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**DRAFT REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
ON THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS ACTIVITIES IN THE PERIOD
FROM 13 JULY 2019 TO 12 JULY 2020**



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1. ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

1.1 The Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) is the executive organ of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The Council promotes the effective implementation of, and compliance with, the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”). It also supervises the activities of the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”), cooperates with the National Authority of each State Party, and facilitates consultations and cooperation among States Parties at their request.

1.2 The following tables show, by regional grouping, the composition of the Council for the period from 12 May 2019 to 11 May 2020, and from 12 May 2020 to 11 May 2021.

A. COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FROM 12 MAY 2019 TO 11 MAY 2020

| Regional Group | States Parties |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Africa | Algeria, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Sudan |
| Asia | Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, and Saudi Arabia |
| Eastern Europe | Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Romania, Russian Federation, and Ukraine |
| Latin America and the Caribbean | Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, and Peru |
| Western European and Other States | Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America |

B. COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FROM 12 MAY 2020 TO 11 MAY 2021

| Regional Group | States Parties |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Africa | Algeria, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Sudan |
| Asia | Bangladesh, China, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates |
| Eastern Europe | Bulgaria, Lithuania Poland, Romania, and Russian Federation. |
| Latin America and the Caribbean | Argentina, Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, and Peru |
| Western European and Other States | Australia, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America |

1.3 At its Twenty-Fourth Session, the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) adopted decisions on 10 matters the Council had referred to it.

Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council

- 1.4 In light of the end of mission of Ambassador Gladys Marithza Ruíz Sánchez de Vielman of Guatemala, at its Ninety-Second Session the Council, in accordance with Rule 8 of its Rules of Procedure, elected Ambassador Jorge Skinner-Klée Arenales of Guatemala as Vice-Chairperson for the unexpired term of office ending on 11 May 2020.
- 1.5 At its Ninety-Third Session, the Council elected Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador as its Chairperson, with effect from 12 May 2020 and for a term of office ending on 11 May 2021. Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki of Morocco, Ambassador Alireza Kazemi Abadi of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ambassador Marcin Czepelak of Poland, and Ambassador Matthew Neuhaus of Australia will serve as the Vice-Chairpersons for the same period.
- 1.6 The following table lists the dates on which the Council held its regular sessions during the period under review.

C. DATES OF REGULAR SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

| Session | Dates |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Ninety-Second | 8 – 11 October 2019 |
| Ninety-Third | 10 – 12 March 2020 |
| Ninety-Fourth | 7 – 9 July 2020 |

- 1.7 The Council held no meetings during the reporting period.

Accreditation of representatives to the Executive Council

- 1.8 The Council at its Ninety-Fourth Session considered and approved a report by the Director-General on the credentials of representatives of the members of the Council (EC-94/DG.16, dated 25 June 2020).

Application of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council

- 1.9 During the period under review, observer States Parties attended sessions of the Council, with an average of 49 present at each session. Each request by observers to present their views was granted under Rule 22 of the aforementioned Rules of Procedure.

Working methods of the Executive Council

- 1.10 During the period under review, the Chairperson of the Council, working in consultation with its Vice-Chairpersons and its members, reviewed and published lists of issues under regular consideration and outstanding issues on the agenda of the Council (EC-92/INF.1, dated 23 September 2019; EC-93/INF.1, dated 11 February 2020; and EC-94/INF.1, dated 7 May 2020).

- 1.11 The Vice-Chairpersons of the Council were designated as coordinators for chemical weapons issues; chemical industry and other Article VI issues; administrative and financial issues; and legal, organisational, and other issues. Facilitators were also appointed for many of the issues requiring resolution.
- 1.12 The Council also kept under its consideration the matter of issues relating to the improvement of the methodology of its work.

Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues

- 1.13 The Vice-Chairpersons reported to the Council at its regular sessions on informal consultations held during the intersessional periods.
- 1.14 Facilitators for issues under regular consideration also reported to the Council on consultations held during the intersessional periods.

2. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

Statements and reports by the Director-General

- 2.1 In his opening statements to each session of the Council during the period under review, the Director-General elaborated, inter alia, on aspects of compliance by States Parties with the requirements of the Convention, and on related activities undertaken by the Secretariat. He also submitted reports to the Council, either in fulfilment of various requirements of the Convention or in response to requests by the Council or the Conference.

Draft annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention for 2019

- 2.2 The Council at its Ninety-Fourth Session considered the “Draft Report of the OPCW on the Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction in 2019” (EC-94/3 C-25/CRP.1, dated 7 July 2020), and forwarded it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Fifth Session. The Council requested the Secretariat to post this document on the OPCW external website, clearly indicating that it had yet to be considered and approved by the Conference.

Universality-related activities

- 2.3 Further to a decision of the Council at its Twenty-Third Meeting on an action plan for the universality of the Convention (EC-M-23/DEC.3, dated 24 October 2003), the Council at its Ninety-Second Session considered and noted the annual report on the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention during the period from 16 August 2018 to 15 August 2019, which was being submitted to both the Council and the Conference (EC-92/DG.16 C-24/DG.13, dated 12 September 2019).

Verification implementation reports

- 2.4 The Council at its Ninety-Second Session considered and noted a supplement to the Verification Implementation Report (VIR) for 2018 (EC-92/HP/DG.1, dated 22 August 2019).
- 2.5 The Council at its Ninety-Fourth Session decided to defer until its next regular session consideration of the Verification Implementation Report (VIR) for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2019 (EC-94/HP/DG.1, dated 11 May 2020 and Add.1, dated 29 June 2020) and the Note by the Secretariat on comments and views received on the 2019 VIR (EC-94/S/9, dated 25 June 2020), as well as the Chairperson's summary of the informal consultations on it (EC-94/2, dated 25 June 2020).

Issues related to meeting the final extended deadline and other destruction-related issues

- 2.6 Further to the relevant decisions by the Conference at its Eleventh, Fourteenth, and Sixteenth Sessions, reports by the United States of America as the sole possessor State Party on the progress made for the destruction of its chemical weapons were circulated to the members of the Council at its Ninety-Second, Ninety-Third, and Ninety-Fourth Sessions (EC-92/NAT.1, dated 27 September 2019; EC-93/NAT.2, dated 19 February 2020; and EC-94/NAT.11, dated 17 June 2020). The Council at all three of the aforementioned sessions noted the confirmation provided by the delegation of the United States of America that the necessary measures continued 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 Conference decision C-16/DEC.11 (dated 1 December 2011).
- 2.7 Further to decision C-16/DEC.11, the Council at its Ninety-Second, Ninety-Third, and Ninety-Fourth Sessions considered and noted reports by the Director-General on the overall progress with respect to the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles (EC-92/DG.25, dated 27 September 2019; EC-93/DG.13, dated 6 March 2020; and EC-94/DG.18, dated 1 July 2020).
- 2.8 The Council at its Ninety-Second Session considered and noted a Note by the Director-General on the schedule for submission by chemical weapons possessor States of the reports on their destruction activities after the extended deadline of 29 April 2012 (EC-92/DG.18, dated 17 September 2019).
- 2.9 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012), the Council at its Ninety-Second, Ninety-Third, and Ninety-Fourth Sessions considered and noted reports by the Director-General on the overall progress with regard to the destruction of the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China (EC-92/DG.29, dated 4 October 2019; EC-93/DG.15, dated 9 March 2020; and EC-94/DG.19, dated 1 July 2020).

- 2.10 Further to the same decision by the Council (EC-67/DEC.6), national papers by China (EC-92/NAT.3, dated 4 October 2019; EC-93/NAT.5, dated 2 March 2020; and EC-94/NAT.12, dated 18 June 2020) and national papers by Japan (EC-92/NAT.2, dated 2 October 2019; EC-93/NAT.1, dated 13 February 2020; and EC-94/NAT.13, dated 18 June 2020) were circulated to the members of the Council at its Ninety-Second, Ninety-Third, and Ninety-Fourth Sessions.
- 2.11 The Council at its Ninety-Second Session took note of the information provided by the delegation of the Netherlands on its destruction-related verification activities (EC-92/NAT.4, dated 8 October 2019).
- 2.12 The Council at its Ninety-Third Session noted the voluntary presentation by Italy on the destruction of its old chemical weapons pursuant to Council decision EC-67/DEC.8 (dated 17 February 2012).

Visits by representatives of the Executive Council

- 2.13 The Council at its Ninety-Second Session considered and noted the report of the visit by the Chairperson of the Council, the Director-General, and representatives of the Council to the Haerbaling Abandoned Chemical Weapons Destruction Site, Jilin Province, China, from 2 to 7 September 2019 (EC-92/3, dated 8 October 2019).

Detailed plans for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons

- 2.14 The Council at its Ninety-Second, Ninety-Third, and Ninety-Fourth Sessions received briefings by the Secretariat on its other verification-related activities.
- 2.15 The Secretariat submitted to the Council at its Ninety-Second and Ninety-Fourth Sessions two Notes on modifications to the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility, Pueblo, Colorado, the United States of America (EC-92/S/4, dated 10 September 2019 and EC-94/S/2, dated 6 April 2020) and two Notes on modifications to the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility, Richmond, Kentucky, the United States of America (EC-92/S/6, dated 26 September 2019 and EC-94/S/3, dated 6 April 2020).
- 2.16 The Secretariat submitted to the Council at its Ninety-Fourth Session a Note on modifications to the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Static Detonation Chamber Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility, Richmond, Kentucky, the United States of America (EC-94/S/4, dated 6 April 2020).
- 2.17 Further to the decision of the Council at its Sixty-Sixth Session on the policy guidelines for determining the number of Article VI inspections (EC-66/DEC.10, dated 7 October 2011), the Council at its Ninety-Fourth Session noted a report by the Director-General on the results of the eighth year of implementation of these policy guidelines (EC-94/DG.2, dated 7 April 2020).

Facility agreements

- 2.18 The Secretariat submitted to the Council at its Ninety-Second and Ninety-Fourth Sessions Notes on modifications to the facility agreement with the United States of America regarding on-site inspections at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility, Pueblo, Colorado, the United States of America (EC-92/S/3, dated 10 September 2019 and EC-94/S/1, dated 6 April 2020).
- 2.19 The Secretariat submitted to the Council at its Ninety-Second Session a Note on modifications to the facility agreement with the United States of America regarding on-site inspections at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility, Richmond, Kentucky, the United States of America (EC-92/S/7, dated 26 September 2019).

Progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme

- 2.20 Further to its decision at its Eighty-Third Session (EC-83/DEC.5, dated 11 November 2016), the Council continued 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.

Implementation of decisions of the Executive Council on destruction-related issues

- 2.21 The Council noted Notes by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme at its Ninety-Second, Ninety-Third, and Ninety-Fourth Sessions (EC-92/DG.1, dated 24 July 2019; EC-92/DG.6, dated 23 August 2019; 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; EC-93/DG.12, dated 24 February 2020 and Corr.1, dated 27 February 2020; EC-94/DG.1, dated 24 March 2020; EC-94/DG.3, dated 24 April 2020; EC-94/DG.5, dated 25 May 2020; and EC-94/DG.12, dated 24 June 2020).
- 2.22 The Council at its Ninety-Second, Ninety-Third, and Ninety-Fourth Sessions noted national papers by the Syrian Arab Republic on activities relating to the destruction of chemical weapons and chemical weapons production facilities on its territory (EC-92/P/NAT.1, dated 22 July 2019; EC-92/P/NAT.2, dated 22 August 2019; EC-92/P/NAT.3, dated 18 September 2019; 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; EC-93/P/NAT.5, dated 17 February 2020; EC-94/P/NAT.1, dated 18 March 2020; EC-94/P/NAT.2, dated 16 April 2020; EC-94/P/NAT.3, dated 20 May 2020; and EC-94/P/NAT.4, dated 16 June 2020).
- 2.23 The Council at its Ninety-Second, Ninety-Third, and Ninety-Fourth Sessions noted three reports by the Director-General entitled “Status of Implementation of Executive Council Decision EC-83/DEC.5 (dated 11 November 2016)” (EC-92/DG.19, dated 17 September 2019; EC-93/DG.17, dated 11 March 2020; and EC-94/DG.20, dated 3 July 2020).

Activities of the Declaration Assessment Team

- 2.24 The Council at its Ninety-Second, Ninety-Third, and Ninety-Fourth Sessions noted three Notes by the Director-General reporting on the work of the Declaration Assessment Team (EC-92/HP/DG.2, dated 27 September 2019; EC-93/HP/DG.1, dated 6 March 2020; and EC-94/HP/DG.2, dated 29 June 2020).

Reports of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria

- 2.25 At the Ninety-Second Session of the Council, the Secretariat circulated a Note entitled “Summary Update of the Activities Carried out by the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria” (S/1798/2019, dated 3 October 2019). At the Ninety-Fourth Session of the Council, the Secretariat provided an update in regard to the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria.
- 2.26 The Director-General provided to the Council at its Ninety-Fourth Session a statement on the incident of alleged use of chemical weapons that took place in Aleppo on 24 November 2018.

Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use

- 2.27 The Council at its Ninety-Second, Ninety-Third, and Ninety-Fourth Sessions noted three regular reports by the Director-General on progress made in the implementation of the decision taken by the Conference at its Fourth Special Session entitled “Addressing the Threat From Chemical Weapons Use” (C-SS-4/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2018) (EC-92/DG.26, dated 27 September 2019 and Corr.1, dated 4 October 2019; EC-93/DG.11, dated 24 February 2020; and EC-94/DG.17, dated 1 July 2020).
- 2.28 At the Ninety-Second Session of the Council, the Secretariat circulated a Note entitled “Work of the Investigation and Identification Team Established by Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 (dated 27 June 2018)” (EC-92/S/8, dated 3 October 2019).
- 2.29 At its Ninety-Fourth Session, the Council was provided with a Note by the Secretariat entitled “First Report of the Technical Secretariat Pursuant to Paragraph 10 of Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 (dated 27 June 2018)” (EC-94/S/5, dated 8 April 2020). The report itself (S/1867/2020, dated 8 April 2020) was provided to the Council and to the United Nations Secretary-General for their consideration.
- 2.30 At the same session, the Council adopted a decision entitled “Addressing the Possession and Use of Chemical Weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic” (EC-94/DEC.2, dated 9 July 2020).

Understanding Regarding the Aerosolized Use of Central Nervous System-Acting Chemicals for Law Enforcement Purposes

- 2.31 A draft decision entitled “Understanding Regarding the Aerosolized Use of Central Nervous System-Acting Chemicals for Law Enforcement Purposes” (EC-92/DEC/CRP.9/Rev.2, dated 9 March 2020) was presented to the Council at its Ninety-Second, Ninety-Third, and Ninety-Fourth Sessions. The Council decided to defer the matter until its next regular session.

Article VI-related issues

- 2.32 Further to a decision by the Council at its Fifty-First Session (EC-51/DEC.1, dated 27 November 2007), the Council at its Ninety-Third and Ninety-Fourth Sessions noted the status reports by the Director-General on the timely submission by States Parties of declarations under Article VI of the Convention (EC-93/DG.6, dated 17 January 2020 and Corr.1, dated 24 January 2020 and EC-94/DG.13, dated 24 June 2020).

Progress made in the implementation of Article VII obligations

- 2.33 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 Council at its Ninety-Second Session noted the reports 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); 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 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).

Readiness of the Technical Secretariat to conduct a challenge inspection and an investigation of alleged use

- 2.34 The Council at its Ninety-Fourth Session considered and noted a Note by the Director-General reporting on the readiness of the Secretariat to conduct a challenge inspection or an investigation of alleged use (EC-94/DG.14, dated 25 June 2020).

Status of implementation of Article X

- 2.35 The Council at its Ninety-Second Session considered and noted a report by the Director-General on the status of implementation of Article X of the Convention as at 30 June 2019 (EC-92/DG.10, dated 27 August 2019 and Corr.1, dated 4 October 2019) and a 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).

The content of the protection and assistance databank and its use

- 2.36 The Council at its Ninety-Fourth Session considered and noted a Note by the Secretariat on the content of the protection and assistance databank and its use (EC-94/S/8, dated 25 June 2020).

Status of implementation of Article XI

- 2.37 The Council at its Ninety-Second Session considered and noted a report by the Director-General on the progress made and review of the status of implementation of Article XI of the Convention (EC-92/DG.14 C-24/DG.12, dated 9 September 2019).

The OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention

- 2.38 The Council at its Ninety-Second Session considered and noted a Note by the Director-General on the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Africa Programme”) (EC-92/DG.13 C-24/DG.11, dated 9 September 2019). At its Ninety-Third Session the Council considered and noted a Note by the Director-General regarding the fifth phase of the Africa Programme (EC-93/DG.9, dated 18 February 2020).

The OPCW’s contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts

- 2.39 The Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Terrorism, Ambassador Oji Nyimenuate Ngofa of Nigeria, briefed the Council, at its Ninety-Second and Ninety-Third Sessions respectively, on the work of the OEWG during the intersessional period (EC-92/WP.2, dated 9 October 2019 and EC-93/WP.2, dated 11 March 2020).
- 2.40 The Council at its Ninety-Third Session noted 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).

Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference

- 2.41 At its Ninety-First Session, the Council decided that, following the issuance at the Ninety-Second Session of the Council of the final full version of the Matrix of Actionable Items Identified at the Third Review Conference,¹ the Secretariat would produce addenda for all subsequent regular sessions that would encompass only new and relevant developments during the reporting period. At its Ninety-Third and Ninety-Fourth Sessions, the Council considered and noted the updated Matrix in its new format (EC-93/S/4, dated 26 February 2020 and EC-94/S/7, dated 15 June 2020).

¹ Review Conference = Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Technical Secretariat in 2019

- 2.42 The Council at its Ninety-Third Session considered and noted 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).

Report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities

- 2.43 The Council at its Ninety-Second Session considered and approved a report on the performance of its activities in the period from 13 July 2018 to 12 July 2019, and submitted it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Fourth Session (EC-92/4 C-24/2, dated 10 October 2019). A Note by the Secretariat entitled “The Destruction of Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People’s Republic of China” was attached to the above-mentioned report.

Administrative and financial matters

Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2020, and all items pertaining to this budget

- 2.44 At its Ninety-Second Session the Council noted the following: a Note by the Director-General entitled “Financial Status of the Special Fund for the Fourth Review Conference in 2018” (EC-92/DG.28, dated 2 October 2019); a Note by the Director-General entitled “Financial Status of the Special Fund for Cybersecurity, Business Continuity, and Physical Infrastructure Security” (EC-92/DG.31, dated 4 October 2019); a Note by the Director-General entitled “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); and a Note by the Director-General entitled “Request for the 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). The Secretariat at that session also circulated a previously issued Note by the Secretariat entitled “Request for the Establishment of a Special Fund for Major Capital Investments” (RC-4/S/3, dated 27 November 2018).
- 2.45 At the same session, the Council adopted the Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2020 and submitted it, together with its recommendations, to the Conference at its Twenty-Fourth Session (EC-92/DEC.2, dated 10 October 2019).
- 2.46 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) was circulated to the members of the Council at its Ninety-Second Session.
- 2.47 A Note by the Secretariat on the programme performance for the year 2018 (S/1745/2019, dated 29 April 2019) was circulated to the members of the Council at its Ninety-Second Session.
- 2.48 At the same 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.

Financial situation of the OPCW

- 2.49 At its Ninety-Second Session, the Council considered and forwarded to the Conference for consideration 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).
- 2.50 At the same session the Council 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).
- 2.51 The Council, at its Ninety-Second Session 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) and forwarded them to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Fourth Session. Mr Damian Brewitt from the National Audit Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presented the report of the External Auditor.
- 2.52 At the same session the Council noted a Note by the Director-General on the submission of the 2019 OPCW Financial Statements to the External Auditor (Financial Rule 11.1.02) (EC-92/DG.32, dated 4 October 2019), considered and adopted a decision on the matter (EC-92/DEC.1, dated 10 October 2019), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Fourth Session.

Amendments to the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules

- 2.53 At its Ninety-Fourth Session the Council considered and adopted a decision entitled “Amendments to the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules” (EC-94/DEC.1, dated 8 July 2020).

Status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions

- 2.54 Further to a decision of the Conference at its Eleventh Session (C-11/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2006), the Council at its Ninety-Second Session considered and forwarded to the Conference at its Twenty-Fourth Session a Note by the Director-General on the status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans (EC-92/DG.4 C-24/DG.7, dated 21 August 2019).
- 2.55 During the same session and in the context of decision C-11/DEC.5, the Council approved a proposal from Sierra Leone for a multi-year payment plan to regularise the payment of its outstanding annual contributions (EC-92/DG.15*, dated 12 September 2019), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Fourth Session (EC-92/DEC.4, dated 10 October 2019).

Transfers of funds

- 2.56 The Council at its Ninety-Fourth Session noted a Note by the Director-General on transfers of funds during 2019 (EC-94/DG.10 C-25/DG.3, dated 19 June 2020).

Implementation of the enterprise resource planning system

- 2.57 Further to a 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 at its Ninety-Second, Ninety-Third, and Ninety-Fourth Sessions noted Notes by the Director-General reporting on the status of implementation of the ERP system (EC-92/DG.21, dated 23 September 2019; EC-93/DG.14, dated 6 March 2020; and EC-94/DG.15, dated 25 June 2020).

Extension of the Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions

- 2.58 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Twentieth Session (C-20/DEC.11, dated 3 December 2015), the Council at its Ninety-Second Session considered and adopted a decision on the financial status of the Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions (EC-92/DEC.3, dated 10 October 2019), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Fourth Session.
- 2.59 At the same session, the Council noted a Note by the Director-General on the financial status of the Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions (EC-92/DG.24, dated 27 September 2019).

Appointments to the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

- 2.60 At its Ninety-Third Session, the Council noted a Note by the Secretariat on nominations for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF) (EC-93/S/2, dated 22 January 2020) and appointed 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), and deferred consideration of a Note by the Secretariat on the nomination for membership of the ABAF of Ms Hollie Marie Mance of the United States of America (EC-94/S/6, dated 15 June 2020), to replace Ms Leslie Hyland, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Ms Mance (29 May 2020).

Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

- 2.61 At its Ninety-Second, Ninety-Third and Ninety-Fourth Sessions, the Council decided to defer until its next regular session consideration of the 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 and Rev.2, dated 10 October 2019) and proposed amendments (EC-93/DEC/CRP.2, dated 21 February 2020), together with an explanatory note to it (EC-93/NAT.3, dated 20 February 2020).

Personnel matters

Composition of the Technical Secretariat

- 2.62 The Council at its Ninety-Fourth Session noted the Director-General’s annual report on the composition of the Secretariat (EC-94/DG.7, dated 3 June 2020).

Implementation of the tenure policy

- 2.63 At its Ninety-Second Session the Council considered and noted an addendum to the report by the Director-General on the implementation of the tenure policy in 2018 (EC-91/DG.12/Add.1, dated 30 September 2019), 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.
- 2.64 At its Ninety-Fourth Session the Council noted a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the tenure policy in 2019 (EC-94/DG.11, dated 19 June 2020).

Implementation of an amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward classification of posts

- 2.65 The Council at its Ninety-Second Session noted a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward classification of posts during the period from 14 August 2018 to 13 August 2019 (EC-92/DG.5, dated 22 August 2019).

Adjustment to the Director-General's gross salary

- 2.66 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 at its Ninety-Third Session adopted a decision adjusting the Director-General's gross salary (EC-93/DEC.1, dated 11 March 2020).

3. OTHER DECISIONS AND ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Provisional agendas for sessions of the Conference of the States Parties

- 3.1 The Council at its Ninety-Fourth Session drew up the provisional agenda for the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference (EC-94/DG.8, dated 8 June 2020).

Reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight and of the External Auditor

- 3.2 The Council at its Ninety-Second and Ninety-Third Sessions considered and noted two Notes by the Secretariat on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor (EC-92/S/2, dated 21 August 2019 and EC-93/S/1, dated 15 January 2020).
- 3.3 At its Ninety-Third Session the Council noted a Note by the Director-General on the new External Auditor of the OPCW (EC-93/DG.4, dated 12 December 2019).
- 3.4 At its Ninety-Fourth Session the Council considered a Note by the Director-General containing a summary of nominations for the post of External Auditor of the OPCW (EC-94/DG.9, dated 15 June 2020) and decided to defer the matter until its next regular session.

- 3.5 The Council at its Ninety-Fourth Session noted a report by the Director-General on the implementation in 2019 of the recommendations contained in the 2018 annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight (OIO) (EC-94/DG.6, dated 29 May 2020).

Status report on the Verification Information System

- 3.6 The Council at its Ninety-Third Session noted a status report on the Verification Information System (EC-93/S/3, dated 31 January 2020).

Reports of the co-facilitators on organisational governance issues

- 3.7 At the Ninety-Second and Ninety-Third Sessions of the Council the co-facilitators on organisational governance issues, Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador and Ambassador I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja of Indonesia, reported to the Council on consultations they had held during the intersessional period (EC-92/WP.1, dated 9 October 2019, and EC-93/WP.1, dated 10 March 2020).

- 3.8 The Council, at its Ninety-Third Session expressed appreciation for the work done by the outgoing facilitators, Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador and Ambassador I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja of Indonesia, and welcomed the appointment of the new facilitators on organisational governance issues, Ambassador Matthew Neuhaus of Australia and Ambassador Laura Dupuy Lasserre of Uruguay.

4. REPORTS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Reports by the Director-General regarding the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach

- 4.1 Further to Conference decision C-20/DEC.9 (dated 3 December 2015), the Council at its Ninety-Second Session 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).

Reports of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

- 4.2 At its Ninety-Second, Ninety-Third, and Ninety-Fourth Sessions, the Council decided to defer consideration of the report of the Forty-Fifth Session of the ABAF (ABAF-45/1, dated 3 August 2018) and of the Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report (EC-89/DG.11, dated 28 August 2018) until its next regular session.
- 4.3 The Council at its Ninety-Second, Ninety-Third, and Ninety-Fourth Sessions also deferred consideration of the report of the Forty-Sixth Session of the ABAF (ABAF-46/1, dated 7 June 2019), and the Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-91/DG.19*, dated 1 July 2019), until its next regular session.

- 4.4 The Council at its Ninety-Second, Ninety-Third, and Ninety-Fourth Sessions also deferred consideration of the report of the Forty-Seventh Session of the ABAF (ABAF-47/1, dated 2 August 2019), and the Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-92/DG.11, dated 9 September 2019) until its next regular session.
- 4.5 The Council at its Ninety-Fourth Session also deferred consideration of the report of the Forty-Eighth Session of the ABAF (ABAF-48/1, dated 5 June 2020), and the Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-94/DG.22, dated 6 July 2020) until its next regular session.

Report of the Scientific Advisory Board

- 4.6 The Council at its Ninety-Second Session noted the response by the Director-General (EC-92/DG.12, dated 9 September 2019) to the report of the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) (SAB-28/1, dated 14 June 2019).

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2019

- 4.7 The Council at its Ninety-Fourth Session considered and noted the annual report of the OIO for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2019, which the Director-General had submitted to it, along with his comments (EC-94/DG.4 C-25/DG.2, dated 24 April 2020), in accordance with Regulation 12.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations. The Council transmitted this report, and the Director-General's covering Note, to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Fifth Session.

Report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

- 4.8 The Chairperson of the Council reported to the Council at its Ninety-Second and Ninety-Third Sessions on the status of the work of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

5. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION OR ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES AT ITS TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

Implementation by the Technical Secretariat in 2019 of the regime governing the handling of confidential information

- 5.1 The Council at its Ninety-Third Session considered and noted 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) and forwarded it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Fifth Session.

Draft annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2019

- 5.2 The Council at its Ninety-Fourth Session considered the "Draft Report of the OPCW on the Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction in 2019" (EC-94/3 C-25/CRP.1), and forwarded it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Fifth Session.

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2019

- 5.3 The Council at its Ninety-Fourth Session considered and noted the annual report of the OIO for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2019, which the Director-General had submitted to it, along with his comments (EC-94/DG.4 C-25/DG.2), in accordance with Regulation 12.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations. The Council transmitted this report, and the Director-General's covering Note, to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Fifth Session.

Transfers of funds during 2019

- 5.4 The Council at its Ninety-Fourth Session noted a Note by the Director-General on transfers of funds during 2019 (EC-94/DG.10 C-25/DG.3). This Note will be forwarded to the Conference at its Twenty-Fifth Session.

Attachment: Note by the Technical Secretariat: The Destruction of Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People's Republic of China

Annex: Actions Taken by the Conference of the States Parties at its Twenty-Fourth Session in Response to Recommendations Made by the Executive Council

Attachment

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**THE DESTRUCTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS
ABANDONED BY JAPAN IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

1. Decision (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012)

The decision entitled “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, dated 15 February 2012), in which it reads in O.P.8, “Recommends the Conference of States Parties to take note of annual reports of the Council concerning the progress made for the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons from a viewpoint of facilitating the destruction;...”.

2. Progress made for the Destruction of Abandoned Chemical Weapons as per EC-92/DG.29, dated 4 October 2019.

In its decision entitled “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, dated 15 February 2012), the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) requested the Director-General to provide a report at each regular session of the Council on the overall progress of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons (ACW).

To date, 74,729 items of ACW have been recovered from over 90 locations within China. This figure includes the items that have already been destroyed. However, it does not include the items buried at Haerbaling, Jilin Province, which are estimated to number over 330,000 ACW items awaiting excavation and recovery (consisting both of items that have already been destroyed and items requiring excavation and identification), nor does it include items at other locations that also have yet to be recovered and declared.

At the end of the reporting period (1 June to 31 August 2019), a total of 55,875 of the 74,729 items of declared ACW on the territory of China had been destroyed. This figure accounts for all items destroyed at the mobile destruction facilities (MDFs) in Nanjing, Shijiazhuang, and Wuhan, as well as the items destroyed in operations at Haerbaling and Harbin, and all of the items transferred from surrounding locations to the MDFs for destruction as at the date mentioned above. During the reporting period, the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) conducted one mission to the Haerbaling site.

The national papers submitted by Japan (EC-92/NAT.2, dated 2 October 2019) and China (EC-92/NAT.3, dated 4 October 2019) note that the destruction operations at the MDF in Nanjing were concluded on 11 June 2012, with the destruction of a total of 35,681 ACW items. The operations at the MDF in Wuhan were concluded in May 2015, with the destruction of 264 ACW items. The destruction operations at the MDF in Shijiazhuang were completed on 17 January 2017, with the destruction of a total of 2,576 ACW items.

The selection of sites for the MDFs in Taiyuan and Guangzhou is ongoing, and progress has been made in the consultations between China and Japan towards preparing for destruction operations at these sites.

Destruction operations at the Harbin MDF started in May 2019. As at the cut-off date of this report, the total number of ACW destroyed at this site reached 1,432.

As at 31 August 2019, the Haerbaling Destruction Facility had destroyed a total of 15,932 items of ACW using two destruction technologies: a controlled detonation chamber (CDC) and a static detonation chamber (SDC). During the reporting period, 1,366 additional ACW items were destroyed, 436 of which were destroyed by the CDC and 930 of which were destroyed by the SDC. To accelerate the destruction of the ACW items, a new destruction facility will be installed in addition to the existing two facilities (CDC and SDC).

During the reporting period, excavation and recovery operations and bilateral investigations were carried out at Songhuajiang River in Jiamusi City, Heilongjiang Province, and at Haerbaling. Moreover, at the Haerbaling site, the first and second phases of the excavation and recovery operations scheduled for 2019 started at burial pit No. 1, where approximately 3,700 ACW items have been recovered. From 14 June to 8 July 2019, a total of 1,143 ACW were transported to the Harbin storehouse from various locations within Heilongjiang Province.

In September 2019, the Chairperson of the Council, together with the Director- General and a Council delegation, visited the Haerbaling destruction site in China. The Council delegation was very appreciative of the spirit of cooperation, openness, and transparency that marked the visit, and confirmed the relevance of visits to ACW destruction sites by delegations representing the Council.

The thirty-first trilateral meeting between China, Japan, and the Secretariat is scheduled to be held in Beijing in December 2019. These meetings are held on a biannual basis and are important occasions for ensuring transparency, discussing technical and practical issues, implementing the projects in accordance with the appropriate verification measures, and planning for future activities.

Finally, the destruction of the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China is scheduled to continue based on the agreed destruction plan, in accordance with which Japan and China regularly report to the Council. The plan includes time frames for the destruction of ACW by Japan, with appropriate cooperation from China. The Secretariat continues to closely coordinate with both China and Japan on the implementation of Council decision EC-67/DEC.6.

3. Progress made for the Destruction of Abandoned Chemical Weapons as per EC-93/DG.15, dated 9 March 2020.

To date, 83,650 items of ACW have been recovered from over 90 locations within China. This figure includes the items that have already been destroyed. However, it does not include the items buried at Haerbaling, Jilin Province, which are estimated to number over 330,000 ACW items awaiting excavation and recovery (consisting both of items that have already been destroyed and items requiring excavation and identification), nor does it include items at other locations that also have yet to be recovered and declared.

At the end of the reporting period (1 September 2019 to 31 January 2020), around 57,700 of the 83,650 items of declared ACW on the territory of China had been destroyed. This figure accounts for all items destroyed at the mobile destruction facilities (MDFs) in Nanjing, Shijiazhuang, and Wuhan, as well as the items destroyed in operations at Haerbaling and Harbin, and all of the items transferred from surrounding locations to the MDFs for destruction as at the date mentioned above. During the reporting period, the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) conducted five ACW inspections in China.

The national papers submitted by Japan (EC-93/NAT. 1, dated 13 February 2020) and China (EC-93/NAT.5, dated 2 March 2020) note that the destruction operations at the MDF in Nanjing were concluded in June 2012, with the destruction of a total of 35,681 ACW items. The operations at the MDF in Wuhan were concluded in May 2015, with the destruction of 264 ACW items. The destruction operations at the MDF in Shijiazhuang were completed in January 2017, with the destruction of a total of 2,576 ACW items.

Destruction operations at the Harbin MDF started in May 2019. During the reporting period, 396 additional items were destroyed. As at the cut-off date of this report, the total number of ACW destroyed at this site reached 1,828.

As at 31 January 2020, the Haerbaling Destruction Facility had destroyed a total of 17,361 items of ACW using two destruction technologies: a controlled detonation chamber (CDC) and a static detonation chamber (SDC). During the reporting period, 1,429 additional ACW items were destroyed, 426 of which were destroyed by the CDC and 1,003 of which were destroyed by the SDC. To accelerate the destruction of the ACW items, a new destruction facility will be installed in addition to the existing two facilities (CDC and SDC).

The selection of sites in Taiyuan and Guangzhou for the High Mobility Destruction Facility have been finalised, and progress has been made in the consultations between China and Japan towards preparing for destruction operations at these sites.

During the reporting period, excavation and recovery operations and bilateral investigations were carried out at Songhuajiang River in Jiamusi City and in Jixi City, both in Heilongjiang Province. An emergency on-site investigation was conducted in Nanjing City, Jiangsu Province, and an on-site investigation was conducted following the excavation and recovery operation in Mudanjiang City, Heilongjiang Province, where a total of 538 items were recovered and confirmed as ACW. Moreover, at the Haerbaling excavation and recovery site, the second and third phases of the 2019 excavation and recovery operation were conducted in burial pit No.1, and approximately 3,400 ACW items were recovered. In total, 8,240 ACW items were recovered in 2019.

The thirty-first trilateral meeting between China, Japan, and the Secretariat was held in Beijing in December 2019. These meetings are held on a biannual basis and are important occasions for ensuring transparency, discussing technical and practical issues, implementing the projects in accordance with the appropriate verification measures, and planning for future activities.

Finally, the destruction of the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China is scheduled to continue based on the agreed destruction plan, in accordance with which Japan and China regularly report to the Council. The plan includes time frames for the destruction of ACW by Japan, with appropriate cooperation from China. The Secretariat continues to closely coordinate with both China and Japan on the implementation of Council decision EC-67/DEC.6.

4. Progress made for the Destruction of Abandoned Chemical Weapons as per EC-94/DG.19, dated 1 July 2020.

China and Japan have continued bilateral consultations to make progress on the excavation, recovery, and destruction of ACW at various sites in China. Because of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the number of ACW destroyed remains the same as that reported for the preceding reporting period. At the end of the reporting period (1 February 2020 to 31 May 2020), around 57,700 of the 83,650 items of declared ACW on the territory of China had been destroyed. However, it does not include the items buried at Haerbaling, Jilin Province, which are estimated to number over 330,000 ACW items awaiting excavation and recovery (consisting both of items that have already been destroyed and items requiring excavation and identification), nor does it include items at other locations that also have yet to be recovered and declared.

The national papers submitted by Japan (EC-94/NAT.13, dated 18 June 2020) and China (EC-94/NAT.12, dated 18 June 2020) note that, during the reporting period, all destruction operations and related activities, such as excavations and recoveries, were put on hold because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Owing to the fact that Haerbaling is the largest burial site of ACW in China, the destruction operations at this site will have a major impact on the overall progress of the destruction of ACW. To expedite the destruction of the ACW items, four new controlled detonation chambers (CDCs) will be installed in addition to the existing two chambers—a CDC and a static detonation chamber (SDC). Construction and civil engineering operations at the Haerbaling destruction site are ongoing in order to host the new destruction chambers, as agreed between China and Japan.

The selection of sites in Taiyuan and Guangzhou for the High Mobility Destruction Facility has been completed. China and Japan have now reached an agreement on the preliminary design of the facility. Although the schedule was delayed because of the impact of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, progress has been made in the consultations between Japan and China in order to prepare for the destruction operations at Taiyuan and Guangzhou.

The scheduled trilateral meeting between the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”), China, and Japan in Tokyo was postponed because of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Secretariat remains in close contact with China and Japan regarding the latest developments on ACW matters. China and Japan continue to maintain their communication regarding the next phase of the programme of work in 2020.

Finally, the destruction of the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China is scheduled to continue based on the agreed destruction plan, in accordance with which Japan and China regularly report to the Council. The plan includes time frames for the destruction of ACW by Japan, with appropriate cooperation from China. The Secretariat continues to closely coordinate with both China and Japan on the implementation of Council decision EC-67/DEC.6.

5. Activities of the Council

In its decision entitled the “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, dated 15 February 2012), the Council noted that the Governments of Japan and the People’s Republic of China welcome visits of the Chairperson of the Council, the Director-General, and a delegation representing the Council to undertake visits to obtain an overview of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons (ACW) being undertaken. Invitations are also to be extended to observers for their participation in the Council delegation visit.

Pursuant to the above-mentioned decision of the Council (EC-67/DEC.6), China and Japan jointly invited the Council to visit the Haerbaling ACW destruction site in Jilin Province between 2 and 7 September 2019, as reported in the report of the visit by the Chairperson of the Executive Council, the Director-General, and representatives of the Executive Council to the Haerbaling abandoned chemical weapons destruction site, Jilin province, China 2 – 7 September 2019 (EC-92/3, dated 8 October 2019).

Further to the 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 Council 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 (EC-93/NAT.5, dated 2 March 2020) 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 were circulated to the members of the Council. (Quoted from EC-93/2, dated 12 March 2020).

The Council 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 the destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China as early 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 Council reaffirmed that the Territorial State Party shall provide appropriate cooperation. (Quoted from EC-93/2, dated 12 March 2020).

The Council also reaffirmed the obligation of the Abandoning State Party to provide all available information including, to the extent possible, the location, type, and quantity as well as information on the abandonment in accordance with relevant provisions of the Convention, so as to facilitate the expedited destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China. (Quoted from EC-93/2, dated 12 March 2020).

The Council recalled that the review of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons was welcomed by the Third Review Conference and the report of the Third Review Conference (RC-3/3*, dated 19 April 2013), which reaffirmed the role of the Council, the Conference and the Review Conference with regard to the issues related to the abandoned chemical weapons destruction 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. (Quoted from EC-93/2, dated 12 March 2020).

The Council 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 the destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China as early 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 Council reaffirmed that the Territorial State Party shall provide appropriate cooperation. (Quoted from EC-94/4, dated 9 July 2020).

The Council also reaffirmed the obligation of the Abandoning State Party to provide all available information including, to the extent possible, the location, type, and quantity as well as information on the abandonment in accordance with relevant provisions of the Convention, so as to facilitate the expedited destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China. (Quoted from EC-94/4, dated 9 July 2020).

The Council recalled that the review of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons was welcomed by the Third Review Conference and the report of the Third Review Conference (RC-3/3*, dated 19 April 2013), which reaffirmed the role of the Council, the Conference and the Review Conference with regard to the issues related to the abandoned chemical weapons destruction 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. (Quoted from EC-94/4, dated 9 July 2020).

The Council took note of the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak on the overall progress of the destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China. (Quoted from EC-94/4, dated 9 July 2020).

6. Reference documents

- (a) National papers
 - (i) China (EC-92/NAT.3, dated 4 October 2019; EC-93/NAT.5, dated 2 March 2020, EC-94/NAT.12, dated 18 June 2020); and
 - (ii) Japan (EC-92/NAT.2, dated 2 October 2019; EC-93/NAT.1, dated 13 February 2020; EC-94/NAT.13, dated 18 June 2020).
- (b) Reports by the Director-General (EC-92/DG.29, dated 4 October 2019; EC-93/DG.15, dated 9 March 2020; EC-94/DG.19 dated 1 July 2020).
- (c) Reports of the Executive Council (EC-93/2, dated 12 March 2020, EC-94/4, dated 9 July 2020).
- (d) Report by the Chairperson of the Executive Council visit by the Chairperson of the Executive Council, the Director-General, and representatives of the Executive Council to the Haerbaling abandoned chemical weapons destruction site, Jilin province, China 2 – 7 September 2019. (EC-92/3, dated 8 October 2019).

Annex

ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES AT ITS TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION IN RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Progress report on the implementation of the plan of action regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations

1. Further to a decision by the Conference at its Fourteenth Session regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations (C-14/DEC.12), the Conference considered and noted a Note 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 and Corr.1); 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 and Corr.1); 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 and Corr.1).

Fostering of international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities

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 (EC-92/DG.14 C-24/DG.12).

Ensuring the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention

3. The Conference noted the annual report by the Director-General on the implementation of the action plan for universality of the Convention during the period from 16 August 2018 to 15 August 2019 (EC-92/DG.16 C-24/DG.13).

Implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Technical Secretariat in 2018

4. 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 Secretariat in 2018 (EC-90/DG.9 C-24/DG.2, dated 12 February 2019).

Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2018

5. 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).

Proposals for technical changes to Schedule 1 of the Annex on Chemicals to the Chemical Weapons Convention

6. Pursuant to subparagraph 5(e) of Article XV of the Convention, the Conference at its Twenty-Fourth Session adopted a decision on technical change to Schedule 1 (A) of the Annex on Chemicals to the Convention (C-24/DEC.4, dated 27 November 2019) and a decision on changes to Schedule 1 of the Annex on chemicals to the Convention (C-24/DEC.5, dated 27 November 2019).

Report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities

7. 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). The report was introduced by the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Andrea Perugini of Italy, who also briefed the Conference on any developments that had taken place since the cut-off date for the report.

Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2020, and all items pertaining to this budget

8. In accordance with subparagraph 21(a) of Article VIII of the Convention, and pursuant to Financial Regulation 3.6(a), the Conference considered and adopted the Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2020, which the Council had submitted to it (C-24/DEC.12, dated 28 November 2019).
9. The Medium-Term Plan of the OPCW for the period 2020 to 2024 (EC-92/S/1 C-24/S/1) had been circulated to the Member States.

External Auditor’s report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2018

10. 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), which had been forwarded to it by the Council in accordance with Regulation 13.10 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules.

Submission of the 2019 Financial Statements to the External Auditor

11. 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) 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).

Scale of assessments for 2020

12. In accordance with Financial Regulation 3.6(b), the Conference adopted 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).

Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions

13. In accordance with a decision by the Conference at its Twentieth Session (C-20/DEC.11), the Council at its Ninety-Second Session considered and adopted a decision to extend the Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions for a period of one further year (EC-92/DEC.3), 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).

Cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2019

14. 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). The Conference noted this Note.

Status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions

15. Pursuant to a decision by the Conference at its Eleventh Session (C-11/DEC.5), the Conference considered and noted a report on the status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans (EC-92/DG.4 C-24/DG.7) and considered and approved the multi-year payment plan submitted by Sierra Leone to regularise the payment of its outstanding annual contributions (C-24/DEC.8, dated 28 November 2019).

Recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and losses of assets

16. 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). The Conference adopted a decision approving the said proposals (C-24/DEC.9, dated 28 November 2019).

Transition of the OPCW to a biennial programme and budget cycle

17. 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), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Fourth Session. The Conference adopted a decision on the matter (C-24/DEC.11, dated 28 November 2019).

Transfers of funds between programmes during 2018

18. 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).

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2018

19. 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 OIO for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2018, and the accompanying Note by the Director-General (EC-91/DG.8 C-22/DG.3, dated 28 May 2019). The Conference noted this report.

Rehiring of inspectors

20. At its Ninety-Second Session, the Council adopted a decision on the rehiring of inspectors (EC-92/DEC.5), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Fourth Session. The Conference adopted a decision on the matter (C-24/DEC.10, dated 28 November 2019).

The OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention

21. The Conference noted a Note by the Director-General on the Africa Programme (EC-92/DG.13 C-24/DG.11).

Status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons

22. 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).

Committee on Relations with the Host Country

23. 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

24. The Conference considered and noted a Note by the Director-General reporting on the activities of the ABEO covering the period from 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019 (EC-92/DG.23 C-24/DG.16).