



Ninety-Third Session  
10 – 13 March 2020

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### ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE NINETY-THIRD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 10 – 13 MARCH 2020

This revised annotated agenda<sup>1</sup> has been prepared by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) to guide and assist members of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) in their substantive preparations for its Ninety-Third Session. It lists the items of business for the session in the sequence in which they appear in the provisional agenda set for it (see agenda item two below).

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

The Ninety-Third Session of the Council will be opened in The Hague by the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Andrea Perugini of Italy, at 10:00 on 10 March 2020.

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

The Council is **requested** to consider and adopt the following agenda, which has been circulated under cover of EC-93/1, dated 18 February 2020:

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Opening statement by the Director-General
4. Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on the activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues
5. General debate
6. 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

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<sup>1</sup> This document is issued for information purposes only and does not supersede in any way the provisional agenda for the Ninety-Third Session of the Executive Council, or prejudice the outcome of its deliberations.



- (c) Elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme
  - (d) Other verification-related issues
  - (e) Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use
  - (f) Technical Secretariat's activities: update on the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria
  - (g) Timely submission of declarations under Article VI of the Convention
  - (h) Implementation by the Technical Secretariat in 2019 of the regime governing the handling of confidential information
  - (i) Status of implementation of the Verification Information System
7. Countering chemical terrorism
8. 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) Nominations for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
  - (d) Status of implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations
  - (e) Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise resource planning system
  - (f) New External Auditor of the OPCW
  - (g) Adjustment to the Director-General's gross salary
9. The OPCW Programme for Africa
10. Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference<sup>2</sup>
11. Election of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council
12. Report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
13. Any other business
14. Adoption of the report
15. Closure

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

**3. AGENDA ITEM THREE – Opening statement by the Director-General**

The Council is **requested** to note the opening statement by the Director-General (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations).

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

4.1 The Vice-Chairpersons and coordinators for clusters of issues will report to the Council on informal consultations held during the intersessional period: Ambassador Jorge Skinner-Klée Arenales of Guatemala on chemical weapons issues, 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.

4.2 The co-facilitators on organisational governance issues, Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador and Ambassador I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja of Indonesia, will report to the Council on consultations they held during the intersessional period.

**5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – General debate**

**6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – Status of implementation of the Convention**

**Subitem 6(a): Reports by the Director-General on destruction-related issues**

6.1 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 is **requested** to consider and note a report by the Director-General on the overall progress with respect to the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations).

6.2 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012), the Council is **requested** to consider and note a report by the Director-General on the overall progress of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations).

**Subitem 6(b): Implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues**

6.3 The Secretariat is expected to brief the Council on its destruction-related verification activities.

6.4 The States Parties concerned are expected to brief the Council on their destruction-related activities.

- 6.5 The Council is **requested** to note a voluntary presentation by Italy on the destruction of its old chemical weapons pursuant to Council decision EC-67/DEC.8 (dated 17 February 2012).
- 6.6 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the Council is **requested** to consider and note 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, and identifying progress made since the last briefing in order to meet the planned completion date. This report is also to include reporting on any specific measures undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programme (EC-93/NAT.2, dated 19 February 2020).
- 6.7 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 (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations) and a national paper by Japan (EC-93/NAT.1, dated 13 February 2020) on the overall progress of the destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China have been circulated to the members of the Council.

#### **Subitem 6(c): Elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme**

- 6.8 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.
- 6.9 The Council is **requested** to note Notes by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme (EC-93/DG.1, dated 23 October 2019; EC-93/DG.3, dated 25 November 2019; EC-93/DG.5, dated 24 December 2019; EC-93/DG.7, dated 24 January 2020; and EC-93/DG.12, dated 24 February 2020 and Corr.1, dated 27 February 2020).
- 6.10 The Council is **requested** to note national papers by the Syrian Arab Republic on the activities related to the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and their production facilities (EC-93/P/NAT.1, dated 17 October 2019; EC-93/P/NAT.2, dated 19 November 2019; EC-93/P/NAT.3, dated 19 December 2019; EC-93/P/NAT.4, dated 17 January 2020; and EC-93/P/NAT.5, dated 17 February 2020).
- 6.11 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 is **requested** to note a report by the Director-General on the matter (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations).

- 6.12 The Council is **requested** to note a Note by the Director-General entitled “Report on the Work of the Declaration Assessment Team” (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations).

**Subitem 6(d): Other verification-related issues**

- 6.13 The Secretariat is expected to brief the Council on its other verification-related activities.

**Subitem 6(e): Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use**

- 6.14 The Council is **requested** to note the regular report by the Director-General to the Council on progress made in the implementation of the decision of the Conference entitled “Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use” (C-SS-4/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2018) (EC-93/DG.11, dated 24 February 2020).

**Subitem 6(f): Technical Secretariat’s activities: update on the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria**

- 6.15 The Director-General is expected to provide an update in regard to the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria.

**Subitem 6(g): Timely submission of declarations under Article VI of the Convention**

- 6.16 Further to a decision by the Council at its Fifty-First Session (EC-51/DEC.1, dated 27 November 2007), the Council is **requested** to note a status report by the Director-General on the timely submission by States Parties of declarations under Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention, for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2019 (EC-93/DG.6, dated 17 January 2020 and Corr.1, dated 24 January 2020).

**Subitem 6(h): Implementation by the Technical Secretariat in 2019 of the regime governing the handling of confidential information**

- 6.17 The Council is **requested** to consider and note a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Secretariat in 2019 (EC-93/DG.8 C-25/DG.1, dated 11 February 2020).

**Subitem 6(i): Status of implementation of the Verification Information System**

- 6.18 The Council is **requested** to take note of a status report on the Verification Information System (EC-93/S/3, dated 31 January 2020).

**7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Countering chemical terrorism**

- 7.1 The Council is **requested** to consider and note a Note by the Director-General on the status of the OPCW’s contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts (EC-93/DG.10, dated 20 February 2020).

- 7.2 The Council will be briefed on the work of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism during the intersessional period.

**8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Administrative and financial matters**

**Subitem 8(a): Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters**

- 8.1 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).
- 8.2 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).
- 8.3 Subsequently, the sponsoring delegations submitted a revision to the above-mentioned draft decision (EC-92/DEC/CRP.1/Rev.2, dated 10 October 2019).
- 8.4 The Council at its previous session decided to defer the matter until its next regular session.
- 8.5 The delegation of the Russian Federation withdrew its proposal through a note verbale dated 25 February 2020 and submitted new amendments on the matter (EC-93/DEC/CRP.2, dated 21 February 2020), together with an explanatory note to it (EC-93/NAT.3, dated 20 February 2020).
- 8.6 The Council is **requested** to take appropriate action on the matter.

**Subitem 8(b): Report of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters**

- 8.7 Further to its consideration of this issue at its previous sessions, the Council is **requested** to consider and note 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).
- 8.8 Further to its consideration of this issue at its previous sessions, the Council is **requested** to consider and note 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).
- 8.9 Further to its consideration of this issue at its previous session, the Council is **requested** to consider and note 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).

**Subitem 8(c): Nominations for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters**

- 8.10 The Council is **requested** to note a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-93/S/2, dated 22 January 2020), and to appoint Mr Pankaj Agarwal of India, to replace Mr Shri Giridhar Aramane, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Mr Agarwal (3 January 2020).

**Subitem 8(d): Status of implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations**

- 8.11 The Council is **requested** to consider and note a Note by the Secretariat on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor (EC-93/S/1, dated 15 January 2020).
- 8.12 The facilitator for this issue, Mr Arata Mizukami of Japan, is expected to report on the consultations held during the intersessional period.

**Subitem 8(e): Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise resource planning system**

- 8.13 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 is **requested** to note a Note by the Director-General reporting on the status of implementation of the ERP system (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations).

**Subitem 8(f): New External Auditor of the OPCW**

- 8.14 The Council is **requested** to note a Note by the Director-General on the new External Auditor of the OPCW (EC-93/DG.4, dated 12 December 2019).

**Subitem 8(g): Adjustment to the Director-General's gross salary**

- 8.15 In accordance with a decision of the Conference at its First Special Session (C-SS-1/DEC.4, dated 25 July 2002) stipulating that the terms of appointment of the Director-General shall be subject to adjustments by the Council to keep the terms in line with those of other executive heads within the United Nations system, the Council is **requested** to adopt a draft decision adjusting the Director-General's gross salary (EC-93/DEC/CRP.1, dated 31 January 2020).

**9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – The OPCW Programme for Africa**

The Council is **requested** to consider and note a Note by the Director-General on the fifth phase of the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (EC-93/DG.9, dated 18 February 2020).

**10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference**

- 10.1 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”.

- 10.2 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 would produce addenda for all subsequent regular sessions that would encompass only new and relevant developments during the reporting period. The Council is **requested** to consider and note the updated Matrix in its new format (EC-93/S/4, dated 26 February 2020).

**11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Election of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council**

- 11.1 At its Sixty-Fourth Meeting, with reference to Rule 6 of its Rules of Procedure, the Council decided to accept a proposal of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC) to switch the rotational order with the Group of Western European and Other States (WEOG). The Council decided that a representative from WEOG would exercise the functions of the Chairperson in the period from 12 May 2019 to 11 May 2020, and a representative from GRULAC would exercise the functions of the Chairperson from 12 May 2020 to 11 May 2021. The decision was made on an exceptional basis and did not create any precedent for the future.

- 11.2 In accordance with Rule 6 of its Rules of Procedure, and with effect from 12 May 2020, the Council is **requested** to elect its new Chairperson for a term of office ending on 11 May 2021, and its new Vice-Chairpersons for the same period. The Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons shall be elected from among the representatives accredited to the Council.

**12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country**

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

**13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Any other business**

The 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, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, and the United States of America, was issued under the symbol of EC-92/DEC/CRP.9, dated 4 October 2019. The Council is **requested** to take appropriate action on the matter.

**14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Adoption of the report**

**15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – Closure**