



Ninety-Second Session  
8 – 11 October 2019

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### REPORT OF THE NINETY-SECOND SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

#### 1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

The Chairperson of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”), Ambassador Andrea Perugini of Italy, opened its Ninety-Second Session in The Hague at 10:10 on 8 October 2019.

#### 2. AGENDA ITEM TWO – Adoption of the agenda

2.1 Following the circulation of the provisional agenda for the Ninety-Second Session of the Council (EC-92/1, dated 10 September 2019), the delegation of the Russian Federation submitted a request to the Director-General for the inclusion of an additional item on the provisional agenda of the session.

2.2 The Council **considered** and **adopted** the following revised agenda:

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Replacement of the Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Council from the GRULAC<sup>1</sup> region
4. Opening statement by the Director-General
5. Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on the activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues
6. General debate
7. Status of implementation of the Convention:
  - (a) Reports by the Director-General on destruction-related issues
  - (b) Implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues
  - (c) Elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme

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<sup>1</sup> Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.



- (d) Other verification-related issues
  - (e) Destruction-related plans and facility agreements
  - (f) Supplement to the Verification Implementation Report for 2018
  - (g) Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use
  - (h) Technical Secretariat's activities: update on the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria
  - (i) Status of implementation of Article VII
  - (j) Status of implementation of Article X
  - (k) Status of implementation of Article XI
  - (l) Progress made in the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention
8. Report of the Scientific Advisory Board
9. Countering chemical terrorism
10. Education and outreach
11. Administrative and financial matters:
- (a) Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
  - (b) Report of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
  - (c) Financial Statements of the OPCW and the External Auditor's report for the year ending 31 December 2018
  - (d) Submission of the 2019 Financial Statements to the External Auditor
  - (e) Status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor
  - (f) Cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2019
  - (g) Recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and losses of assets
  - (h) Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise resource planning system

- (i) Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2020, and all items pertaining to this Budget, including relevant special funds and the cash surplus for 2017
  - (j) Extension of the Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions
  - (k) Status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions
  - (l) Implementation of the amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward classification of posts during the period from 14 August 2018 to 13 August 2019
  - (m) Rehiring of inspectors
  - (n) Transition of the OPCW to a biennial programme and budget cycle
- 12. The OPCW Programme for Africa
  - 13. Draft report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities
  - 14. Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference<sup>2</sup>
  - 15. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
  - 16. Some aspects of preparations for the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties
  - 17. Any other business
  - 18. Adoption of the report
  - 19. Closure
- 2.3 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: the Russian Federation, China, the United States of America, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and India.
- 3. AGENDA ITEM THREE – Replacement of the Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Council from the GRULAC region**

Further to the end of mission of Ambassador Gladys Marithza Ruíz Sánchez de Vielman of Guatemala, Vice-Chairperson of the Council from the GRULAC region, and in accordance with Rule 8 of its Rules of Procedure, the Council **elected** Ambassador H.E. Jorge Skinner-Klée Arenales of Guatemala as a new Vice-Chairperson for the unexpired term of office until 11 May 2020.

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Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

**4. AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Opening statement by the Director-General**

The Council **noted** the opening statement by the Director-General (EC-92/DG.33 and EC-92/DG.34, both dated 8 October 2019).

**5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on the activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues**

5.1 The Vice-Chairpersons and coordinators for clusters of issues reported to the Council on informal consultations held during the intersessional period: Mr Lesther Antonio Ortega Lemus of Guatemala (on behalf of Ambassador Jorge Skinner-Klée Arenales of Guatemala) on chemical weapons issues, Ms Gudrun Lingner of Germany (on behalf of Ambassador Brândușa Predescu of Romania) on chemical-industry and other Article VI issues, Ambassador Kamal Bashir Ahmed of the Sudan on administrative and financial issues, and Ambassador Alireza Kazemi Abadi of the Islamic Republic of Iran on legal, organisational, and other issues.

5.2 The co-facilitators nominated by the Council at its Ninetieth Session, Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador and Ambassador I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja of Indonesia, reported to the Council on consultations they held during the intersessional period.

5.3 Pursuant to the facilitators' report and subsequent discussion, the Chairperson requested the co-facilitators to make an extra and final effort for a period of one month, until 14 November 2019, to conduct additional consultations to find a consensual proposal on the substantive way forward.

**6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – General debate**

The following delegations made statements during the general debate: the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (observer) (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China), Finland (observer) (on behalf of the European Union), Sudan (on behalf of the African Group), India, the Republic of Korea, China, France, Ukraine, Germany, Cuba (observer), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Australia (observer), Chile, Sweden (observer), Pakistan, Peru, Denmark, Switzerland (observer), Guatemala, Saudi Arabia, the United States of America, the Russian Federation, Japan, Ireland (observer), Panama, Brazil, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Nigeria, Morocco, Malta, Mexico, Spain (observer), Canada, New Zealand (observer), Argentina, Iraq, Bangladesh, the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), the Islamic Republic of Iran, Norway (observer), Indonesia, Angola (observer), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (observer), Colombia (observer), the State of Palestine (observer), and Nicaragua (observer).

**7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Status of implementation of the Convention**

**Subitem 7(a): Reports by the Director-General on destruction-related issues**

7.1 Further to a decision by the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011), the Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the overall

progress with respect to the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles (EC-92/DG.25, dated 27 September 2019).

- 7.2 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012), the Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the overall progress of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons (EC-92/DG.29, dated 4 October 2019).
- 7.3 The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General entitled “Schedule for Submission by Chemical Weapons Possessor States of the Reports on their Destruction Activities after the Extended Deadline of 29 April 2012” (EC-92/DG.18, dated 17 September 2019).
- 7.4 The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement under this subitem.

**Subitem 7(b): Implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues**

- 7.5 The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) briefed the Council on its destruction-related verification activities.
- 7.6 The United States of America, Japan, and China briefed the Council on their destruction-related activities.
- 7.7 The Council **noted** the statements and comments made by States Parties on the destruction of the only remaining declared chemical weapons by the sole possessor State Party, recalling the relevant obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), and relevant decisions by the Conference and the Council. The Council **recalled** that the destruction of the only remaining declared chemical weapons by the sole possessor State Party should continue in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and its Annex on Implementation and Verification, and with the application of the measures contained in decision C-16/DEC.11.
- 7.8 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the Council **considered** and **noted** a national paper by the United States of America on the progress made on the completion of the destruction of its chemical weapons, including information on measures to accelerate such progress, as well as appropriate measures in order to meet the planned completion date (EC-92/NAT.1, dated 27 September 2019), along with comments on the issue as mentioned above. The Council **noted** the confirmation provided by the delegation of the United States of America that the necessary measures continue 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 C-16/DEC.11.
- 7.9 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-92/NAT.3, dated 4 October 2019) and a national paper by Japan (EC-92/NAT.2, dated 2 October 2019) 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.

- 7.10 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 the 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.
- 7.11 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.
- 7.12 The Council **recalled** that the review of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons was welcomed 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), and **welcomed** the review of this issue by the Fourth Review Conference.
- 7.13 The Council **considered** and **noted** the report of the visit by the Chairperson of the Council, the Director-General, and representatives of the Council to the Haerbaling Abandoned Chemical Weapons Destruction Site, Jilin Province, China, from 2 to 7 September 2019 (EC-92/3, dated 8 October 2019) jointly invited by China and Japan and **expressed its appreciation** for the first-hand information on the destruction progress and the bilateral cooperation of the relevant States Parties obtained through the visit.
- 7.14 The Council **took note** of the information provided by the delegation of the Netherlands on its destruction-related verification activities (EC-92/NAT.4, dated 8 October 2019).
- 7.15 The following delegations made statements under this subitem: the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (observer).

**Subitem 7(c): Elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme**

- 7.16 Further to its decision at its Eighty-Third Session (EC-83/DEC.5, dated 11 November 2016), the Council decided to place "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.

- 7.17 As stated in the report of the Secretariat (EC-81/DG.5, dated 25 January 2016), all of the chemicals declared by the Syrian Arab Republic that had been removed from its territory in 2014 had now been destroyed. The Secretariat has also verified the destruction of all twenty-seven chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) declared by the Syrian Arab Republic (EC-89/DG.1, dated 24 July 2018).
- 7.18 The Council **noted** three Notes by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme (EC-92/DG.1, dated 24 July 2019; EC-92/DG.6, dated 23 August 2019; and EC-92/DG.22, dated 24 September 2019).
- 7.19 The Council **noted** three national papers by the Syrian Arab Republic on the activities related to the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and their production facilities (EC-92/P/NAT.1, dated 22 July 2019; EC-92/P/NAT.2, dated 22 August 2019; and EC-92/P/NAT.3, dated 18 September 2019).
- 7.20 Pursuant to subparagraph 12(a) of its decision EC-83/DEC.5, the Council decided that the Director-General shall regularly inform the Council on the implementation of this decision. The Council **noted** a report by the Director-General entitled “Status of Implementation of Executive Council Decision EC-83/DEC.5 (dated 11 November 2016)” (EC-92/DG.19, dated 17 September 2019).
- 7.21 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General entitled “Report on the Work of the Declaration Assessment Team” (EC-92/HP/DG.2, dated 27 September 2019).
- 7.22 The following delegations made statements under this subitem: the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, China, the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), the Russian Federation, and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

**Subitem 7(d): Other verification-related issues**

- 7.23 The Secretariat briefed the Council on its other verification-related activities.

**Subitem 7(e): Destruction-related plans and facility agreements**

- 7.24 The Secretariat submitted to the Council a Note on modifications to the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility, Pueblo, Colorado, the United States of America (EC-92/S/4, dated 10 September 2019).
- 7.25 The Secretariat also submitted to the Council a Note on modifications to the facility agreement with the United States of America regarding on-site inspections at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility, Pueblo, Colorado, the United States of America (EC-92/S/3, dated 10 September 2019).

7.26 The Secretariat submitted to the Council a Note on modifications to the 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-92/S/6, dated 26 September 2019).

7.27 The Secretariat also submitted to the Council a Note on modifications to the 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-92/S/7, dated 26 September 2019).

7.28 The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement under this subitem.

**Subitem 7(f): Supplement to the Verification Implementation Report for 2018**

7.29 The Council **considered** and **noted** the supplement to the Verification Implementation Report for 2018 (EC-92/HP/DG.1, dated 22 August 2019).

**Subitem 7(g): Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use**

7.30 The Council **noted** the regular report by the Director-General to the Council on progress made in the implementation of the decision of the Conference entitled “Progress in the Implementation of Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 on Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use” (EC-92/DG.26, dated 27 September 2019 and Corr.1, dated 4 October 2019).

7.31 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-92/S/8, dated 3 October 2019).

7.32 The following delegations made statements under this subitem: France, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation, Canada, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), Germany, Finland (observer), Belgium (observer), and Bulgaria.

**Subitem 7(h): Technical Secretariat’s activities: update on the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria**

7.33 The Secretariat circulated a Note entitled “Summary Update of the Activities Carried Out by the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria” (S/1798/2019, dated 3 October 2019).

7.34 The delegation of the Russian Federation made a statement under this subitem.

**Subitem 7(i): Status of implementation of Article VII**

7.35 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 **noted** a report by the Director-General on the “Overview of the Status of



Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2019” (EC-92/DG.9 C-24/DG.10, dated 26 August 2019); a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2019: Article VII – Initial Measures” (EC-92/DG.7 C-24/DG.8, dated 26 August 2019); and a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2019: Additional Measures for States Parties that Possess Industrial Facilities Which Are Declarable Under the Convention” (EC-92/DG.8 C-24/DG.9, dated 26 August 2019). The Council **submitted** the documents to the Conference at its Twenty-Fourth Session, along with its recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration.

- 7.36 The facilitator for this issue, Ms Jenny Sharyne Bowie Wilches of Colombia, reported on the consultations carried out during the intersessional period.

**Subitem 7(j): Status of implementation of Article X**

- 7.37 The Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the status of implementation of Article X of the Convention as at 30 June 2019 (EC-92/DG.10, dated 27 August 2019 and Corr.1, dated 4 October 2019).

- 7.38 The facilitator for this issue, Mr Martin Pizinger of the Czech Republic, reported on the consultations carried out during the intersessional period.

- 7.39 The Conference at its Sixteenth Session endorsed a proposal for the establishment of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons and the establishment of a voluntary trust fund for this purpose (C-16/DEC.13, dated 2 December 2011). It requested the Director-General to report every two years, through the Council, to the Conference at its regular sessions on the status of implementation of this decision (paragraph 5 of C-16/DEC.13). The Council **noted** a report by the Director-General on the status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons (EC-92/DG.17 C-24/DG.14, dated 16 September 2019).

**Subitem 7(k): Status of implementation of Article XI**

- 7.40 The Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the progress made and review of the status of the implementation of Article XI of the Convention (EC-92/DG.14 C-24/DG.12, dated 9 September 2019).

- 7.41 The facilitator for this issue, Mr Junaid Sadiq of Pakistan, reported on the consultations carried out during the intersessional period.

- 7.42 The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement under this subitem.

**Subitem 7(l): Progress made in the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention**

- 7.43 The Council at its Twenty-Third Meeting adopted an action plan for the universality of the Convention (EC-M-23/DEC.3, dated 24 October 2003). The plan requested the Director-General, inter alia, to submit to the Conference at its regular sessions an

annual report on the implementation of the action plan, and to keep the Council regularly informed, so that the Conference and the Council may review progress and monitor its implementation effectively.

- 7.44 The Council **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 2018 to 15 August 2019, which is being submitted to both the Council and the Conference (EC-92/DG.16 C-24/DG.13, dated 12 September 2019).

## **8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Report of the Scientific Advisory Board**

- 8.1 The report of the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) (SAB-28/1, dated 14 June 2019) was circulated to the members of the Council.
- 8.2 The Council **noted** the response by the Director-General to the report of the Twenty-Eighth Session of the SAB (EC-92/DG.12, dated 9 September 2019).

## **9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Countering chemical terrorism**

- 9.1 The Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Terrorism, Ambassador Oji Nyimenuate Ngofa of Nigeria, briefed the Council on the work of the OEWG during the intersessional period.
- 9.2 The following delegations made statements under this item: Bangladesh and Mexico.

## **10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Education and outreach**

The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the activities of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach covering the period from 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019 (EC-92/DG.23 C-24/DG.16, dated 24 September 2019).

## **11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Administrative and financial matters**

### **Subitem 11(a): Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters**

- 11.1 The delegations of Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, submitted a draft decision entitled “OPCW Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters – Rules of Procedure” (EC-92/DEC/CRP.1/Rev.1, dated 4 October 2019).
- 11.2 In accordance with Rule 31 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, the delegation of the Russian Federation submitted amendments to the above-mentioned draft decision (EC-92/DEC/CRP.6, dated 4 October 2019).
- 11.3 The Council **considered** the above-mentioned draft decision and **decided** to defer the matter until its next regular session.
- 11.4 The following delegations made statements under this subitem: the United States of America, the Russian Federation, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Nigeria.

- 11.5 The delegation of the United States of America, on behalf of the delegations of Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, submitted a revision of the above-mentioned draft decision (EC-92/DEC/CRP.1/Rev.2, dated 10 October 2019).

**Subitem 11(b): Report of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters**

- 11.6 Further to its consideration of this issue at its previous sessions, the Council **considered** the report of the Forty-Fifth Session of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF), which took place from 31 July to 3 August 2018 (ABAF-45/1, dated 3 August 2018), and a Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-89/DG.11, dated 28 August 2018), and **decided** to defer the matter until its next regular session.
- 11.7 Further to its consideration of this issue at its previous session, the Council **considered** the report of the Forty-Sixth Session of the ABAF, which took place from 4 to 7 June 2019 (ABAF-46/1, dated 7 June 2019), and a Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-91/DG.19\*, dated 1 July 2019), and **decided** to defer the matter until its next regular session.
- 11.8 The Council **considered** the report of the Forty-Seventh Session of the ABAF, which took place from 30 July to 2 August 2019 (ABAF-47/1, dated 2 August 2019), and a Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-92/DG.11, dated 9 September 2019), and **decided** to defer the matter until its next regular session.
- 11.9 The delegation of the United States of America made a statement under this subitem.

**Subitem 11(c): Financial Statements of the OPCW and the External Auditor's report for the year ending 31 December 2018**

- 11.10 The Council **noted** the Financial Statements of the OPCW and the report of the External Auditor for the year ending 31 December 2018 (EC-92/DG.2 C-24/DG.5, dated 13 August 2019) and **forwarded** them to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Fourth Session. Mr Damian Brewitt from the National Audit Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presented the report of the External Auditor.
- 11.11 The facilitator for this issue, Mr Arata Mizukami of Japan, reported on the consultations held during the intersessional period.

**Subitem 11(d): Submission of the 2019 Financial Statements to the External Auditor**

- 11.12 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the submission of the 2019 OPCW Financial Statements to the External Auditor (Financial Rule 11.1.02) (EC-92/DG.32, dated 4 October 2019), **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the

matter (EC-92/DEC.1, dated 10 October 2019), and **transmitted** it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Fourth Session.

**Subitem 11(e): Status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor**

11.13 The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Secretariat on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor (EC-92/S/2, dated 21 August 2019).

**Subitem 11(f): Cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2019**

11.14 The Council **considered** and **forwarded** to the Conference at its Twenty-Fourth 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 2019 (EC-92/DG.20 C-24/DG.15, dated 23 September 2019).

**Subitem 11(g): Recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and losses of assets**

11.15 The Council **considered** a Note by the Director-General on the recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and losses of assets, and **recommended** that the Conference at its Twenty-Fourth Session approve these write-offs, totalling EUR 13,658.93 (EC-92/DG.3 C-24/DG.6, dated 21 August 2019).

**Subitem 11(h): Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise resource planning system**

11.16 Further to the 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 **noted** a Note by the Director-General reporting on the status of implementation of the ERP system (EC-92/DG.21, dated 23 September 2019).

**Subitem 11(i): Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2020, and all items pertaining to this Budget, including relevant special funds and the cash surplus for 2017**

11.17 The Council **noted** the following Notes that the Secretariat circulated under this subitem: a Note by the Director-General entitled “Financial Status of the Special Fund for the Fourth Review Conference in 2018” (EC-92/DG.28, dated 2 October 2019); a Note by the Director-General entitled “Financial Status of the Special Fund for Cybersecurity, Business Continuity, and Physical Infrastructure Security” (EC-92/DG.31, dated 4 October 2019); a Note by the Director-General entitled “Financial Status of the Special Fund for IT Infrastructure to Support the Implementation of Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3” (EC-92/DG.30, dated 4 October 2019); and a Note by the Director-General entitled “Request for the Establishment of a Special Fund for Capacity Building for Laboratories and Transfer of a Portion of the 2017 Cash Surplus” (EC-92/DG.27, dated 2 October 2019). The Secretariat also

circulated a previously issued Note by the Secretariat entitled “Request for the Establishment of a Special Fund for Major Capital Investments” (RC-4/S/3, dated 27 November 2018).

- 11.18 The co-facilitators for this issue, Mr Marcin Kawałowski of Poland and Mr Daniel Valente Baptista of Portugal, had been requested to keep the Council informed of the progresses made under this subitem. Mr Daniel Valente Baptista of Portugal reported on behalf of the co-facilitators on the consultations held during the intersessional period.
- 11.19 In accordance with subparagraph 32(a) of Article VIII of the Convention, the Council **considered** the Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2020 (EC-92/CRP.1, dated 5 July 2019 and Corr.1, dated 4 October 2019). The draft decision was voted on. The vote led to the following result: 30 in favour (Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America), three against (China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Russian Federation), and eight abstentions (Algeria, Bangladesh, India, Iraq, Kenya, Pakistan, South Africa, and the Sudan). In light of that result, the Council **adopted** the decision and **submitted** it, together with its recommendation, to the Conference at its Twenty-Fourth Session (EC-92/DEC.2, dated 10 October 2019).
- 11.20 The following delegations made statements explaining their vote: the Russian Federation, China, Brazil, Bangladesh, Algeria, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Argentina.
- 11.21 The Medium-Term Plan of the OPCW for the period 2020 to 2024 (EC-92/S/1 C-24/S/1, dated 22 July 2019) was circulated to the members of the Council.
- 11.22 A Note by the Secretariat on the programme performance for the year 2018 (S/1745/2019, dated 29 April 2019) was circulated to the members of the Council.
- 11.23 The following delegations made statements under this subitem: the Russian Federation, China, Cuba (observer), the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (observer), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), France, the Netherlands, Canada, Spain (observer), and Denmark.

**Subitem 11(j): Extension of the Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions**

- 11.24 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General entitled “Financial Status of the Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions” (EC-92/DG.24, dated 27 September 2019).
- 11.25 The Council **considered** and **adopted** a decision entitled “Extension of the Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions” (EC-92/DEC.3, dated 10 October 2019) and **transmitted** it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Fourth Session.

**Subitem 11(k): Status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions**

11.26 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Eleventh Session (C-11/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2006), the Council **considered** and **forwarded** to the Conference at its Twenty-Fourth Session a Note by the Director-General reporting on the status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans (EC-92/DG.4 C-24/DG.7, dated 21 August 2019).

11.27 At its Eleventh Session, the Conference adopted a decision on a mechanism to encourage States Parties that are in arrears to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions (C-11/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2006). In light of this decision, the Council **considered** a proposal from Sierra Leone for a payment plan to regularise the payment of its outstanding annual contributions (EC-92/DG.15\*, dated 12 September 2019), **approved** it (EC-92/DEC.4, dated 10 October 2019), and **transmitted** it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Fourth Session.

**Subitem 11(l): Implementation of the amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward classification of posts during the period from 14 August 2018 to 13 August 2019**

11.28 The Council **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 2018 to 13 August 2019 (EC-92/DG.5, dated 22 August 2019).

**Subitem 11(m): Rehiring of inspectors**

11.29 At its Twenty-Second Session, the Conference adopted a decision on the rehiring of inspectors (C-22/DEC.14, dated 30 November 2017) and decided to review the implementation of this decision at its Twenty-Fourth Session, in 2019.

11.30 The Council **considered** and **noted** an addendum to the report by the Director-General on the implementation of the tenure policy in 2018 (EC-91/DG.12/Add.1, dated 30 September 2019).

11.31 The co-facilitator for this issue, Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki of Morocco (with Ambassador Matthew Ernest Keith Neuhaus of Australia), reported on the consultations carried out on the draft decision regarding this matter.

11.32 The Council **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the rehiring of inspectors (EC-92/DEC.5, dated 10 October 2019), and **transmitted** it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Fourth Session.

11.33 The following delegation made a statement under this subitem: the Islamic Republic of Iran.

**Subitem 11(n): Transition of the OPCW to a biennial programme and budget cycle**

- 11.34 The Council **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the transition of the OPCW to a biennial programme and budget cycle (EC-92/DEC.6, dated 10 October 2019) and **transmitted** it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Fourth Session.
- 11.35 The Secretariat circulated a previously issued Note by the Secretariat entitled “Request to Begin Preparations to Move the Programme and Budget of the OPCW to a Biennial Budget” (RC-4/S/2, dated 21 November 2018).

**12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – The OPCW Programme for Africa**

- 12.1 The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (EC-92/DG.13 C-24/DG.11, dated 9 September 2019).
- 12.2 The delegation of Nigeria made a statement under this agenda item.

**13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Draft report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities**

The Council **considered** and **approved** a report on the performance of its activities in the period from 13 July 2018 to 12 July 2019 (EC-92/4, dated 10 October 2019), and **submitted** it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Fourth Session.

**14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference**

- 14.1 At its Seventy-Third Session (paragraph 13.1 of EC-73/6, dated 19 July 2013), the Council requested the Director-General to submit to each regular session of the Council the updated version of the “Matrix of Actionable Items Identified at the Third Review Conference”, which the Council **considered** and **noted** (EC-92/S/5, dated 25 September 2019).
- 14.2 At its Ninety-First Session, the Council decided that, following the issuance of the final full version of the Matrix at the Ninety-Second Session of the Council, the Secretariat will produce addenda for all subsequent regular sessions that will 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.

**15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country**

The Chairperson reported to the Council on the status of the work of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

**16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Some aspects of preparations for the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties**

The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: the Russian Federation, the United States of America, the Netherlands, and Canada.

**17. AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Any other business**

17.1 The Secretariat circulated a diplomatic note from the Permanent Representations to the OPCW of Australia, Switzerland, and the United States of America regarding a draft decision on the aerosolized use of central nervous system-acting chemicals for law enforcement purposes (S/1799/2019, dated 4 October 2019).

17.2 The relevant draft decision entitled “Understanding Regarding the Aerosolized Use of Central Nervous System-Acting Chemicals for Law Enforcement Purposes, co-sponsored by Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Finland, Greece, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, and the United States of America, was issued and circulated under the symbol of EC-92/DEC/CRP.9 (dated 4 October 2019).

17.3 The co-sponsors, Australia, Switzerland, and the United States of America, presented the draft decision.

17.4 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: China and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

**18. AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Adoption of the report**

The Council **considered** and **adopted** the report of its Ninety-Second Session.

**19. AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN– Closure**

The Chairperson closed the session at 11:46 on 11 October 2019.