



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

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Ninety-Second Session  
8 – 11 October 2019

EC-92/4  
C-24/2  
10 October 2019  
Original: ENGLISH

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON THE PERFORMANCE  
OF ITS ACTIVITIES IN THE PERIOD FROM 13 JULY 2018 TO 12 JULY 2019**



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## 1. ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

1.1 The Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) is the executive organ of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The Council promotes the effective implementation of, and compliance with, the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”). It also supervises the activities of the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”), cooperates with the National Authority of each State Party, and facilitates consultations and cooperation among States Parties at their request.

1.2 The following tables show, by regional grouping, the composition of the Council for the period from 12 May 2018 to 11 May 2019, and from 12 May 2019 to 11 May 2020.

**TABLE 1: COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FROM 12 MAY 2018 TO 11 MAY 2019**

<b>Regional Group</b>	<b>States Parties</b>
Africa	Algeria, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Sudan
Asia	China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, and Saudi Arabia
Eastern Europe	Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, Estonia, Russian Federation, and Ukraine
Latin America and the Caribbean	Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, and Peru
Western European and Other States	Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America

**TABLE 2: COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FROM 12 MAY 2019 TO 11 MAY 2020**

<b>Regional Group</b>	<b>States Parties</b>
Africa	Algeria, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Sudan
Asia	Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, and Saudi Arabia
Eastern Europe	Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Romania, Russian Federation, and Ukraine
Latin America and the Caribbean	Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, and Peru
Western European and Other States	Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America

1.3 At its Twenty-Third Session, the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) adopted decisions on 12 matters the Council had referred to it.

### **Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council**

- 1.4 At its Ninetieth Session, the Council elected Ambassador Kamal Bashir Ahmed of the Sudan and Ambassador Brândușa Predescu of Romania as Vice-Chairpersons, with effect from 12 May 2019 and for a term of office ending on 11 May 2020.
- 1.5 At its Sixty-Fourth Meeting, the Council elected Ambassador Andrea Perugini of Italy as its Chairperson, with effect from 12 May 2019 and for a term of office ending on 11 May 2020. Ambassador Alireza Kazemi Abadi of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Ambassador Gladys Marithza Ruíz Sánchez de Vielman of Guatemala will serve as the Vice-Chairpersons for the same period.
- 1.6 The following table lists the dates on which the Council held its regular sessions during the period under review.

**TABLE 3: DATES OF REGULAR SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

<b>Session</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Eighty-Ninth	9 – 11, 18 and 22 October 2018
Ninetieth	12 – 15 March 2019
Ninety-First	9 – 12 July 2019

- 1.7 The Council held four meetings during the reporting period:
- (a) its Sixty-First Meeting, on 5 November 2018;
  - (b) its Sixty-Second Meeting, on 14 January 2019;
  - (c) its Sixty-Third Meeting, on 25 February 2019; and
  - (d) its Sixty- Fourth Meeting, on 10 May 2019.

### **Accreditation of representatives to the Executive Council**

- 1.8 The Council at its Ninety-First Session considered and approved a report by the Director-General on the credentials of representatives of members of the Council (EC-91/DG.22, dated 4 July 2019).

### **Application of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council**

- 1.9 During the period under review, observer States Parties attended sessions of the Council, with an average of 50 present at each session. Each request by observers to present their views was granted under Rule 22 of the aforementioned Rules of Procedure.



### **Working methods of the Executive Council**

- 1.10 During the period under review, the Chairperson of the Council, working in consultation with its Vice-Chairpersons and its members, reviewed and published lists of issues under regular consideration and outstanding issues on the agenda of the Council (EC-89/INF.1, dated 6 August 2018; EC-90/INF.1, dated 13 February 2019; and EC-91/INF.1, dated 11 April 2019).
- 1.11 The Vice-Chairpersons of the Council were designated as coordinators for chemical weapons issues; chemical industry and other Article VI issues; administrative and financial issues; and legal, organisational, and other issues. Facilitators were also appointed for many of the issues requiring resolution.
- 1.12 The Council also kept under its consideration the matter of issues relating to the improvement of the methodology of its work.

### **Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues**

- 1.13 The Vice-Chairpersons reported to the Council at its regular sessions on informal consultations held during the intersessional periods.
- 1.14 Facilitators for issues under regular consideration also reported to the Council on consultations held during the intersessional periods.

## **2. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

### **Statements and reports by the Director-General**

- 2.1 In his opening statements to each session of the Council during the period under review, the Director-General elaborated, inter alia, on aspects of compliance by States Parties with the requirements of the Convention, and on related activities undertaken by the Secretariat. He also submitted reports to the Council, either in fulfilment of various requirements of the Convention or in response to requests by the Council or the Conference.

### **Draft annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention for 2018**

- 2.2 The Council at its Ninety-First Session considered the “Draft Report of the OPCW on the Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction in 2018” (EC-91/4 C-24/CRP.1, dated 11 July 2019), and forwarded it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Fourth Session. The Council requested the Secretariat to post this document on the OPCW external website, clearly indicating that it had yet to be considered and approved by the Conference.

### **Universality-related activities**

- 2.3 Further to a decision of the Council at its Twenty-Third Meeting on an action plan for the universality of the Convention (EC-M-23/DEC.3, dated 24 October 2003), the Council at its Eighty-Ninth Session considered and noted the annual report on the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention during the period from 16 August 2017 to 15 August 2018, which was being submitted to both the Council and the Conference (EC-89/DG.12 C-23/DG.9, dated 3 September 2018).

### **Verification implementation reports**

- 2.4 The Council at its Eighty-Ninth Session considered and noted a supplement to the Verification Implementation Report (VIR) for 2017 (EC-89/HP/DG.1, dated 30 August 2018).
- 2.5 The Council at its Ninety-First Session considered and noted the VIR for 2018 (EC-91/HP/DG.1, dated 15 May 2019 and its Addendum (EC-91/HP/DG.1/Add.1\*, dated 1 July 2019). The Council also noted a Note by the Secretariat on comments and views received on the 2018 VIR (EC-91/S/4, dated 27 June 2019), as well as the Chairperson's summary of the informal consultations on it (EC-91/3, dated 2 July 2019).

### **Issues related to meeting the final extended deadline and other destruction-related issues**

- 2.6 Further to the relevant decisions by the Conference at its Eleventh, Fourteenth, and Sixteenth Sessions, reports by the United States of America as the sole possessor State Party on the progress made for the destruction of its chemical weapons were circulated to the members of the Council at its Eighty-Ninth, Ninetieth, and Ninety-First Sessions (EC-89/NAT.4, dated 19 September 2018; EC-90/NAT.2, dated 20 February 2019; and EC-91/NAT.4, dated 18 June 2019). The Council at all three of the aforementioned sessions noted the confirmation provided by the delegation of the United States of America that the necessary measures continued to be undertaken in order to meet the planned completion date of September 2023 for its destruction activities, as submitted to the Council at its Sixty-Eighth Session in accordance with subparagraph 3(c) of Conference decision C-16/DEC.11 (dated 1 December 2011).
- 2.7 Further to decision C-16/DEC.11, the Council at its Eighty-Ninth, Ninetieth, and Ninety-First Sessions considered and noted reports by the Director-General on the overall progress with respect to the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles (EC-89/DG.27, dated 28 September 2018; EC-90/DG.13, dated 4 March 2019; and EC-91/DG.18, dated 28 June 2019).
- 2.8 The Council at its Eighty-Ninth Session considered and noted a Note by the Director-General on the schedule for submission by chemical weapons possessor States of the reports on their destruction activities after the extended deadline of 29 April 2012 (EC-89/DG.13, dated 3 September 2018).
- 2.9 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012), the Council at its Eighty-Ninth, Ninetieth, and Ninety-First

Sessions considered and noted reports by the Director-General on the overall progress with regard to the destruction of the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China (EC-89/DG.30, dated 5 October 2018; EC-90/DG.15, dated 8 March 2019; and EC-91/DG.21, dated 2 July 2019).

- 2.10 Further to the same decision by the Council (EC-67/DEC.6), national papers by China (EC-89/NAT.7\*, dated 1 October 2018; EC-90/NAT.3, dated 28 February 2019; and EC-91/NAT.6, dated 24 June 2019) and national papers by Japan (EC-89/NAT.6, dated 21 September 2018; EC-90/NAT.1, dated 18 February 2019; and EC-91/NAT.5, dated 20 June 2019) were circulated to the members of the Council at its Eighty-Ninth, Ninetieth, and Ninety-First Sessions.
- 2.11 The Council at its Ninetieth Session noted the voluntary presentation by Italy on the destruction of its old chemical weapons pursuant to Council decision EC-67/DEC.8 (dated 17 February 2012).
- 2.12 The Council at its Ninetieth Session took note of the additional information provided by the delegation of the Netherlands on its destruction-related verification activities (EC-90/NAT.5, dated 6 March 2019).

#### **Visits by representatives of the Executive Council**

- 2.13 The Council at its Ninety-First Session considered and noted the report of the visit by the Chairperson of the Council, the Director-General, and representatives of the Council to the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, Colorado, the United States of America, from 6 to 11 April 2019 (EC-91/2, dated 14 June 2019).

#### **Detailed plans for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons**

- 2.14 The Council at its Eighty-Ninth, Ninetieth, and Ninety-First Sessions received briefings by the Secretariat on its other verification-related activities.
- 2.15 At its Eighty-Ninth Session, the Council noted a Note by the Secretariat on the results of the samples associated with the Secretariat's evaluation of the amended declaration submitted by Libya with regard to the Category 2 chemical weapons stored at the Ruwagha Chemical Weapons Storage Facility (EC-89/S/3, dated 2 October 2018).
- 2.16 At its Ninetieth Session, the Council approved an agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Static Detonation Chamber Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility, Richmond, Kentucky, the United States of America and an agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility, Richmond, Kentucky, the United States of America (EC-90/DEC.2 and EC-90/DEC.4, both dated 13 March 2019).
- 2.17 Further to the decision of the Council at its Sixty-Sixth Session on the policy guidelines for determining the number of Article VI inspections (EC-66/DEC.10, dated 7 October 2011), the Council, at its Ninety-First Session noted a report by the

Director-General on the results of the seventh year of implementation of these policy guidelines (EC-91/DG.4, dated 13 May 2019).

### **Facility agreements**

- 2.18 The Council at its Ninetieth Session approved a facility agreement with the United States of America regarding on-site inspections at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Static Detonation Chamber Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility, Richmond, Kentucky, the United States of America (EC-90/DEC.1, dated 13 March 2019).
- 2.19 At the same session, the Council approved a facility agreement with the United States of America regarding on-site inspections at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility, Richmond, Kentucky, the United States of America (EC-90/DEC.3, dated 13 March 2019).

### **Progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme**

- 2.20 Further to its decision at its Eighty-Third Session (EC-83/DEC.5, dated 11 November 2016), the Council placed “Elimination of the Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme” on the agenda of all future Council sessions until the Council determines that all elements of the Syrian chemical weapons programme have been eliminated.

### **Implementation of decisions of the Executive Council on destruction-related issues**

- 2.21 The Council noted Notes by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme at its Eighty-Ninth, Ninetieth, and Ninety-First Sessions (EC-89/DG.1, dated 24 July 2018; EC-89/DG.10, dated 24 August 2018; EC-89/DG.24, dated 24 September 2018; EC-90/DG.1, dated 23 October 2018; EC-90/DG.2, dated 23 November 2018; EC-90/DG.4, dated 21 December 2018; EC-90/DG.7, dated 24 January 2019; EC-90/DG.11, dated 25 February 2019; EC-91/DG.1, dated 25 March 2019; EC-91/DG.2, dated 24 April 2019; EC-91/DG.7, dated 24 May 2019; and EC-91/DG.14, dated 24 June 2019).
- 2.22 The Council at its Eighty-Ninth, Ninetieth, and Ninety-First Sessions noted national papers by the Syrian Arab Republic on activities relating to the destruction of chemical weapons and chemical weapons production facilities on its territory (EC-89/P/NAT.1, dated 18 July 2018; EC-89/P/NAT.2, dated 16 August 2018; EC-89/P/NAT.3, dated 17 September 2018; EC-90/P/NAT.1, dated 17 October 2018; EC-90/P/NAT.2, dated 16 November 2018; EC-90/P/NAT.3, dated 17 December 2018; EC-90/P/NAT.4, dated 16 January 2019; EC-90/P/NAT.5, dated 15 February 2019; EC-91/P/NAT.1, dated 15 March 2019; EC-91/P/NAT.2, dated 15 April 2019; EC-91/P/NAT.3, dated 16 May 2019; and EC-91/P/NAT.4, dated 13 June 2019).
- 2.23 The Council at its Eighty-Ninth, Ninetieth, and Ninety-First Sessions noted three reports by the Director-General entitled “Status of Implementation of Executive Council Decision EC-83/DEC.5 (dated 11 November 2016)” (EC-89/DG.15, dated

11 September 2018; EC-90/DG.12, dated 27 February 2019; and EC-91/DG.17, dated 26 June 2019).

- 2.24 At its Ninety-First Session, the Council noted a Note by the Director-General entitled “Outcome of Consultations with the Syrian Arab Republic Regarding its Chemical Weapons Declaration” (EC-91/DG.23, dated 5 July 2019).

#### Activities of the Declaration Assessment Team

- 2.25 The Council at its Eighty-Ninth, Ninetieth, and Ninety-First Sessions noted three Notes by the Director-General reporting on the work of the Declaration Assessment Team (EC-89/HP/DG.2, dated 1 October 2018; EC-90/HP/DG.1, dated 4 March 2019; and EC-91/HP/DG.2, dated 1 July 2019).

#### **Reports of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria**

- 2.26 The Director-General provided an update in regard to the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria during the Eighty-Ninth and Ninety-First Sessions of the Council.
- 2.27 At the Eighty-Ninth Session of the Council, the Secretariat circulated a Note entitled “Summary Update of the Activities Carried out by the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria” (S/1677/2018, dated 10 October 2018).
- 2.28 At the Ninetieth Session of the Council, the Secretariat circulated the “Report of the Fact-Finding Mission Regarding the Incident of Alleged Use of Toxic Chemicals as a Weapon in Douma, Syrian Arab Republic, on 7 April 2018” (S/1731/2019, dated 1 March 2019).

#### **Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use**

- 2.29 The Council at its Eighty-Ninth Session noted a report by the Director-General (EC-89/DG.2, dated 27 July 2018) on the initial implementation of the decision taken by the Conference at its Fourth Special Session entitled “Addressing the Threat From Chemical Weapons Use” (C-SS-4/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2018).
- 2.30 The Council at its Eighty-Ninth, Ninetieth, and Ninety-First Sessions noted three regular reports by the Director-General to the Council on progress made in the implementation of decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 (EC-89/DG.29, dated 4 October 2018; EC-90/DG.14, dated 7 March 2019; and EC-91/DG.20, dated 1 July 2019).
- 2.31 At the Ninety-First Session of the Council, the Secretariat circulated a Note entitled “Work of the Investigation and Identification Team Established by Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 (dated 27 June 2018)” (EC-91/S/3, dated 28 June 2019).

#### **Article VI-related issues**

- 2.32 Further to a decision by the Council at its Fifty-First Session (EC-51/DEC.1, dated 27 November 2007), the Council at its Ninetieth and Ninety-First Sessions noted the status reports by the Director-General on the timely submission by States Parties of

declarations under Article VI of the Convention (EC-90/DG.6, dated 16 January 2019 and EC-91/DG.11, dated 17 June 2019 and Corr. 1, dated 17 July 2019).

### **Progress made in the implementation of Article VII obligations**

- 2.33 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Fourteenth Session regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations (C-14/DEC.12, dated 4 December 2009), the Council at its Eighty-Ninth Session noted the reports by the Director-General on the “Overview of the Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2018” (EC-89/DG.9 C-23/DG.8, dated 24 August 2018); on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2018: Article VII – Initial Measures” (EC-89/DG.7 C-23/DG.6, dated 24 August 2018); and on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2018: Additional Measures for States Parties that Possess Industrial Facilities Which Are Declarable Under the Convention” (EC-89/DG.8 C-23/DG.7, dated 24 August 2018).

### **Readiness of the Technical Secretariat to conduct a challenge inspection and an investigation of alleged use**

- 2.34 The Council at its Ninety-First Session considered and noted a Note by the Director-General reporting on the readiness of the Secretariat to conduct a challenge inspection or an investigation of alleged use (EC-91/DG.15, dated 28 June 2019).

### **OPCW Central Analytical Database**

- 2.35 The Council at its Ninety-First Session considered a Note by the Director-General on lists of newly validated data of non-scheduled chemicals for approval by the Council for inclusion in the OPCW Central Analytical Database (EC-91/DG.5, dated 22 May 2019), and adopted a decision on the matter (EC-91/DEC.1, dated 11 July 2019).
- 2.36 The Council at its Ninety-First Session considered a Note by the Director-General on lists of newly validated data on non-scheduled chemicals relevant to the Convention for approval by the Council for inclusion in the OPCW Central Analytical Database (EC-91/DG.6, dated 22 May 2019), and adopted a decision on the matter (EC-91/DEC.2, dated 11 July 2019).

### **Status of implementation of Article X**

- 2.37 The Council at its Eighty-Ninth Session considered and noted a report by the Director-General on the status of implementation of Article X of the Convention as at 30 June 2018 (EC-89/DG.4, dated 17 August 2018 and Corr.1, dated 8 October 2018).

### **The content of the assistance and protection data bank and its use**

- 2.38 The Council at its Ninety-First Session considered and noted a Note by the Secretariat on the content of the assistance and protection data bank and its use (EC-91/S/2, dated 24 June 2019).

### **Status of implementation of Article XI**

- 2.39 The Council at its Eighty-Ninth Session considered and noted a report by the Director-General on the progress made and review of the status of implementation of Article XI of the Convention (EC-89/DG.20 C-23/DG.11, dated 14 September 2018).

### **The OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention**

- 2.40 The Council at its Eighty-Ninth Session considered and noted a Note by the Director-General on the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Africa Programme”) (EC-89/DG.14 C-23/DG.10, dated 5 September 2018).

### **The OPCW’s contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts**

- 2.41 The Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Terrorism, Ambassador Oji Nyimenuate Ngofa of Nigeria, briefed the Council at its Eighty-Ninth, Ninety and Ninety-First Sessions, respectively, on the work of the OEWG during the intersessional period (EC-89/WP.2, dated 10 October 2018, EC-90/WP.1, dated 13 March 2019, and EC-91/WP.2, dated 11 July 2019).
- 2.42 The Council at its Ninetieth Session noted a Note by the Director-General on the status of the OPCW’s contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts (EC-90/DG.8, dated 12 February 2019).

### **Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference**

- 2.43 The Council at its Eighty-Ninth Session considered and noted a Note by the Secretariat entitled “Updated Matrix of Actionable Items Identified at the Third Review Conference” (EC-89/S/2, dated 19 September 2018)
- 2.44 At its Ninetieth Session, the Council requested States Parties to provide to the Secretariat feedback on the content, format, and usefulness of the above-mentioned matrix, with a view to deciding at its next regular session whether the matrix document should be continued and, if so, in what form.
- 2.45 At its Ninety-First Session, the Council considered and noted the update to the matrix (EC-89/S/2/Add.1, dated 26 June 2019), and decided that, following the issuance of the final full version of the matrix at the Ninety-Second Session of the Council, the Secretariat would produce addenda for all subsequent regular sessions that would encompass only new and relevant developments during the reporting period. The first matrix in its new format will be issued prior to the Ninety-Third Session of the Council.

### **Implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Technical Secretariat in 2018**

- 2.46 The Council at its Ninetieth Session considered and noted a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Secretariat in 2018 (EC-90/DG.9 C-24/DG.2, dated 12 February 2019).

### **Report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities**

- 2.47 The Council at its Eighty-Ninth Session considered and approved a report on the performance of its activities in the period from 15 July 2017 to 12 July 2018, and submitted it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Third Session (EC-89/4 C-23/2, dated 11 October 2018). A Note by the Secretariat entitled “The Destruction of Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People’s Republic of China” was attached to the above-mentioned report.

### **Administrative and financial matters**

#### Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2019, and all items pertaining to this budget

- 2.48 The Council at its Sixty-First Meeting considered the Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2019 and all items pertaining to this budget, which the Director-General had submitted to the Council in accordance with subparagraph 32(a) of Article VIII of the Convention (EC-M-61/DEC.1, dated 5 November 2018), and transmitted it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Third Session, together with the following Notes by the Director-General and their associated draft decisions: “Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2019” (EC-89/CRP.1/Rev.2, dated 12 October 2018 and Corr.1, dated 16 October 2018) and the associated draft decision (EC-89/DEC/CRP.9, dated 12 October 2018); “Request for the Establishment of a Special Fund for Cybersecurity, Business Continuity, and Physical Infrastructure Security, and Transfer of a Portion of the 2016 Cash Surplus for this Purpose” and the associated draft decision (EC-89/DG.32 and EC-89/DEC/CRP.7, both dated 12 October 2018); “Request for the Establishment of a Special Fund for IT Infrastructure to Support the Implementation of Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3, and Transfer of a Portion of the 2016 Cash Surplus for this Purpose” and the associated draft decision (EC-89/DG.33 and EC-89/DEC/CRP.8, both dated 12 October 2018); and the draft decision entitled “Cash Surplus for 2016” (EC-89/DEC/CRP.6, dated 12 October 2018).
- 2.49 A Note by the Secretariat on the programme performance for the year 2017 (S/1615/2018, dated 18 April 2018) was circulated to the members of the Council at its Eighty-Ninth Session.

#### Financial situation of the OPCW

- 2.50 At its Eighty-Ninth Session, the Council considered and forwarded to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Third Session a Note by the Director-General on the cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2018 (EC-89/DG.23 C-23/DG.13, dated 21 September 2018).



- 2.51 The Council, at its Eighty-Ninth Session noted the Financial Statements of the OPCW and the report of the External Auditor for the year ending 31 December 2017 (EC-89/DG.3 C-23/DG.4, dated 7 August 2018) and forwarded them to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Third Session. Mr Damian Brewitt from the National Audit Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presented the Financial Statements of the OPCW and the report of the External Auditor for the year ending 31 December 2017 (EC-89/2, dated 11 October 2018).
- 2.52 At the same session the Council noted a Note by the Director-General on the submission of the 2018 OPCW Financial Statements to the External Auditor (Financial Rule 11.1.02) (EC-89/DG.21, dated 17 September 2018), considered and adopted a decision on the matter (EC-89/DEC.1, dated 11 October 2018), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Third Session.

Status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions

- 2.53 Further to a decision of the Conference at its Eleventh Session (C-11/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2006), the Council at its Eighty-Ninth Session considered and forwarded to the Conference at its Twenty-Third Session a Note by the Director-General on the status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans (EC-89/DG.6 C-23/DG.5, dated 23 August 2018).
- 2.54 During the same session and in the context of decision C-11/DEC.5, the Council approved a proposal from El Salvador for a multi-year payment plan to regularise the payment of its outstanding annual contributions (EC-89/DG.18, dated 14 September 2018), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Third Session (EC-89/DEC.3, dated 11 October 2018).

Transfers of funds

- 2.55 The Council at its Ninety-First Session noted a Note by the Director-General on transfers of funds during 2018 (EC-91/DG.13 C-24/DG.4, dated 24 June 2019).

Implementation of the enterprise resource planning system

- 2.56 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Nineteenth Session on the implementation of an enterprise resource planning (ERP) system and the establishment of a special fund for this purpose (C-19/DEC.7, dated 3 December 2014), the Council at its Eighty-Ninth, Ninetieth, and Ninety-First Sessions noted Notes by the Director-General reporting on the status of implementation of the ERP system (EC-89/DG.17, dated 14 September 2018; EC-90/DG.5, dated 21 December 2018; and EC-91/DG.16, dated 26 June 2019).

Extension of the Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions

- 2.57 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Twentieth Session (C-20/DEC.11, dated 3 December 2015), the Council at its Eighty-Ninth Session considered and adopted a decision on the financial status of the Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions

(EC-89/DEC.2, dated 11 October 2018), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Third Session.

- 2.58 At the same session, the Council noted a Note by the Director-General on the financial status of the Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions (EC-89/DG.25, dated 26 September 2018).

#### Appointments to the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

- 2.59 At its Ninetieth Session, the Council noted three Notes by the Secretariat on nominations for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF) and approved the following nominations: Mr Seyed Mehdi Hosseini Esfidvajani of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to replace Mr Khodayar Rouzbahani, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Mr Esfidvajani (28 December 2018) (EC-90/S/3, dated 15 February 2019); Mr John Foggo of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for a second term with the ABAF (EC-90/S/4, dated 6 March 2019); and Ms Leslie Hyland of the United States of America, to replace Mr John Fox, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Ms Hyland (27 February 2019) (EC-90/S/5, dated 6 March 2019).

#### **Personnel matters**

##### Composition of the Technical Secretariat

- 2.60 The Council at its Ninety-First Session noted the Director-General's annual report on the composition of the Secretariat (EC-91/DG.9, dated 29 May 2019).

##### Implementation of the tenure policy

- 2.61 The Council at its Eighty-Ninth Session noted a Note by the Director-General on the OPCW tenure policy (EC-89/DG.28, dated 2 October 2018) and its attachment entitled "Report on the Impact of the OPCW Tenure Policy", which was presented by one of its co-authors, Dr Ralf Trapp.
- 2.62 At its Ninety-First Session the Council noted a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the tenure policy in 2018 (EC-91/DG.12, dated 24 June 2019).

##### Implementation of an amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward classification of posts

- 2.63 The Council at its Eighty-Ninth Session noted a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward classification of posts during the period from 14 August 2017 to 13 August 2018 (EC-89/DG.5, dated 23 August 2018).

##### Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Interim Staff Rules of the OPCW

- 2.64 At its Eighty-Ninth Session, the Council noted a Note by the Director-General on proposed amendments to the Staff Regulations of the OPCW (EC-89/DG.19, dated 14 September 2018).

- 2.65 Subsequently, the Council considered and adopted a decision entitled “Amendments to the Staff Regulations of the OPCW” (EC-89/DEC.4, dated 11 October 2018), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Third Session.

Adjustment to the Director-General’s gross salary

- 2.66 In accordance with a decision of the Conference at its First Special Session (C-SS-1/DEC.4, dated 25 July 2002) stipulating that the terms of appointment of the Director-General shall be subject to adjustments by the Council to keep the terms in line with those of other executive heads within the United Nations system, the Council at its Ninetieth Session adopted a decision adjusting the Director-General’s gross salary (EC-90/DEC.5, dated 14 March 2019).

**3. OTHER DECISIONS AND ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**Provisional agendas for sessions of the Conference of the States Parties**

- 3.1 In accordance with Rule 17 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Council, at its Eighty-Ninth Session, drew up the “Draft Provisional Agenda for the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (Fourth Review Conference)” (EC-89/DG.16, dated 14 September 2018).
- 3.2 The Council at its Ninety-First Session drew up the provisional agenda for the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference (EC-91/DG.10, dated 13 June 2019).

**Charter of the Office of Internal Oversight**

- 3.3 The Council, at its Eighty-Ninth Session, noted a Note by the Director-General on the Charter of the Office of Internal Oversight (EC-89/DG.26, dated 28 September 2018). The Director-General transmitted the Charter, along with his own comments and any other comments made by the Council, to the Conference for consideration and approval at its Twenty-Third Session.

**Reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight and of the External Auditor**

- 3.4 The Council at its Eighty-Ninth and Ninetieth Sessions considered and noted a Note by the Secretariat on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor (EC-89/S/1, dated 23 August 2018 and EC-90/S/2, dated 28 January 2019 and Corr. 1, dated 14 February 2019).
- 3.5 The Council at its Ninety-First Session noted a report by the Director-General on the implementation in 2018 of the recommendations contained in the 2017 annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight (OIO) (EC-91/DG.3, dated 6 May 2019).

**Status report on the Verification Information System**

- 3.6 The Council at its Ninetieth Session took note of a status report on the Verification Information System (EC-90/S/1, dated 18 January 2019).

**Report of the co-facilitators nominated by the Executive Council at its Ninetieth Session on the tenure policy and related issues and on the joint position paper submitted by the Non-Aligned Movement and China**

- 3.7 At the Ninetieth Session of the Council, the Chairperson of the Council requested Ambassadors I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja of Indonesia and Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador to conduct facilitations on the tenure policy and related issues as well as on the joint position paper submitted by the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement and China (EC-90/NAT.4\*, dated 7 March 2019), and to report back to the Council at its next regular session.
- 3.8 During its Ninety-First Session, the co-facilitators reported to the Council on the consultations they held during the intersessional period (EC-91/WP.1, dated 10 July 2019).

**Amendments to the Annex on Chemicals to the Chemical Weapons Convention**

- 3.9 The Council at its Sixty-Second Meeting adopted a decision entitled “Recommendation for a Change to Schedule 1 of the Annex on Chemicals to the Chemical Weapons Convention” (EC-M-62/DEC.1\*, dated 14 January 2019), in which it recommended to all States Parties that the joint proposal by Canada, the Netherlands, and the United States of America be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in subparagraphs 5(c) and 5(d) of Article XV of the Convention. Pursuant to subparagraph 5(d) of Article XV of the Convention, an objection to the Council’s recommendation by a State Party was received by the Secretariat and was circulated to all States Parties as EC-M-62/NAT.5 (dated 9 April 2019). Pursuant to subparagraph 5(e) of Article XV of the Convention, a decision on the proposal shall be taken as a matter of substance by the Conference at its Twenty-Fourth Session.
- 3.10 The Council at its Sixty-Third Meeting considered a draft decision entitled “Recommendation for a Change to Schedule 1 of the Annex on Chemicals to the Chemical Weapons Convention” (EC-M-63/DEC/CRP.1, dated 19 February 2019). In accordance with subparagraphs 5(c) and 5(d) of Article XV of the Convention, the Council recommended the rejection of the proposals submitted by the Russian Federation for a change to Schedule 1 of the Annex on Chemicals to the Convention. Pursuant to subparagraph 5(d) of Article XV of the Convention, an objection to the Council’s recommendation by a State Party was received by the Secretariat and was circulated to all States Parties as EC-M-63/NAT.4 (dated 9 April 2019). Pursuant to subparagraph 5(e) of Article XV of the Convention, a decision on the proposal shall be taken as a matter of substance by the Conference at its Twenty-Fourth Session.

#### **4. REPORTS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

##### **Reports by the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference**

- 4.1 The Conference at its Twenty-Second Session established an open-ended working group to begin preparations, in cooperation with the Secretariat, for the Fourth Review Conference, which was to convene in accordance with paragraph 22 of Article VIII of the Convention (paragraph 25.2 of C-22/5\*, dated 1 December 2017).
- 4.2 The Chairperson of the OEWG, Ambassador I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja of Indonesia, briefed the Council at its Eighty-Ninth Session on the progress achieved by the working group and subsequently issued a report on the matter (WGRC-4/1, dated 2 November 2018).

##### **Reports by the Director-General regarding the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach**

- 4.3 Further to Conference decision C-20/DEC.9 (dated 3 December 2015), the Council at its Eighty-Ninth Session noted a Note by the Director-General reporting on the activities of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO) covering the period from 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018 (EC-89/DG.22 C-23/DG.12, dated 20 September 2018).
- 4.4 Further to decision C-20/DEC.9, during the Ninetieth Session of the Council the Secretariat circulated a Note by the Director-General on the membership of the ABEO (EC-90/DG.3 C-24/DG.1, dated 12 December 2018).
- 4.5 Also at its Ninetieth Session, the Council noted a Note by the Director-General reviewing the operation of the ABEO for the period 2016 to 2018 (EC-90/DG.10, dated 22 February 2019 and Corr.1, dated 28 February 2019) and decided to undertake another review of the operations of the ABEO after a further three years, in early 2022.

##### **Reports of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters**

- 4.6 At its Eighty-Ninth, Ninetieth, and Ninety-First Sessions, the Council decided to defer consideration of the report of the Forty-Fifth Session of the ABAF (ABAF-45/1, dated 3 August 2018) and of the Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report (EC-89/DG.11, dated 28 August 2018) until its next regular session.
- 4.7 The Council at its Ninety-First Session also deferred the consideration of the report of the Forty-Sixth Session of the ABAF (ABAF-46/1, dated 7 June 2019), and the Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-91/DG.19\*, dated 1 July 2019) until its next regular session.

##### **Report of the Scientific Advisory Board**

- 4.8 The Council at its Eighty-Ninth Session considered the report of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) on new types of nerve agents (SAB-28/WP.1, dated

3 July 2018), which had been prepared in response to the request by the Director-General to the SAB to provide advice on toxic chemicals that have been identified as, or are suspected of being, new types of nerve agents (S/1621/2018, dated 2 May 2018).

#### **Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2018**

- 4.9 The Council at its Ninety-First Session considered and noted the annual report of the OIO for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2018, which the Director-General had submitted to it, along with his comments (EC-91/DG.8 C-24/DG.3, dated 28 May 2019), in accordance with Regulation 12.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations. The Council transmitted this report, and the Director-General's covering Note, to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Fourth Session.

#### **Report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country**

- 4.10 The Chairperson of the Council reported to the Council at its Eighty-Ninth and Ninetieth Sessions on the status of the work of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

### **5. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION OR ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES AT ITS TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION**

#### **Implementation by the Technical Secretariat in 2018 of the regime governing the handling of confidential information**

- 5.1 The Council at its Ninetieth Session considered and noted a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Secretariat in 2018 (EC-90/DG.9 C-24/DG.2, dated 12 February 2019) and forwarded it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Fourth Session.

#### **Draft annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2018**

- 5.2 The Council at its Ninety-First Session considered the "Draft Report of the OPCW on the Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction in 2018" (EC-91/4 C-24/CRP.1, dated 11 July 2019), and forwarded it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Fourth Session.

#### **Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2018**

- 5.3 The Council at its Ninety-First Session considered and noted the annual report of the OIO for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2018, which the Director-General had submitted to it, along with his comments (EC-91/DG.8 C-24/DG.3), in accordance with Regulation 12.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations. The Council transmitted this report, and the Director-General's covering Note, to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Fourth Session.

### **Amendments to the Annex on Chemicals to the Chemical Weapons Convention**

- 5.4 The Council at its Sixty-Second Meeting adopted a decision entitled “Recommendation for a Change to Schedule 1 of the Annex on Chemicals to the Chemical Weapons Convention” (EC-M-62/DEC.1\*). Pursuant to subparagraph 5(e) of Article XV of the Convention, the matter was forwarded to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Fourth Session.
- 5.5 The Council, at its Sixty-Third Meeting examined a draft decision entitled “Recommendation for a Change to Schedule 1 of the Annex on Chemicals to the Chemical Weapons Convention” (EC-M-63/DEC/CRP.1). Pursuant to subparagraph 5(e) of Article XV of the Convention, the matter was forwarded to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Fourth Session.

Attachment: Note by the Technical Secretariat: The Destruction of Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People’s Republic of China

Annex: Actions Taken by the Conference of the States Parties at its Twenty-Third Session in Response to Recommendations Made by the Executive Council

**Attachment**

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**

**THE DESTRUCTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS  
ABANDONED BY JAPAN IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

1. Decision (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012)

The decision entitled “The Deadline of 29 April 2012 and Future Destruction of the Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People’s Republic of China” (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012), in which it reads in O.P.8, “Recommends the Conference of States Parties to take note of annual reports of the Council concerning the progress made for the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons from a viewpoint of facilitating the destruction;...”.

2. Progress made for the Destruction of Abandoned Chemical Weapons as per EC-91/DG.21, dated 2 July 2019.

To date, approximately 76,300 items of ACW have been recovered from over 90 locations within China. This figure includes the items that have already been destroyed. However, it does not include the items buried at Haerbaling, Jilin Province, which are estimated to number over 330,000 and have yet to be recovered, nor does it include items at other locations that also have yet to be recovered and declared

At the end of the reporting period (1 February 2019 to 31 May 2019), over 53,500 of the approximately 76,300 items of declared ACW on the territory of China were destroyed. This figure accounts for all items destroyed at the mobile destruction facilities (MDFs) in Nanjing, Shijiazhuang, and Wuhan, as well as the items destroyed in operations at Haerbaling and Harbin, and all of the items transferred from surrounding locations to the MDFs for destruction as at the date mentioned above. During the reporting period, the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) conducted an initial visit to Harbin MDF and three storage inspections in China.

The national papers submitted by Japan (EC-91/NAT.5, dated 20 June 2019) and China (EC-91/NAT.6, dated 24 June 2019) note that the destruction operations at the MDF in Nanjing were concluded on 11 June 2012, with the destruction of a total of 35,681 ACW items. The operations at the MDF in Wuhan were concluded in May 2015, with the destruction of 264 ACW items. The destruction operations at the MDF in Shijiazhuang were completed on 17 January 2017, with the destruction of a total of 2,576 ACW items.

Destruction operations at the Harbin MDF started on 7 May 2019, as at the cut-off date of this report, the total number of ACWs destroyed at this site reached 468. The selection for sites for the MDFs in Taiyuan and Guangzhou are ongoing, and progress has been made in the consultations between China and Japan toward preparing for destruction operations at these sites.



As at 31 May 2019, the Haerbaling Destruction Facility had destroyed a total of 14,566 items of ACW using two destruction technologies: a controlled detonation chamber (CDC) and a static detonation chamber (SDC). During the reporting period, 456 additional ACW items were destroyed, 144 of which were destroyed by the CDC and 312 of which were destroyed by the SDC. To accelerate the destruction of the ACW items, a new destruction facility will be installed in addition to the existing two facilities (CDC and SDC). Owing to the fact that Haerbaling is the largest ACW burial site in China, the destruction operations will have a major impact on the overall progress of the destruction of ACW.

During the reporting period, excavation and recovery operations and bilateral investigations were conducted at Jiujiang, Dangyang, Harbin, and Haerbaling. Moreover, at the Haerbaling site, the first phase of 2019's excavation and recovery operations started at burial pit No.1 on 14 May 2019 and approximately 1,200 ACW items have been recovered.

The thirtieth trilateral meeting is scheduled for July 2019 in Tokyo. These meetings between China, Japan, and the Secretariat are held on a biannual basis and are important occasions for ensuring transparency, discussing technical and practical issues, implementing the projects in accordance with the appropriate verification measures, and planning for future activities. In the aforementioned trilateral meeting, the three parties will coordinate the detailed schedule of the Council's visit to Haerbaling in the first week of September 2019.

Finally, the destruction of the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China is scheduled to continue based on the agreed destruction plan, in accordance with which Japan and China regularly report to the Council. The plan includes time frames for the destruction of ACW by Japan, with appropriate cooperation from China. The Secretariat continues to closely coordinate with both China and Japan on the implementation of Council decision EC-67/DEC.6.

### 3. Activities of the Council

The Council considered and approved a draft report on the performance of its activities in the period from 15 July 2017 to 12 July 2018 (EC-89/CRP.2, dated 14 August 2018 and Corr.1, dated 24 August 2018), and submitted it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Third Session.  
(Quoted from EC-89/3, dated 22 October 2018)

Further to a decision by the Council 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 Annex 2 to the Council's decision EC-67/DEC.6, and adopted by the Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session (paragraph 6.14 of EC-84/2, dated 9 March 2017), a national paper by China (EC-89/NAT.7\*, dated 1 October 2018) and a national paper by Japan (EC-89/NAT.6, dated 21 September 2018) on the overall progress of the destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China were circulated to the members of the Council. The Council 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, expressed its determination to remain seized of the matter, and urged the Abandoning State Party to continue to make the fullest possible effort to complete destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China as early as possible in accordance with the Council's decision (EC-67/DEC.6) and its Annex 2 in a faithful manner and to address challenges including ensuring the safety of people and protecting the environment. The Council reaffirmed that the Territorial State Party shall provide appropriate cooperation. (Quoted from EC-89/3)

The Council 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, so as to facilitate the expedite destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China. (Quoted from EC-89/3)

The Council welcomed the review of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons conducted by the Third Review Conference and the report of the Third Review Conference (RC-3/3\*, dated 19 April 2013), which 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). (Quoted from EC-89/3)

#### 4. Reference documents

##### (a) National papers

- (i) China (EC-89/NAT.7\*, dated 1 October 2018; EC-90/NAT.3, dated 28 February 2019, EC-91/NAT.6, dated 24 June 2019 ); and
- (ii) Japan (EC-89/NAT.6, dated 21 September 2018; EC-90/NAT.1, dated 18 February 2019; EC-91/NAT.5, dated 20 June 2019).

(b) Reports by the Director-General (EC-89/DG.30, dated 5 October 2018; EC-90/DG.15, dated 8 March 2019; EC-91/DG.21dated 2 July 2019).

(c) Report of the Executive Council (EC-89/3, dated 22 October 2018).

(d) Report of the Executive Council on the Performance of its Activities in the Period from 15 July 2017 to 12 July 2018 (EC-89/4 C-23/2, dated 11 October 2018).

**Annex**

**ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES  
AT ITS TWENTY-THIRD SESSION IN RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS  
MADE BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**Progress report on the implementation of the plan of action regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations**

1. Further to a decision by the Conference at its Fourteenth Session regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations (C-14/DEC.12), the Conference considered and noted a Note by the Director-General on the “Overview of the Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2018” (EC-89/DG.9 C-23/DG.8); a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2018: Article VII – Initial Measures” (EC-89/DG.7 C-23/DG.6); and a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2018: Additional Measures for States Parties that Possess Industrial Facilities Which Are Declarable Under the Convention” (EC-89/DG.8 C-23/DG.7).

**Fostering of international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities**

2. The Conference noted a report by the Director-General on the progress made and review of the status of implementation of Article XI of the Convention (EC-89/DG.20 C-23/DG.11).

**Ensuring the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention**

3. The Conference noted the annual report by the Director-General on the implementation of the action plan for universality of the Convention during the period from 16 August 2017 to 15 August 2018 (EC-89/DG.12 C-23/DG.9).

**Implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Technical Secretariat in 2017**

4. The Conference considered and noted a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Secretariat in 2017 (EC-87/DG.12 C-23/DG.1, dated 12 February 2018).

**Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2017**

5. The Conference considered and approved the report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2017 (C-23/4, dated 19 November 2018).

### **Report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities**

6. The Conference noted the report of the Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 15 July 2017 to 12 July 2018, its Attachment entitled “Note by the Technical Secretariat: The Destruction of Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People’s Republic of China”, and its Annex, entitled “Actions Taken by the Conference of the States Parties at Its Twenty-Second Session in Response to Recommendations Made by the Executive Council” (EC-89/4 C-23/2). The report was introduced by the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Jana Reinišová of the Czech Republic, who also briefed the Conference on any developments that had taken place since the cut-off date for the report.

### **Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2019, and all items pertaining to this budget**

7. In accordance with subparagraph 21(a) of Article VIII of the Convention, and pursuant to Financial Regulation 3.6(a), the Conference considered and adopted the Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2019, which the Council had submitted to it (C-23/DEC.10, dated 20 November 2018).

### **Cash surplus for 2016**

8. At its Sixty-First Meeting, the Council adopted a decision on the cash surplus for 2016 (EC-M-61/DEC.1) and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Third Session. The Conference considered and adopted a decision on the matter (C-23/DEC.11, dated 20 November 2018).

### **External Auditor’s report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2017**

9. The Conference noted the Financial Statements of the OPCW and the report of the External Auditor for the year ending 31 December 2017 (EC-89/DG.3 C-23/DG.4), forwarded to it by the Council in accordance with Regulation 13.10 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules.

### **Submission of the 2018 Financial Statements to the External Auditor**

10. At its Eighty-Ninth Session, the Council adopted a decision on the submission of the 2018 OPCW Financial Statements to the External Auditor (Financial Rule 11.1.02) (EC-89/DEC.1) and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Third Session. The Conference considered and adopted a decision on the matter (C-23/DEC.5, dated 19 November 2018).

### **Scale of assessments for 2019**

11. In accordance with Financial Regulation 3.6(b), the Conference adopted a decision on the scale of assessments to be paid by States Parties for the financial year 2019 (C-23/DEC.14, dated 20 November 2018).

### **Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions**

12. In accordance with a decision by the Conference at its Twentieth Session (C-20/DEC.11), the Council at its Eighty-Ninth Session considered and adopted a decision to extend the Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions for a period of one further year (EC-89/DEC.2), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Third Session. The Conference considered and adopted a decision on the matter (C-23/DEC.6, dated 19 November 2018).

### **Cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2018**

13. At its Eighty-Ninth Session, the Council considered and forwarded to the Conference at its Twenty-Third Session a Note by the Director-General on the cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2018 (EC-89/DG.23 C-23/DG.13). The Conference noted this Note.

### **Status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions**

14. Pursuant to a decision by the Conference at its Eleventh Session (C-11/DEC.5), the Conference considered and noted a report on the status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans (EC-89/DG.6 C-23/DG.5) and considered and approved the multi-year payment plan submitted by El Salvador to regularise the payment of its outstanding annual contributions (C-23/DEC.7, dated 19 November 2018).

### **Transfers of funds between programmes during 2017**

15. In accordance with Regulation 4.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, all transfers between budget programmes shall be reported to the Conference. The Conference noted a Note by the Director-General on this matter (EC-87/DG.13 C-23/DG.2, dated 15 February 2018).

### **Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2017**

16. In accordance with Regulation 12.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, the Council at its Eighty-Eighth Session considered and forwarded to the Conference the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017, and the accompanying Note by the Director-General (EC-88/DG.6 C-23/DG.3, dated 16 May 2018). The Conference noted this report.

### **Charter of the Office of Internal Oversight**

17. At its Eighty-Ninth Session, the Council noted a Note by the Director-General on the Charter of the Office of Internal Oversight (EC-89/DG.26). The Director-General transmitted the Charter, along with his own comments and any other comments made by the Council, to the Conference for consideration and approval at its Twenty-Third

Session. The Conference considered and adopted a decision on the matter (C-23/DEC.8, dated 19 November 2018).

#### **Amendments to the OPCW Staff Regulations**

18. At its Eighty-Ninth Session, the Council adopted a decision entitled “Amendments to the Staff Regulations of the OPCW” (EC-89/DEC.4), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Third Session. The Conference considered and adopted a decision on the matter (C-23/DEC.9, dated 19 November 2018).

#### **The OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention**

19. The Conference noted a Note by the Director-General on the Africa Programme (EC-89/DG.14 C-23/DG.10).

#### **Committee on Relations with the Host Country**

20. The Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Jana Reinišová of the Czech Republic, reported to the Conference on the status of the work of the Host Country Committee.

#### **Advisory Board on Education and Outreach**

21. The Conference considered and noted a Note by the Director-General reporting on the activities of the ABEO covering the period from 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018 (EC-89/DG.22 C-23/DG.12).