



OPCW

Executive Council

Ninety-Second Session
8 – 11 October 2019

EC-92/NAT.10
8 October 2019
ENGLISH only

GERMANY

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTINE WEIL
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
TO THE OPCW AT THE NINETY-SECOND SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,
Director-General,
Distinguished Colleagues,

Germany fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, presented by the head of the Finish delegation, H.E. Ambassador Päivi Kaukoranta.

We thank the Chairperson, Ambassador Andrea Perugini, for his intensive preparation of this Executive Council (“the Council”) and we thank Director-General Fernando Arias for his comprehensive report to this Council. His report is the expression of the professional, independent, and impartial way in which he is leading this Organisation.

We welcome the report of the Director-General on the progress in the implementation of the decision of the Special Session of the Conference of States Parties in June 2018. It is important for the States Parties as well as for the OPCW that we consolidate the constructive step we have taken with this decision and come to further results, especially identifying those responsible for chemical weapons use in the Syrian Arab Republic. All participating states have to comply with this lawfully adopted decision and contribute to its implementation. All participating States owe this to their membership of this Organisation.

We welcome the establishment of the Investigation and Identification team (IIT). We look forward to the issuing of the IIT’s first report which was announced for the end of 2019. We support the request of the Director-General to all States Parties to provide their full cooperation to the IIT. Not least Syria has to fully cooperate, especially issue visa for IIT members and provide access to all sites and documents in question. That is its obligation under the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”).

We urge the Syrian Arab Republic to fulfil its obligation as a State Party to the Convention and provide the complete Declaration on its chemical weapons program and to fully cooperate with the Technical Secretariat (“the Secretariat”) on the outstanding questions, gaps, and inconsistencies in its Declaration. The Syrian Government must use the structured dialogue the Director-General offers to actively provide the necessary information. It cannot continue the way of pretext and veiling.

We reaffirm our confidence in the convincing professional work of the FFM and the DAT,



who perform their missions reliably and impartially, under high demands, under the aegis of the Director-General.

This Council has to submit the Draft Decision on the Budget 2020 to the Conference of States Parties (“the Conference”). There cannot be any doubt: the OPCW must be funded appropriately to implement the Convention’s aim: a world free of chemical weapons. This is in all our national security interests.

The Director-General’s proposed Budget for 2020 maintains the 2019 level of assessed contributions for all States Parties. It is proportionate and justified. The budget will enable the OPCW to continue its vital work throughout 2020, including cooperation and assistance projects.

Therefore, we are committed to find consensus for the submission of the draft budget decision to the Conference with a recommendation that it be considered and adopted.

We call on all States Parties to support the Director-General’s budget proposal.

We support an update to the ABAF Rules of Procedure. The proposed changes bring the ABAF’s Rules of Procedure in line with those in other similar international bodies. The changes are intended to ensure that future ABAF members have suitable qualifications and experiences to responsibly fulfil their role. Ensuring greater transparency is in the interest of the OPCW and all States Parties.

The OPCW has to retain its ability to act during periods of increased need for special expert knowledge. In some well justified individual cases, the Director-General should have some flexibility to rehire inspectors. We are convinced that the draft decision on “Rehiring of Inspectors” is well justified, especially as chain contracts are excluded by the three years limitation. The Council should adopt this draft decision by consensus.

The OPCW has to make a major contribution to security in the field of chemical weapons, also in the future. The questions of non-proliferation and preventing of re-emergence will account for a larger proportion in the future. The development of the OPCW Laboratory to a Centre for Chemistry and Technology will contribute to the fulfilling of future tasks. We support the building of the new Centre for Chemistry and Technology and we note with satisfaction that this is the case also for many other States Parties.

We welcome the Council Chairperson’s proposal to revitalise the facilitation process. His balanced approach taking into account previous deliberations with the aim to create consensus seems a good way forward. We thank the co-facilitators Ambassador Puja of Indonesia and Ambassador Vázquez Gómez of El Salvador for their continued efforts in bringing forward the facilitation process. We will continue to contribute constructively to this process.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.