



**REPORT
OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES
25 – 29 NOVEMBER 2019**

1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

- 1.1 The Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) was opened at 10:20 on 25 November 2019 by the Chairperson of the Conference for its Twenty-Third Session, Ambassador Yun-young Lee of the Republic of Korea.
- 1.2 The following 154 States Parties participated in the Twenty-Fourth Session: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, the Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, the Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
- 1.3 In accordance with Rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the following signatory State participated in this session of the Conference as an observer: Israel.



- 1.4 In accordance with Rules 31 and 32 of the Rules of Procedure, and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-24/DEC.1, dated 25 November 2019), six international organisations, specialised agencies, and other international bodies attended the Twenty-Fourth Session.
- 1.5 In accordance with the recommendations of the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Third Review Conference”) (RC-3/3*, dated 19 April 2013), and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-24/DEC.2, dated 25 November 2019), the Conference **invited** representatives of the global chemical industry and scientific community to attend the Twenty-Fourth Session.
- 1.6 In accordance with Rule 33 of the Rules of Procedure, and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-24/DEC.3, dated 25 November 2019), 87 non-governmental organisations were invited to attend the Twenty-Fourth Session.
- 1.7 The Permanent Representative of Ireland read a joint statement concerning accreditation of non-governmental organisations for the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, the Cook Islands, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Vanuatu. The following delegations made a statement: the Russian Federation and the Syrian Arab Republic.

2. **AGENDA ITEM TWO – Election of the Chairperson**

In accordance with Rules 34 and 35 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference, by acclamation, **elected** as its Chairperson Ambassador Krassimir Kostov of Bulgaria, who shall hold office until his successor is elected at the next regular session of the Conference.

3. **AGENDA ITEM THREE – Election of Vice-Chairpersons and other officers**

- 3.1 In accordance with Rules 34 and 35 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference **elected** representatives of the following 10 States Parties as Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference, to hold office until their successors are elected at its next regular session: Algeria, Finland, Iraq, Nigeria, Paraguay, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, and Uruguay.
- 3.2 Also in accordance with Rules 34 and 35 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference **elected**, as Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole, Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal of Bangladesh, who shall hold office until a new Chairperson is elected at the next regular session of the Conference.

4. AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Adoption of the agenda

4.1 The provisional agenda for the Twenty-Fourth Session was circulated under cover of C-24/1, dated 24 July 2019.

4.2 The Conference **approved** the following agenda for its Twenty-Fourth Session:

AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

AGENDA ITEM TWO – Election of the Chairperson

AGENDA ITEM THREE – Election of Vice-Chairpersons and other officers

AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Adoption of the agenda

AGENDA ITEM FIVE – Organisation of work and establishment of subsidiary bodies

AGENDA ITEM SIX – Appointment of the Credentials Committee

AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Statement by the Director-General

AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – General debate

AGENDA ITEM NINE – Status of implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention

AGENDA ITEM TEN – Proposals for technical changes to Schedule 1 of the Annex on Chemicals to the Chemical Weapons Convention (Joint Proposal by Canada, the Netherlands, and the United States of America for a Technical Change to Schedule 1 of the Annex on Chemicals to the Chemical Weapons Convention and Proposals by the Russian Federation to Introduce Additions to the Schedules of Chemicals of the Annex on Chemicals to the Chemical Weapons Convention)

AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2018

AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Annual Report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 13 July 2018 to 12 July 2019

AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Election of Member States to membership in the Executive Council

AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2020, submitted by the Executive Council, and all items pertaining to this Budget

AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – Scale of assessments for 2020

AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – External Auditor's report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2018

AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Administrative and financial matters

AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Fostering of international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities

AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – Ensuring the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY – The OPCW Programme for Africa

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-ONE – Engagement with the chemical industry and the scientific community

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-TWO – Reports of subsidiary bodies

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-THREE – Follow-up to the Third Review Conference

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FOUR – Any other business

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FIVE – Adoption of the report of the Conference of the States Parties

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-SIX – Closure

5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – Organisation of work and establishment of subsidiary bodies

The Conference **considered** and **adopted** the recommendations of the General Committee that were reported to it in accordance with Rule 43(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference.

6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – Appointment of the Credentials Committee

In accordance with Rule 27 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference, on the recommendation of its Chairperson, **appointed** the following 10 members of the Credentials Committee to hold office until new members are appointed at the next regular session of the Conference: Greece, Honduras, Kenya, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Statement by the Director-General

The Conference **noted** the opening statement made by the Director-General (C-24/DG.19 and C-24/DG.21, both dated 25 November 2019).

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – General debate

- 8.1 The Conference **received** a message from Mrs Izumi Nakamitsu, Under-Secretary General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations.

- 8.2 The following delegations made statements during the general debate: Finland (on behalf of the European Union), Azerbaijan (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China), the Sudan (on behalf of the African Group), the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, China, Slovenia, Australia, Viet Nam, the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Spain, France, Ireland, Indonesia, Botswana, the State of Palestine, Guatemala, Bahrain, the Philippines, India, Uruguay, Colombia, New Zealand, Sweden, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Germany, Portugal, Pakistan, Malta, Cuba, Panama, Brazil, Poland, Ukraine, Fiji, the Syrian Arab Republic, Malaysia, Switzerland, Japan, Argentina, Kenya, Bangladesh, Peru, Uganda, Myanmar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Albania, Lithuania, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Norway, South Africa, Turkey, Algeria, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Canada, Belarus, Hungary, Singapore, the Holy See, Nigeria, Estonia, Ecuador, Latvia, the Gambia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Angola, Jamaica, Chile, Denmark, Ethiopia, Thailand, Qatar, Zambia, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Nepal, Mauritius, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Ghana, and El Salvador.
- 8.3 The following signatory State made a statement during the general debate: Israel. The following delegations spoke, exercising their right of reply: the State of Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Saudi Arabia.
- 8.4 The following representative from the chemical industry and the scientific community made a statement during the general debate: the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry.
- 8.5 In accordance with paragraph 2 of C-24/DEC.3, the following non-governmental organisations gave presentations at the plenary meeting: Rif Memory Association, ArgIQ, Consejo Argentino de Relaciones Internacionales, Association for the Defence of Chemical Injuries Fars Province, Pakistan House, Mayors for Peace – Halabja Office, Organization for Defending Sardasht Victims of Chemical Weapons, Centre for International Security Studies and Strategic Research, Colorado Citizens Advisory Commission for Chemical Demilitarization, United Service Institution of India, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, Association for Supporting Victims of Chemical Weapons, International Dialogue on Underwater Munitions, Harvard Sussex Program, and Halabja Chemical Victims Society.

9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Status of implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention

Subitem 9(a): Progress report on the implementation of the plan of action regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations

- 9.1 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 Conference **considered** and **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 and Corr.1, dated 28 November 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 Corr.1, dated 28 November 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 and Corr.1, dated 28 November 2019).

Subitem 9(b): Implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Technical Secretariat in 2018

- 9.2 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 Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) in 2018 (EC-90/DG.9 C-24/DG.2, dated 12 February 2019).

Subitem 9(c): Implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues

- 9.3 The Conference **noted** that, at its Sixteenth Session, it had adopted a decision on the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 (C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011). The Conference **expressed its concern** regarding the Director-General’s statement in his report to the Sixty-Eighth Session of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”), provided in accordance with paragraph 2 of C-16/DEC.11, that “three possessor States Parties, namely Libya, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America, have been unable to fully meet the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 for the destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles” (EC-68/DG.9, dated 1 May 2012). The Conference **noted further** that the measures that had been identified in paragraph 3 of its decision (C-16/DEC.11) were now being implemented.
- 9.4 The Conference **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 Conference **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 Verification Annex and with the application of the measures contained in decision C-16/DEC.11.
- 9.5 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (subparagraph 3(g) of C-16/DEC.11), the Director-General provided an annual written report to the Conference on the overall progress with respect to the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles (C-24/DG.18, dated 21 November 2019), based on the independent information received by the Secretariat from the Organisation’s inspectors undertaking verification in accordance with Part IV(A) D of the Verification Annex, which included information on the progress achieved to meet the planned completion date(s) and the effectiveness of any specific measures that have been undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes.
- 9.6 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the United States of America provided an annual report (C-24/NAT.1, dated 11 November 2019) and an annual briefing on the progress in the

destruction of its remaining stockpiles of chemical weapons, including on any specific measures undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes and information on the projected schedule for destruction activities to meet the planned completion date, which were **considered** and **noted** by the Conference, along with comments on the issue as mentioned above. The Conference **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.

- 9.7 The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement under this agenda item.
- 9.8 Pursuant to the above-mentioned decision at its Sixteenth Session (subparagraph 3(f) of C-16/DEC.11), the Conference **undertook** an annual review of the implementation of this decision at a specially designated meeting of the Conference. In furtherance of the implementation of subparagraphs 3(d), 3(f), and 3(h) of its decision C-16/DEC.11, the Conference **encouraged** the possessor State Party concerned to include confirmation in the required reporting to the Council and the Conference that it remains on schedule to complete destruction activities by its planned completion date.
- 9.9 The Conference **welcomed** the Council's decision at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012) 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 its Annex 2 and adopted by the Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session, bearing in mind that the destruction progress was less than expected in the previous destruction plan attached to the decision "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), and **encouraged** continued cooperation between China and Japan in the implementation of EC-67/DEC.6.
- 9.10 The Conference **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 abandoned chemical weapons as soon 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 Conference **reaffirmed** that the Territorial State Party shall provide appropriate cooperation.
- 9.11 The Conference **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.
- 9.12 The Conference **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*), 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.

- 9.13 The Conference **welcomed** the visit by the Chairperson of the Council, the Director-General, representatives of the Council, as well as States Parties as observers to the Haerbaling abandoned chemical weapons site, Jilin Province, China, from 2 to 7 September 2019, jointly invited by China and Japan. The Conference **expressed its appreciation** for the first-hand information on the destruction-related progress and the bilateral cooperation of the relevant States Parties obtained through the visit. The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: China and Japan.

Subitem 9(d): Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use

- 9.14 The Conference at its Fourth Special Session adopted a decision entitled "Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use" (C-SS-4/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2018). Since the previous regular session of the Conference and pursuant to paragraph 24 of the above-mentioned decision, the following documents had been circulated to the Council: EC-90/DG.14 (dated 7 March 2019); EC-91/DG.20 (dated 1 July 2019); EC-91/S/3 (dated 28 June 2019); EC-92/DG.26 (dated 27 September 2019) and Corr.1 (dated 4 October 2019); and EC-92/S/8 (dated 3 October 2019).
- 9.15 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United States of America, Canada, Australia, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Belgium, Norway, New Zealand, Nigeria, and France. The following delegations spoke, exercising their right of reply: the Syrian Arab Republic and the Russian Federation.

Subitem 9(e): Status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons

- 9.16 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.
- 9.17 The Conference **noted** the 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).
- 9.18 The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement under this agenda item.

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Proposals for technical changes to Schedule 1 of the Annex on Chemicals to the Chemical Weapons Convention (Joint Proposal by Canada, the Netherlands, and the United States of America for a Technical Change to Schedule 1 of the Annex on Chemicals to the Chemical Weapons Convention and Proposals by the Russian Federation to Introduce Additions to the Schedules of Chemicals of the Annex on Chemicals to the Chemical Weapons Convention)

- 10.1 On 16 October 2018, the Permanent Representations of Canada, the Netherlands, and the United States of America to the OPCW submitted a “Joint Proposal for a Technical Change to Schedule 1 of the Annex on Chemicals to the Chemical Weapons Convention” (hereinafter “the Joint Proposal”) in accordance with paragraphs 1, 4, and 5 of Article XV of the Convention (S/1682/2018, dated 25 October 2018). At its Sixty-Second Meeting, the Council considered and adopted, by consensus, the 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 be adopted. Prior to the expiration on 14 April 2019 of the 90-day period for objections, an objection from a State Party to the Council’s recommendation for the adoption of the Joint Proposal was received by the Secretariat (EC-M-62/NAT.5, dated 9 April 2019).
- 10.2 On 30 November 2018, the Permanent Representation of the Russian Federation to the OPCW submitted “Proposals to Introduce Additions to the Schedules of Chemicals of the Annex on Chemicals to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction” (hereinafter “the Proposals by the Russian Federation”) in accordance with paragraphs 1, 4, and 5 of Article XV of the Convention. At its Sixty-Third Meeting, the Council examined the Proposals and did not adopt a draft decision recommending their adoption (EC-M-63/DEC/CRP.1, dated 19 February 2019). Based on this fact, the Proposals by the Russian Federation were considered to be recommended for rejection by the Council. Prior to the expiration on 27 May 2019 of the 90-day period for objections, an objection from a State Party to the Council’s recommendation for the rejection of the Proposals by the Russian Federation was received by the Secretariat (EC-M-63/NAT.4, dated 9 April 2019). On 24 September 2019, the Permanent Representation of the Russian Federation to the OPCW submitted a “Modified Proposal to Introduce Changes to Schedule 1 of the Annex on Chemicals to the Chemical Weapons Convention” (S/1796/2019, dated 24 September 2019).
- 10.3 Pursuant to subparagraph 5(e) of Article XV of the Convention, in cases where a State Party has made an objection to the Council’s recommendation, the Conference is required to take a decision on the proposal for a change to an Annex to the Convention as a matter of substance at its next session. In light of all of the above, the Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the Joint Proposal (C-24/DEC.4, dated 27 November 2019), and **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the Modified Proposal by the Russian Federation (C-24/DEC.5, dated 27 November 2019).
- 10.4 The Director-General made a statement (C-24/DG.20, dated 27 November 2019).

11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2018

The Conference **considered** and **approved** the report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2018 (C-24/4, dated 28 November 2019), which was considered and forwarded to it by the Council at its Ninety-First Session.

12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Annual report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 13 July 2018 to 12 July 2019

12.1 The Conference **noted** the report of the Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 13 July 2018 to 12 July 2019, 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-Third Session in Response to Recommendations Made by the Executive Council” (EC-92/4 C-24/2, dated 10 October 2019). The report was introduced by the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Andrea Perugini of Italy, who also briefed the Conference on any developments that have taken place since the cut-off date for the report.

12.2 The delegation of Cuba made a statement under this agenda item.

13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Election of Member States to membership in the Executive Council

13.1 In accordance with paragraph 23 of Article VIII of the Convention and with Rule 83 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Conference **elected** 20 members to serve on the Council for a term of two years, starting on 12 May 2020. To ensure that the Council is constituted in accordance with paragraph 23 of Article VIII, the regional distribution of the elective places to be filled is to be as follows:

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| Africa: | Algeria, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa |
| Asia: | Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, the Philippines, the United Arab Emirates |
| Eastern Europe: | Lithuania, Poland, the Russian Federation |
| Latin America and the Caribbean: | Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru ¹ |
| Western Europe and other States: | Australia, Austria, Belgium, Norway, Spain |

13.2 The delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela made a statement under this agenda item.

¹ Pursuant to Rule 79 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Conference proceeded to a vote, by secret ballot, by a simple majority of members present and voting, to fill the seats pertaining to the Latin America and the Caribbean Group (GRULAC).

14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2020, submitted by the Executive Council, and all items pertaining to this Budget

- 14.1 The Council at its Ninety-Second Session noted the following Notes by the Director-General circulated under this item: “Financial Status of the Special Fund for the Fourth Review Conference in 2018” (EC-92/DG.28, dated 2 October 2019); “Financial Status of the Special Fund for Cybersecurity, Business Continuity, and Physical Infrastructure Security” (EC-92/DG.31, dated 4 October 2019); “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); “Request for 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); and “Report on the Status of Implementation of the Enterprise Resource Planning System” (EC-92/DG.21, dated 23 September 2019). The Secretariat also circulated a Note it had previously issued for the Fourth Review Conference entitled “Request for the Establishment of a Special Fund for Major Capital Investments” (RC-4/S/3, dated 27 November 2018).
- 14.2 The Council at its Ninety-Second Session could not achieve consensus on the adoption of the draft decision on the Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2020 (EC-92/DEC/CRP.8, dated 4 October 2019). Following a vote on the matter under Rule 36 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council (paragraph 11.19 of EC-92/5, dated 11 October 2019), 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).
- 14.3 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: the Russian Federation, China, the United States of America, and the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- 14.4 Under Rule 69 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the draft decision on the OPCW Draft Programme and Budget for 2020 (C-24/DEC/CRP.2, dated 29 October 2019) was voted on. The vote led to the following result: 106 for (Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Eswatini, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, the Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, and Zambia); 19 against (Armenia, Belarus, China, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, the State of Palestine, the

Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), and Zimbabwe); and 17 abstentions (Algeria, Angola, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ethiopia, India, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, and Uganda). In light of that result, the decision was **adopted** (C-24/DEC.12, dated 28 November 2019).

14.5 The following delegations explained their vote: India, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Cuba, the Russian Federation, Pakistan, Algeria, Malaysia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and South Africa.

14.6 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) had been circulated to the Member States.

15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – Scale of assessments for 2020

The Conference **adopted**, pursuant to Regulation 3.6(b) of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, a decision on the scale of assessments to be paid by States Parties for the financial year 2020 (C-24/DEC.13, dated 28 November 2019).

16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – External Auditor’s report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2018

The Conference **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), forwarded to it by the Council at its Ninety-Second Session, in accordance with Regulation 13.10 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules.

17. AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Administrative and financial matters

Subitem 17(a): Submission of the 2019 Financial Statements to the External Auditor

17.1 At its Ninety-Second Session, the Council adopted a decision on the submission of the 2019 OPCW Financial Statements to the External Auditor (Financial Rule 11.1.02) (EC-92/DEC.1, dated 10 October 2019) and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Fourth Session. The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-24/DEC.6, dated 28 November 2019).

Subitem 17(b): Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions

17.2 At its Ninety-Second Session and in accordance with a decision by the Conference at its Twentieth Session (C-20/DEC.11, dated 3 December 2015), the Council considered and adopted a decision recommending the extension of the Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions for a period of one further year (EC-92/DEC.3, dated 10 October 2019), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Fourth Session. The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-24/DEC.7, dated 28 November 2019).

Subitem 17(c): Status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions

- 17.3 At its Eleventh Session, the Conference adopted a decision (C-11/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2006) on a mechanism to encourage States Parties that are in arrears to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions through the use of multi-year payment plans, requesting the Secretariat to submit a report to it each year, through the Council, on the status of implementation of agreed multi-year payment plans as at the end of the quarter that falls immediately before the session of the Council that precedes the session of the Conference.
- 17.4 The Conference **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General reporting on the status of the implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payments plans (EC-92/DG.4 C-24/DG.7, dated 21 August 2019) that the Council, at its Ninety-Second Session, considered and forwarded to it pursuant to the above-mentioned decision.
- 17.5 Also pursuant to C-11/DEC.5, the Council at its Ninety-Second Session recommended that the Conference at its Twenty-Fourth Session approve the payment plan submitted by Sierra Leone to regularise the payment of its outstanding annual contributions (EC-92/DEC.4, dated 10 October 2019). The Conference **considered** and **approved** the plan (C-24/DEC.8, dated 28 November 2019).

Subitem 17(d): Cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2019

- 17.6 At its Ninety-Second Session, 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). The Conference **noted** this Note.

Subitem 17(e): Recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and losses of assets

- 17.7 The Council at its Ninety-Second Session 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). The Conference **adopted** a decision approving the said proposals (C-24/DEC.9, dated 28 November 2019).

Subitem 17(f): Transfers of funds during 2018

- 17.8 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-91/DG.13 C-24/DG.4, dated 24 June 2019).
- 17.9 The delegation of the Russian Federation made a statement under this agenda item.

Subitem 17(g): Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2018

17.10 In accordance with Regulation 12.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, the Council at its Ninety-First 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 2018, and the accompanying Note by the Director-General (EC-91/DG.8 C-24/DG.3, dated 28 May 2019). The Conference **noted** this report.

Subitem 17(h): Rehiring of inspectors

17.11 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.

17.12 At its Ninety-Second Session, the Council 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. The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-24/DEC.10, dated 28 November 2019).

17.13 The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement under this agenda item.

Subitem 17(i): Transition of the OPCW to a biennial programme and budget cycle

17.14 At its Ninety-Second Session, the Council 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. The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-24/DEC.11, dated 28 November 2019).

18. AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Fostering of international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities

18.1 The Conference at its Sixteenth Session adopted a decision regarding components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of Article XI of the Convention (C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011), and requested the Secretariat to report to the Conference at each annual session on the progress of concrete measures undertaken in implementing the decision, and on the status of implementation of Article XI.

18.2 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 for the period from 26 August 2018 to 25 August 2019 (EC-92/DG.14 C-24/DG.12, dated 9 September 2019).

18.3 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: the Islamic Republic of Iran, Cuba, Bangladesh, China, Serbia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and the Russian Federation.

18.4 The Conference **received** an oral report by the facilitator, Mr Junaid Sadiq of Pakistan, on activities held during the intersessional period.

19. AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – Ensuring the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention

- 19.1 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.
- 19.2 The Conference **noted** the annual report by the Director-General on the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention during the period from 16 August 2018 to 15 August 2019 (EC-92/DG.16 C-24/DG.13, dated 12 September 2019).
- 19.3 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic.

20. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY – The OPCW Programme for Africa

- 20.1 The Conference **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).
- 20.2 The delegation of Kenya made a statement under this agenda item.

21. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-ONE – Engagement with the chemical industry and the scientific community

The Conference **noted** a Note by the Director-General on engaging the chemical industry associations (C-24/DG.17, dated 4 November 2019).

22. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-TWO – Reports of subsidiary bodies

Committee of the Whole

- 22.1 The Conference **noted** that, during this session, no items had been allocated to the Committee of the Whole.

General Committee

- 22.2 The Conference **noted** the reports of the General Committee, and took appropriate action as required.

Confidentiality Commission

- 22.3 The Conference **noted** the report of the Twenty-First Meeting of the Commission for the Settlement of Disputes Related to Confidentiality (CC-21/1, dated 3 May 2019).

Credentials Committee

22.4 In accordance with Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the report of the Credentials Committee (C-24/3, dated 25 November 2019) was presented by Mr Kevin Thuo on behalf of the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, Ambassador Lawrence Ntoye Lenayapa of Kenya. Mr Thuo reported orally that, following the close of the Credentials Committee meeting, additional original credentials had been received from Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, El Salvador, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Jamaica, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritius, Namibia, Paraguay, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Spain, Togo, and Zambia, and additional copies of credentials had been received from the Dominican Republic, Viet Nam, and Zimbabwe. The Conference **noted** this information and **approved** the written and oral reports as follows:

- (a) Originals of credentials in the form required by Rule 26 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference had been received from the following 126 States Parties: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, the Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, and Zambia.
- (b) Faxes or copies of credentials in the form required by Rule 26 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference had been received from the following 26 States Parties: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cambodia, the Dominican Republic, Eswatini, the Gambia, Iceland, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Mongolia, Mozambique, Qatar, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, and Zimbabwe.
- (c) Official communications had not been received from the following States Parties regarding their representation: the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Suriname.

- 22.5 The United States of America disassociated itself from the report of the Credentials Committee with regard to one aspect.
- 22.6 The following delegations made a statement under this item: the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation, Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic, Nicaragua, China, Belarus, and the State of Palestine.

Committee on Relations with the Host Country

- 22.7 At its Eleventh Session, the Conference adopted a decision establishing a Committee on Relations with the Host Country (hereinafter “the Host Country Committee”) (C-11/DEC.9, dated 7 December 2006). The Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Andrea Perugini of Italy, reported to the Conference on the status of the work of the Host Country Committee.

Advisory Board on Education and Outreach

- 22.8 The Conference **considered** and **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 2018 to 31 August 2019 (EC-92/DG.23 C-24/DG.16, dated 24 September 2019).
- 22.9 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).
- 22.10 On behalf of the ABEO, Professor Alastair Hay addressed the Conference.

Scientific Advisory Board

- 22.11 The Chairperson of the Scientific Advisory Board, Mr Cheng Tang, addressed the Conference.

23. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-THREE – Follow-up to the Third Review Conference

- 23.1 In paragraph 9.17 of its report (RC-3/3*), the Third Review Conference expressed its intention to keep the declarations contained in paragraphs 9.3 to 9.16 of that document under review at each regular session of the Conference. Subsequently, the agendas of the Council from its Seventy-Third through Eighty-Ninth Sessions have included an item on the follow-up to the Third Review Conference. Starting from the Eightieth Session of the Council, it was decided to introduce a new procedure whereby updates are provided to the Council by way of an addendum to the matrix that encompasses only new activities and developments during the reporting period. A full version of the matrix is produced only once a year, the most recent being document EC-92/S/5 (dated 25 September 2019). The Conference **noted** the activities in furtherance of its review of the declarations contained in paragraphs 9.3 to 9.16 of RC-3/3*.
- 23.2 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.

24. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FOUR – Any other business

- 24.1 The delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela made a statement.
- 24.2 The delegation of the Russian Federation read a joint statement entitled “Measures to Counter Chemical Terrorism” on behalf of Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, China, Cuba, Iran (the Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the State of Palestine, Serbia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (the Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
- 24.3 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: the Syrian Arab Republic, the United States of America, Belarus, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, China, Canada, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Belgium, the Gambia, and Nicaragua.
- 24.4 The following delegations spoke, exercising their right of reply: the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Russian Federation, and the Syrian Arab Republic.

25. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FIVE – Adoption of the report of the Conference of the States Parties

The Conference **considered** and **adopted** the report of its Twenty-Fourth Session.

26. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-SIX – Closure

The Chairperson closed the session at 17:11 on 29 November 2019.