good relations between the OPCW and the Host Country, the Fourth Review Conference encouraged continued consultations to make progress on outstanding issues related to the implementation of the Headquarters Agreement.
- 9.100 The Fourth Review Conference, having reviewed the general functioning of the OPCW:
- (a) Encouraged States Parties to consider supporting the work of the SAB by making voluntary contributions to its trust fund;
  - (b) Requested the Secretariat and States Parties to keep under review the outcome of the work of the OEWG on Terrorism and the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors and consider how it can contribute to the capacity building activities of the OPCW;
  - (c) Further encouraged States Parties to continue good faith dialogue and sharing experiences on national procedures for combating chemical terrorism;
  - (d) Requested the policy-making organs to evaluate the pending issues in the work of the OEWG on Terrorism and the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors and keep under review their outcomes in fulfilling its mandate;
  - (e) Urged all States Parties, particularly those that are two or more years in arrears, to regularise their payments, related to their assessed contributions, without delay and in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules and requested the Secretariat to continue to undertake bilateral engagements with such States Parties that are two or more years in arrears for the regularisation of their payments and to report on such engagements to the Conference at its regular session;
  - (f) Called upon the Secretariat and States Parties to consider transition from an annual to a biennial programme and budget of the Organisation and emphasised that financing of the Organisation should be increasingly based on RBM principles;

- (g) Recalled that the Working Capital Fund (WCF) is essential for bridging the gap between cash inflow and outflow and that the Organisation should ensure that the WCF maintains sufficient liquidity;
- (h) Encouraged the Secretariat, in close cooperation with States Parties, to consider developing and maintaining a major capital investment plan to give visibility to irregular or non-recurrent funding requirements and creating a major capital investment fund;
- (i) Recognised the future challenges facing the Organisation in ensuring the continuity of knowledge and expertise. To address this critical need, the Fourth Review Conference requested the Secretariat to present before the Ninety-First regular session of the Council a comprehensive proposal, including targets, on tenure policy through to 2025, with a review in 2022, taking into consideration the necessary transfer of knowledge and expertise, particularly in the area of chemical weapons within the OPCW, and taking into account the need to ensure equitable geographic representation and gender balance, with a view to considering the proposal at the Twenty-Fourth regular Session of the Conference of the States Parties;
- (j) Noted that the exemptions to the tenure policy for rehiring of inspectors could be maintained and must be revisited regularly, while the Secretariat should continue improving its training for inspectors;
- (k) Emphasised the importance of continuing to have an open and transparent policy for recruiting staff, as well as retaining and building up expertise related to conducting investigations of alleged use, chemical safety and security and other areas relevant for the Convention, while paying due regard to equitable geographic representation and gender balance;
- (l) Tasked the Secretariat to provide adequate training, including on-site training and practice, for inspectors, particularly their leaders, to ensure a high degree of knowledge, skill, and experience. It underlined that leadership, communication skills and intercultural sensitivity are particularly important skills for future inspectors;
- (m) Requested the Secretariat to take into account in its recruitment policy the importance of gender balance and guarantee equal access to women in the process of selection for posts in the Secretariat, and encouraged States Parties to ensure that candidates they promote for consideration for posts within the Organisation, at all levels, include qualified women;
- (n) Requested the Director-General to pay due consideration and actively promote equitable geographic representation and gender balance in all positions and activities carried out by the Organisation, in accordance with the Convention;
- (o) Encouraged efforts made by the Secretariat in order to maintain the equal treatment of all official OPCW languages, including regular updating of the website and sustaining the high level of translation and interpretation skills;

- (p) Requested the Secretariat to augment and adapt its talent management and knowledge management, in order to maintain the OPCW fit for its purpose in the future;
- (q) Stressed that the OPCW should remain the global repository of knowledge and expertise with regard to chemical weapons disarmament, the verification of their non-possession and non-use, and their destruction, and requested the Secretariat to continue ensuring continuity in its knowledge base and expertise in these areas;
- (r) Emphasised the importance of enlarging the supply-base of professionals from the States Parties to the Convention, particularly from the States Parties of the developing regions, which would be instrumental in achieving a balanced geographical representation in the Secretariat's professional-grade positions;
- (s) Tasked the Secretariat to submit by no later than end of June, 2019, to the Council a detailed proposal considering funding and modalities for candidates to enable them to join the internship and Junior Professional Officer (JPO) programmes of the OPCW, with the aim of developing expertise and ensuring equitable geographic representation and gender balance, and taking into account the financial costs of participating in such programmes, including travel cost and living expenses; and
- (t) Encouraged the Secretariat to continue to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its work.

## 10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Reports of subsidiary bodies

### Committee of the Whole

- 10.1 The Fourth Review Conference **noted** the report of the Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole on the results of its consideration of the agenda item referred to it on the recommendation of the General Committee (RC-4/CoW.1, dated 28 November 2018), and **took action** as required.

### General Committee

- 10.2 The Fourth Review Conference **noted** the reports of the General Committee, and **took action** as required.

### Credentials Committee

- 10.3 The report of the Credentials Committee (RC-4/2, dated 21 November 2018) was presented by its Chairperson, Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal of Bangladesh. The Chairperson reported orally that, following the close of the Credentials Committee meeting, original credentials had been received from Belarus, Eswatini, Guyana, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Oman, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), and copies of credentials had been received from Lebanon, Papua New Guinea, and Trinidad and Tobago. The Fourth Review Conference **noted** this additional information and **approved** the report.

**11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Any other business**

- 11.1 The following delegations made statements: the United States of America, Guatemala, the Russian Federation, Bangladesh, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the State of Palestine, Pakistan, India, Chile, Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Mexico, Australia, Iceland, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Italy, China, Germany, Cuba, Burundi, Brazil, Belgium, Canada, Indonesia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Finland, Kuwait, San Marino, Cameroon, Denmark, Malaysia, Kenya, Japan, South Africa, Algeria, Morocco, Ethiopia, Botswana, Panama, and Uruguay.
- 11.2 The Permanent Representative of France read a joint statement on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Cook Islands, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Ukraine.
- 11.3 Austria made a statement on behalf of the European Union.
- 11.4 The Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation read a joint statement 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.
- 11.5 Venezuela made a statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China on the "Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention Article XI".

**12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Adoption of the final documents of the Fourth Review Conference**

There was no consensus on the adoption of the final document of the Fourth Review Conference.

**13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Closure**

The Chairperson closed the Fourth Review Conference at 16:35 on 30 November 2018.