

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES  
30 NOVEMBER – 4 DECEMBER 2020**

This revised annotated provisional agenda<sup>1</sup> has been prepared by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) to guide and assist Member States in their substantive preparations for the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”). It lists the items of business for the session in the sequence in which they appear in the provisional agenda set out for it (see paragraph 4 below) (C-25/1, dated 21 July 2020).

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

The Conference at its Twenty-Second Session decided to hold its Twenty-Fifth Session from 30 November to 4 December 2020 (paragraph 24.1 of C-22/5\*, dated 1 December 2017). The Twenty-Fifth Session will open on 30 November 2020 at 10:00 in the King Willem Alexander Theater in the World Forum. The Chairperson of the Conference for its Twenty-Fourth Session, Ambassador Krassimir Kostov of Bulgaria, will open the Twenty-Fifth Session.

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

Paragraph 15 of Article VIII of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) provides, inter alia, that the Conference shall elect its Chairperson at the beginning of each regular session, and that the Chairperson shall hold office until a new Chairperson is elected at the next regular session.

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

According to Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Conference shall elect 10 Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference, the Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole, and such other officers as it may decide to elect, having due regard to equitable geographical representation. Rule 35 states that such officers of the Conference shall hold office until their successors are elected at its next regular session.

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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 Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, or prejudice the outcome of its deliberations.



**4. AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Adoption of the agenda**

According to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, any request for the inclusion in the agenda of supplementary items must be received not later than 30 days before the date set for the opening of any regular session. Because the Director-General had received no such request by 31 October 2020, the Conference is **requested**, subject to the recommendation of the General Committee, to approve the following agenda, which was circulated in C-25/1.

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 – Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2019

AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Annual report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 13 July 2019 to 12 July 2020

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

AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2021, submitted by the Executive Council, and all items pertaining to this Budget

AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Scale of assessments for 2021

AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – External Auditor's report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2019

AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Appointment of the External Auditor

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<sup>2</sup>

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 is **requested** to consider such recommendations as the General Committee may make to it in accordance with Rule 43(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, and to take such action as it deems appropriate.

**6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – Appointment of the Credentials Committee**

Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference provides that a Credentials Committee shall be appointed at the beginning of each session of the Conference; that it shall consist of 10 members, who shall be appointed by the Conference on the proposal of its Chairperson; that it shall elect its own officers; and that it shall examine the credentials of all representatives and report without delay to the Conference.

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

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

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<sup>2</sup> Review Conference = Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

**8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – General debate**

- 8.1 Delegations are requested to provide their regional or national statements to the PMO Secretariat ([national.statements@opcw.org](mailto:national.statements@opcw.org)) by 30 November 2020. These statements will be distributed, as provided, to all States Parties via the Organisation’s external server. Statements provided in a language other than English will be translated into English by the Secretariat and uploaded to the extranet as soon as possible.
- 8.2 Delegations are encouraged to submit their interventions in reply to any regional or national statement to the PMO Secretariat ([national.statements@opcw.org](mailto:national.statements@opcw.org)) within the two-week period before the resumption of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference in spring 2021 (date to be confirmed). These statements will also be distributed, as provided, to all Member States via the external server.
- 8.3 VIP representatives of the States Parties may address the Conference under the general debate via pre-recorded audio-visual messages. The video is to be submitted to [national.statements@opcw.org](mailto:national.statements@opcw.org) and will be uploaded to the public website ([www.opcw.org](http://www.opcw.org)), if requested, and to the secure online platform of the Conference as described in the “Guidelines for the Delegates (Part I)” circulated by the Secretariat on 25 November 2020.

**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 is **requested** to consider and note 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 2020” (EC-95/DG.8 C-25/DG.6, dated 4 September 2020 and Corr.1, dated 2 October 2020); a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2020: Article VII – Initial Measures” (EC-95/DG.9 C-25/DG.7, dated 4 September 2020 and Corr.1, dated 2 October 2020); and a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2020: Additional Measures for States Parties that Possess Industrial Facilities Which are Declarable Under the Convention” (EC-95/DG.10 C-25/DG.8, dated 4 September 2020 and Corr.1, dated 2 October 2020).

**Subitem 9(b): Implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Technical Secretariat in 2019**

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

- 9.3 Pursuant to a decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (subparagraph 3(f) of C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011), the Conference is **requested** to undertake an annual review of the implementation of this decision at a specially designated meeting (or meetings) of the Conference.
- 9.4 Pursuant to the provisions of the same subparagraph of the above-mentioned decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session, “[e]ach possessor State concerned is to provide an annual report to the Conference of the States Parties, and provide an annual briefing at a closed meeting of the Conference of the States Parties, on the progress in the destruction of its remaining stockpiles of chemical weapons and identifying progress made since the last briefing in order to meet the planned completion date. These reports, and briefings, are to also include:
- (i) Reporting on any specific measures undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes.
  - (ii) Information on the projected schedule for destruction activities to meet the planned completion date”.
- 9.5 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (subparagraph 3(g) of C-16/DEC.11), “[t]he Director-General is to provide an annual written report to the Conference of the States Parties on the overall destruction progress by the possessor States concerned that is based on the independent information that is received by the Technical Secretariat from the Organisation’s inspectors undertaking verification in accordance with Part IV(A) D of the Verification Annex and that is to include information on:
- (i) The progress achieved to meet the planned completion date(s).
  - (ii) The effectiveness of any specific measures that have been undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes”.

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

- 9.6 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 were circulated to the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”): EC-93/DG.11 (dated 24 February 2020); EC-94/DG.17 (dated 1 July 2020); and EC-95/DG.15 (dated 21 September 2020).
- 9.7 At the Ninety-Fourth Session of the Council, the Secretariat circulated a Note 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 (S/1867/2020, dated 8 April 2020) was provided to the Council and the United Nations Secretary-General for their consideration. The Secretariat circulated a Note entitled “Work of the Investigation and Identification Team Established Pursuant to Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 (dated 27 June 2018)” (S/1918/2020, dated 27 November 2020).

- 9.8 At its Ninety-Fourth 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). Pursuant to paragraph 6 of EC-94/DEC.2, the Director-General provided a report to the Council and all States Parties, within 100 days of the decision, on whether the Syrian Arab Republic had completed all of the measures contained in paragraph 5 of the decision within 90 days of the decision (EC-96/DG.1, dated 14 October 2020).
- 9.9 The Secretariat circulated a national paper by France (C-25/NAT.5, dated 25 November 2020) as well as a draft decision, supported by 46 delegations, entitled “Addressing the Possession and Use of Chemical Weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic” (C-25/DEC/CRP.10, dated 25 November 2020).
- 9.10 The Secretariat circulated a report by the Director-General (C-25/DG.18, dated 27 November 2020) on the requirements of Financial Regulation 4.9 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules in relation to the above-mentioned draft decision submitted by France.

**10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2019**

The Conference is **requested** to consider and approve the draft report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2019 (EC-94/3 C-25/CRP.1, dated 7 July 2020), which was considered and submitted to it by the Council at its Ninety-Fourth Session.

**11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Annual report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 13 July 2019 to 12 July 2020**

The Conference is **requested** to note the report of the Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 13 July 2019 to 12 July 2020, 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-Fourth Session in Response to Recommendations Made by the Executive Council” (EC-95/3 C-25/2, dated 7 October 2020). The report will be introduced by the Vice-Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki of Morocco (on behalf of the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador), who will also brief the Conference on any developments that have taken place since the cut-off date for the report.

**12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Election of Member States to membership of the Executive Council**

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 is **requested** to elect 21 members to serve on the Council for a term of two years, starting on 12 May 2021. 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:

Africa:	five elective places
Asia:	five elective places
Eastern Europe:	two elective places
Latin America and the Caribbean:	four elective places
Western Europe and other States:	five elective places

**13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2021, submitted by the Executive Council, and all items pertaining to this Budget**

- 13.1 At the Ninety-Fifth Session of the Council, the Secretariat circulated Notes by the Director-General entitled “Financial Status of the Special Fund for Cyber Security, Business Continuity, and Physical Infrastructure Security” (EC-95/DG.13, dated 16 September 2020), “Financial Status of the Special Fund for IT Infrastructure to Support Implementation of Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3” (EC-95/DG.16, dated 22 September 2020), and “Request for the Establishment of a COVID-19 Variability Impact Fund” (EC-95/DG.14, dated 21 September 2020).
- 13.2 In accordance with subparagraph 32(a) of Article VIII of the Convention, the Council at its Ninety-Fifth Session considered the Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2021 (EC-95/CRP.1, dated 3 July 2020 and Corr.1, dated 2 October 2020). The Council could not achieve consensus on the adoption of the draft decision on the Draft Programme and Budget (EC-95/DEC/CRP.5, dated 2 October 2020). Following a vote on the matter (paragraph 10.33 of EC-95/4, dated 9 October 2020), the Council adopted the decision and submitted it, together with its recommendation, to the Conference at its Twenty-Fifth Session (EC-95/DEC.3, dated 7 October 2020).
- 13.3 The Conference is **requested**, pursuant to Regulation 3.6(a) of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules and on the recommendation of the Council at its Ninety-Fifth Session (EC-95/DEC.3), to consider and adopt a draft decision on the OPCW Draft Programme and Budget for 2021 based on the recommendations forwarded to it by the Council at its Ninety-Fifth Session (C-25/DEC/CRP.3, dated 27 October 2020).

**14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Scale of assessments for 2021**

The Conference is **requested** to adopt, pursuant to Regulation 3.6(b) of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, a draft decision on the scale of assessments to be paid by States Parties for the financial year 2021 (C-25/DEC/CRP.4, dated 27 October 2020).

**15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – External Auditor’s report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2019**

At its Ninety-Fifth Session, the Council noted the Financial Statements of the OPCW and the report of the External Auditor for the year ending 31 December 2019 (EC-95/DG.3 C-25/DG.4, dated 17 August 2020). In accordance with Regulation 13.10 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, the report is being forwarded to the Conference, which is **requested** to note it.

**16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Appointment of the External Auditor**

- 16.1 According to Article 13.1 of the OPCW Financial Regulations, the Conference shall appoint the External Auditor, who shall be the Auditor-General (or an officer holding an equivalent title) of a State Party, and such appointment shall be in the manner and for the period determined by the Conference and for a single period of not less than two years, but not exceeding six years.
- 16.2 At its Ninety-Fifth Session, the Council considered a Note by the Director-General containing a summary of the nominations received for this post (EC-94/DG.9, dated 15 June 2020), and requested the Director-General to forward it to the Conference at its Twenty-Fifth Session for its consideration.
- 16.3 The Conference is **requested** to consider and note a Note by the Director-General containing the summary of nominations (C-25/DG.15\*, dated 12 November 2020), and to adopt a draft decision on the appointment of the External Auditor of the OPCW (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations).
- 16.4 The Secretariat circulated a national paper by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (C-25/NAT.4, dated 20 November 2020) as well as a draft decision co-sponsored by Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Sweden, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, entitled “Appointment of the External Auditor of the OPCW” (C-25/DEC/CRP.8, dated 20 November 2020).
- 16.5 The Secretariat circulated a report by the Director-General (C-25/DG.17, dated 27 November 2020) on the requirements of Financial Regulation 4.9 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules in relation to the above-mentioned draft decision submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- 16.6 The Secretariat circulated a national paper by the Russian Federation (C-25/NAT.6, dated 27 November 2020).

**17. AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Administrative and financial matters**

**Subitem 17(a): Submission of the 2020 Financial Statements to the External Auditor**

- 17.1 At its Ninety-Fifth Session, the Council adopted a decision on the submission of the 2020 OPCW Financial Statements to the External Auditor (Financial Rule 11.1.02) (EC-95/DEC.1, dated 7 October 2020) and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Fifth Session. The Conference is **requested** to consider and adopt a draft decision on the matter (C-25/DEC/CRP.2, dated 22 October 2020).

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

- 17.2 At its Ninety-Fifth 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-95/DEC.2, dated



7 October 2020), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Fifth Session. The Conference is **requested** to consider and adopt a draft decision on the matter (C-25/DEC/CRP.5, dated 2 November 2020).

**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 is **requested** to consider and note a Note by the Director-General reporting on the status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans (EC-95/DG.5 C-25/DG.5, dated 25 August 2020) that the Council, at its Ninety-Fifth Session, considered and forwarded to it pursuant to the above-mentioned decision.

**Subitem 17(d): Cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2020**

17.5 At its Ninety-Fifth Session, the Council considered and forwarded to the Conference at its Twenty-Fifth 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 2020 (EC-95/DG.21 C-25/DG.13, dated 25 September 2020). The Conference is **requested** to note this Note.

**Subitem 17(e): Transfers of funds during 2019**

17.6 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 is **requested** to note a Note by the Director-General on this matter (EC-94/DG.10 C-25/DG.3, dated 19 June 2020).

**Subitem 17(f): Amendments to the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules**

17.7 At its Ninety-Fourth Session, the Council adopted a decision entitled “Amendments to the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules” (EC-94/DEC.1, dated 8 July 2020), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Fifth Session. The Conference is **requested** to consider and adopt a draft decision on the matter (C-25/DEC/CRP.1, dated 22 September 2020).

**Subitem 17(g): Annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2019**

17.8 In accordance with Regulation 12.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, the Council at its Ninety-Fourth 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 2019, and the accompanying Note by the Director-General (EC-94/DG.4 C-25/DG.2, dated 24 April 2020). The Conference is **requested** to note this report.

**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 is **requested** to note 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 2019 to 25 August 2020 (EC-95/DG.17 C-25/DG.10, dated 22 September 2020).

**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 is **requested** to note 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 2019 to 15 August 2020 (EC-95/DG.20 C-25/DG.12, dated 25 September 2020), and to take any further steps it might consider necessary.

**20. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY – The OPCW Programme for Africa**

The Conference is **requested** to note a Note by the Director-General on the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (EC-95/DG.11 C-25/DG.9, dated 10 September 2020).

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

The Conference is **requested** to note a Note by the Director-General on engaging the chemical industry associations (C-25/DG.14, dated 12 November 2020).

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

**Committee of the Whole**

22.1 The Committee of the Whole is expected to report on the results of its consideration of those agenda items that the Conference refers to it at the recommendation of the General Committee.

### **General Committee**

- 22.2 The Conference is **requested** to note the reports that the General Committee will prepare in accordance with Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, and to take such action as it deems appropriate.

### **Commission for the Settlement of Disputes Related to Confidentiality**

- 22.3 The Conference is **requested** to note the report of the Twenty-Second Meeting of the Commission for the Settlement of Disputes Related to Confidentiality (hereinafter “the Confidentiality Commission”) (CC-22/1, dated 4 November 2020).
- 22.4 The Conference is **requested** to elect 20 members of the Confidentiality Commission for a term of two years, starting from 1 May 2021. In accordance with Rule 2(b) of the Operating Procedures of the Confidentiality Commission (C-III/DEC.10/Rev.2, dated 4 December 2013), the States Parties belonging to each of the five regions specified in paragraph 23 of Article VIII of the Convention shall select four candidates from among the persons nominated by the States Parties in their region, to serve in a personal capacity. The same Rule also states that the States Parties in each of the regional groups shall do their utmost, through a process of consultation, to reach consensus on their selection; that a list of 20 candidates reflecting the selection of the regional groups shall be submitted to the Conference; and that the decision on appointment shall be taken by the Conference as a matter of substance, in accordance with paragraph 18 of Article VIII of the Convention. Rule 3 of the aforementioned operating procedures stipulates that members shall take up their appointment for a period of two years, starting from 1 May in the year immediately following the session of the Conference at which they were appointed, and that anyone who has completed three consecutive terms as a member of the Confidentiality Commission shall not be eligible for immediate reappointment.

### **Credentials Committee**

- 22.5 The Conference is **requested** to consider and approve the report of the Credentials Committee on the credentials of representatives to the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations).

### **Committee on Relations with the Host Country**

- 22.6 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 Vice-Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki of Morocco (on behalf of the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador), will report to the Conference on the status of the work of the Host Country Committee.

### **Advisory Board on Education and Outreach**

- 22.7 The Conference is **requested** to consider and note 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 2019 to 31 August 2020 (EC-95/DG.18 C-25/DG.11, dated 24 September 2020).
- 22.8 A member of the ABEO will address the Conference.

### **Scientific Advisory Board**

- 22.9 The Chairperson of the Scientific Advisory Board will address the Conference.

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

In paragraph 9.17 of its report (RC-3/3\*, dated 19 April 2013), 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 Ninety-Fifth 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 was produced only once a year. 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 most recent such document is EC-95/S/6 (dated 29 September 2020). The Conference is **requested** to note the activities in furtherance of its review of the declarations contained in paragraphs 9.3 to 9.16 of RC-3/3\*.

### **24. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FOUR – Any other business**

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

### **26. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-SIX – Closure**