REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL


1. On 16 October 2018, the Permanent Representations of Canada, the Netherlands, and the United States of America to the OPCW submitted a proposal entitled “Joint Proposal by Canada, the Netherlands, and the United States of America for a Technical Change to Schedule 1 of the Annex on Chemicals to the Chemical Weapons Convention”, in accordance with paragraphs 1, 4, and 5 of Article XV of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”). Pursuant to subparagraph 5(a) of Article XV of the Convention, the Director-General communicated the proposal to all States Parties and to the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) through Note S/1682/2018 (dated 25 October 2018), and to the Depositary by letter.

2. The Chairperson of the Council, in consultation with the Director-General and in accordance with Rule 12(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, announced on 7 December 2018 (EC-M-62/1, dated 7 December 2018) that a meeting of the Council would be convened on 14 January 2019, with a view to addressing, pursuant to subparagraph 5(c) of Article XV of the Convention, the joint proposal (S/1682/2018).

3. In accordance with subparagraph 5(b) of Article XV of the Convention, the Director-General provided an evaluation of the joint proposal, determining its possible consequences for the provisions of the Convention (EC-M-62/DG.1, dated 14 December 2018). On 9 January 2019, the United States, Canada, and the Netherlands submitted a draft decision of the Council recommending to States Parties the adoption of the joint proposal in accordance with subparagraphs 5(c) and 5(d) of Article XV of the Convention (EC-M-62/DEC/CRP.1, dated 9 January 2019).

4. Further to the Director-General’s evaluation, in accordance with Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, the Director-General herewith reports on the financial, administrative, and programme and budget implications of the joint proposal contained in S/1682/2018 and the associated draft decision (EC-M-62/DEC/CRP.1).

5. As noted in EC-M-62/DG.1, the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) does not expect a significant increase of inspections at Schedule 1 facilities attributable to the addition of the proposed chemical families to the Annex on Chemicals. However, appropriate capacity building and training for relevant staff of the Secretariat would be required. In addition, the Secretariat envisions that
appropriate measures would be necessary to incorporate the relevant scientific and technical information into OPCW support programmes and public messaging on the subject matter.

6. In considering these implications of the joint proposal, the Secretariat estimates that additional requirements associated with the adoption of the joint proposal could be met within existing resources, principally by ensuring appropriate adaptation of relevant technical procedures, training curricula, and outreach materials.

- - - o - - -