



**REPORT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR AGUSTÍN VÁSQUEZ GÓMEZ
AND H.E. AMBASSADOR I GUSTI AGUNG WESAKA PUJA
CO-FACILITATORS NOMINATED BY THE NINETIETH SESSION
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

1. Mr Chairperson, Director-General, distinguished colleagues, it is an honour for us to report back to the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) on the results of the consultation process entrusted to us.
2. As you may recall, at the last session of the Council, we shared our assessment that there was no consensus on the establishment of an Open-Ended Working Group to discuss the different topics relevant to the OPCW’s agenda. At the same time, we observed that the current facilitations framework could benefit from a revitalising impulse and that there are important matters for which no facilitation exists. This diagnosis was reconfirmed in many interventions of States Parties during Ninety-First Session of the Council, demonstrating strong support for finding a consensual solution on the way forward based on a non-discriminatory approach and without duplication of the work conducted by the existing facilitations.
3. As requested by the Council and its Chairperson, we used the time since the last session of the Council to consider the situation once more and to find out what could be the right framework to address the aforementioned aspirations by States Parties. We have devoted the past months to exploring all possible procedural options. Our findings were communicated directly to the Chairperson of the Council and subsequently reflected under his leadership in the “Chair’s non-paper on the revitalisation of the facilitation framework, enhancing coordination and addressing issues on which progress is sought by States Parties in a non-discriminatory and effective manner”.
4. The paper suggests assigning the topics identified in the two documents under consideration, i.e. the Non-Aligned Movement and China paper (issued as the EC-91/NAT.3, dated 7 June 2019) and the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) Note on Workforce Management (circulated to the States Parties on 26 June), to relevant facilitations, thereby maximising the use of the existing framework. At the same time, issues which could not be allocated to any of the ongoing facilitations would be taken up by us in an additional facilitation work stream.
5. This structure was proposed bearing in mind the principles deemed essential by States Parties: equal and non-discriminatory approach to all the topics, as well as non-duplication of work. Further, it was designed to promote a more integrated approach



to a number of important matters that are of cross-cutting nature, as this is clearly an increasing concern among States Parties who consider the “article by article” approach no longer corresponding to current needs. To this end, the non-paper proposed to establish coordination meetings under the authority of the Council Chairperson, with participation of all Vice-Chairpersons and all Facilitators to expedite the process of allocation of topics and to solve any procedural issues that may arise.

6. We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Chairperson of the Council for undertaking, together with us, broad consultations with all delegations through their regional coordinators and sherpas on the proposal. Based on reactions we have received so far, it appears that a number of States Parties were prepared to accept the proposal as presented, while others wish to further refine it. An amended proposal was presented to the Chairperson in this respect by the NAM plus China Group at the end of last week.
7. Based on this development, we as facilitators have assessed the situation candidly, taking into consideration all that has been said and proposed over the past seven months. It led us to conclude that with the original proposal presented by the Chairperson, we have come as close to the “golden middle ground” as is possible, given the divergent approaches among States that cannot be ignored.
8. Mr Chairman, we fully share your view expressed at one of the consultations that we should perhaps resign on the search of a perfect solution at this particular moment and instead venture into testing what might be an imperfect option first, with a view to regularly assessing the results, and gradually adjusting the framework based on evolving needs and preferences. Nothing in what we proposed was of such a nature that could not have been easily amended or adapted later on.
9. However, we fully acknowledge that any solution on this matter must, first and foremost, enjoy consensus among all States Parties and our proposal did not achieve such universal endorsement. Hence, we feel that we need to take a realistic approach and leave it to others to take over from now on, hopefully coming with yet another solution to end what you, Mr Chairman, have very fittingly described at one of our meetings as “a procedural agony”.
10. Still, allow me to stress that both myself and Ambassador Puja hand over the relay to you with a strong conviction that we have spent our time on this dossier meaningfully: sometimes, you need to explore a number of alternatives and even dead ends before you find the right way forward. We trust that we have advanced the process doing just that. Rest assured that once a solution is found, we will actively support its implementation and participate in any substantive work that lies ahead.
11. Because we undertook the work not just with procedural considerations in mind, let us remember that this whole process has been driven by an effort to build up on the future-looking elements that emerged from the Fourth Review Conference discussions. The OPCW cannot freeze in the past, it needs to evolve with times and adapt to the changing external environment. We need to make sure that our working methods adequately reflect this evolution and changes. And that should remain our collective motivation factor underpinning the whole exercise.

12. To conclude, we would like to thank you, Mr Chairman, for your guidance and support during the final round. Our words of appreciation go also to all the coordinators of regional groups and sherpas, coordinators of the Non-Aligned Movement plus China, the EU presidency, the Vice-Chairpersons of the Council and facilitators for their involvement in the process and the invested time. Last but not least, let us thank the Secretariat for their assistance throughout the process.
13. Thank you.

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