The Executive Council,

Recalling that Financial Rule 11.1.02 states that the Financial Statements shall, after approval by the Director-General, be submitted to the External Auditor not later than three months following the end of the financial year, together with such statements as may be required;

Considering the Note by the Director-General entitled “Submission of the 2020 OPCW Financial Statements to the External Auditor” (EC-95/DG.22, dated 25 September 2020), in which an exceptional suspension of Financial Rule 11.1.02 is requested;

Cognisant of the Note by the Director-General entitled “Report on the Status of Implementation of the Enterprise Resource Planning System” (EC-95/DG.23, dated 25 September 2020), which notes that the cutover to the System of Record is planned to take place in December 2020; and

Noting the report of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF) at its Forty-Ninth Session (ABAF-49/1, dated 31 July 2020), in which the ABAF agreed with the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) that an exceptional request for an extension of the submission date for the Financial Statements to the External Auditor would be submitted by the Secretariat to the Executive Council and to the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”);

Hereby:

Recommends to the Conference that at its Twenty-Fifth Session it suspend, on an exceptional basis, the application of Financial Rule 11.1.02 in respect of the timeline for submission of the 2020 Financial Statements to the External Auditor.