

**REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL****INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION C-SS-4/DEC.3  
ON ADDRESSING THE THREAT FROM CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE**

1. The Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”), at its Fourth Special Session, adopted a decision entitled “Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use” (C-SS-4/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2018). In paragraph 24 of the decision, the Conference decided, inter alia, that “the Director-General shall provide a copy of this decision and a report on its initial implementation to all States Parties and to the United Nations Secretary-General within 30 days of this decision”.
2. The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) has initiated internal planning for the implementation of C-SS-4/DEC.3. This includes an assessment of the human resource, financial, technological, and other requirements necessary to implement the decision. In line with this process, the Secretariat will present an addendum to the 2019 Programme and Budget proposal to States Parties prior to the budget consultations in September 2018.
3. Following current practice, and consistent with paragraph 8 of the decision, the Secretariat continues to update States Parties on, inter alia, the operations of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria (FFM) through its monthly progress reports entitled “Progress in the Elimination of the Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme”, and through reports detailing the FFM’s activities and findings regarding specific incidents of alleged use of chemicals as a weapon in the Syrian Arab Republic. In addition, the Secretariat will provide briefings on the activities and findings of the FFM to States Parties, as appropriate.
4. Pursuant to paragraph 10 of C-SS-4/DEC.3, the Secretariat is developing arrangements necessary to identify the perpetrators of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic by identifying and reporting on all information potentially relevant to the origin of those chemical weapons in those instances in which the FFM determines or has determined that use or likely use occurred, and cases for which the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism has not issued a report.
5. As decided in paragraph 12 of C-SS-4/DEC.3, the Secretariat is considering appropriate measures to preserve and provide information to the body established by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 71/248 (2016), as well as to any relevant investigatory entities established under the auspices of the United Nations. In this context, the Secretariat has engaged in consultations with relevant United Nations counterparts regarding implementation of the decision.



6. In accordance with paragraph 18 of C-SS-4/DEC.3, the Secretariat is also considering options for further assistance to States Parties to help prevent the chemical weapons threat posed by non-State actors, and to aid States Parties' contingency planning, in the event of a chemical weapons attack. The Secretariat will review and build on existing activities in this regard, including with respect to preparedness, prevention, and response, taking into consideration, inter alia, the decision of the Executive Council (hereinafter the "Council") entitled "Addressing the Threat Posed by the Use of Chemical Weapons by Non-State Actors" (EC-86/DEC.9, dated 13 October 2017). The Secretariat would welcome proposals from States Parties for further types of assistance that the Secretariat might provide with regard to paragraph 18 of C-SS-4/DEC.3.
7. Pursuant to paragraph 20 of C-SS-4/DEC.3, the Director-General, if requested by a State Party investigating possible chemical weapons use on its territory, may provide technical expertise to identify those who are perpetrators, organisers, sponsors, or otherwise involved in the use of chemicals as weapons. In this context, the Secretariat is also developing specific proposals to establish independent, impartial, expert arrangements in view of the invitation to the Director-General in this paragraph of the decision to submit such proposals to the Conference at its next regular session.
8. In view of the invitations to the Director-General in paragraphs 21 and 22 of C-SS-4/DEC.3, the Secretariat will prepare proposals to strengthen implementation of the verification regime of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter "the Convention"), to provide further assistance to States Parties to enable them to implement their obligations under the Convention, to enhance chemical security, to enable international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention, and to further strengthen the capability of the Secretariat.
9. In accordance with paragraph 23 of C-SS-4/DEC.3, the Secretariat will continue to prioritise achievement of the universality of the Convention as essential to achieving its object and purpose, to enhancing the security of States Parties, and to international peace and security. The Director-General continues to call upon all States Parties to support the Secretariat's efforts in this regard.
10. In accordance with paragraph 24 of C-SS-4/DEC.3, the Director-General shall provide a report on progress in the implementation of the decision to the Council at each regular session.