



**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

- 1.1 The Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) was opened at 10:12 on 30 November 2020 in the King Willem Alexander Theater in the World Forum by the Chairperson of the Conference for its Twenty-Fourth Session, Ambassador Krassimir Kostov of Bulgaria.
- 1.2 The following 149 States Parties participated in the Twenty-Fifth Session: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, the Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, the Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
- 1.3 In accordance with Rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the following signatory State participated in this session of the Conference as an observer: Israel.



- 1.4 In accordance with Rules 31 and 32 of the Rules of Procedure, and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-25/DEC.1, dated 30 November 2020), ten international organisations, specialised agencies, and other international bodies attended the Twenty-Fifth Session.
- 1.5 In accordance with the recommendations of the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Third Review Conference”) (RC-3/3*, dated 19 April 2013), and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-25/DEC.2, dated 30 November 2020), the Conference **invited** representatives of the global chemical industry and scientific community to attend the Twenty-Fifth Session.
- 1.6 In accordance with Rule 33 of the Rules of Procedure, and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-25/DEC.3, dated 30 November 2020), 73 non-governmental organisations were invited to attend and participate in the Twenty-Fifth Session through remote access and pre-recorded statements due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- 1.7 The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement under this agenda item.

2. AGENDA ITEM TWO – Election of the Chairperson

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

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

- 3.1 In accordance with Rules 34 and 35 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference **elected** representatives of the following 10 States Parties as Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference, to hold office until their successors are elected at its next regular session: Algeria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Ecuador, Honduras, Iraq, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Romania, and the Russian Federation.
- 3.2 Also in accordance with Rules 34 and 35 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference **elected**, as Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole, Ambassador Marcin Czepelak of Poland, who shall hold office until a new Chairperson is elected at the next regular session of the Conference.

4. AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Adoption of the agenda

- 4.1 The provisional agenda for the Twenty-Fifth Session was circulated under cover of C-25/1, dated 21 July 2020.
- 4.2 The Conference **approved** the following agenda for its Twenty-Fifth Session:

AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

AGENDA ITEM TWO – Election of the Chairperson

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

AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Adoption of the agenda

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

AGENDA ITEM SIX – Appointment of the Credentials Committee

AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Statement by the Director-General

AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – General debate

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

AGENDA ITEM TEN – 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 in 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

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FOUR – Any other business

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

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-SIX – Closure

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

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

6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – Appointment of the Credentials Committee

6.1 In accordance with Rule 27 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference, on the recommendation of its Chairperson, **appointed** the following 10 members of the Credentials Committee to hold office until new members are appointed at the next regular session of the Conference: Cuba, France, Greece, Guatemala, Kenya, Lithuania, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, South Africa, and the State of Palestine.

6.2 The United States of America disassociated itself from the consensus on the appointment of the State of Palestine to the Credentials Committee.

6.3 The following delegation made a statement, exercising its right of reply: the State of Palestine.

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

The Conference **noted** the opening statements made by the Director-General (C-25/DG.19, dated 30 November 2020 and (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations)).

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – General debate

8.1 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: Azerbaijan (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China), Kenya (on behalf of the African Group), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Eswatini, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, the Holy See, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, and Zambia.

8.2 The following delegations made statements, exercising their right of reply: Armenia, Azerbaijan, the Russian Federation, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Germany, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

8.3 The following signatory State made a statement during the general debate: Israel.

- 8.4 The following international body made a statement during the general debate: the European Union.
- 8.5 The Russian Federation made a statement on behalf of the Collective Security Treaty Organization under this agenda item.
- 8.6 The following representatives from the chemical industry and the scientific community made a statement under this agenda item: the International Council of Chemical Associations and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry.
- 8.7 In accordance with paragraph 2 of C-25/DEC.3, the following non-governmental organisations addressed the Conference: American Public Health Association; ArgIQ; Arms Control Association; Association for the Defence of Chemical Injuries in the Fars Province; Association of Supporting Victims of Chemical Weapons; Bradford University; CBRNe Society; Center for International Security Studies and Strategic Research; Colorado Citizens Advisory Commission for Chemical Demilitarization; Harvard Sussex Program; Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses; International Dialogue on Underwater Munitions; Istanbul University; Kentucky Environmental Foundation; Kurdish Organizations Network Coalition for the International Criminal Court; Mayors for Peace; Pakistan House; Rutgers University Camden; South Asian Strategic Stability Institute (SASSI) University; United Service Institution of India; and Verification Research, Training and Information Centre.

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

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

- 9.1 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Fourteenth Session regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations (C-14/DEC.12, dated 4 December 2009), the Conference **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the “Overview of the Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 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 **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) in 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 The Conference **noted** that, at its Sixteenth Session, it had adopted a decision on the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 (C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011). The Conference **expressed its concern** regarding the Director-General's statement in his report to the Sixty-Eighth Session of the Executive Council (hereinafter "the Council"), provided in accordance with paragraph 2 of C-16/DEC.11, that "three possessor States Parties, namely Libya, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America, have been unable to fully meet the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 for the destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles" (EC-68/DG.9, dated 1 May 2012). The Conference **noted further** that the measures that had been identified in paragraph 3 of its decision (C-16/DEC.11) were now being implemented.
- 9.4 The Conference **noted** the statements and comments made by States Parties on the destruction of the only remaining declared chemical weapons by the sole possessor State Party, recalling the relevant obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter "the Convention") and relevant decisions by the Conference and the Council. The Conference **recalled** that the destruction of the only remaining declared chemical weapons by the sole possessor State Party should continue in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and its Verification Annex and with the application of the measures contained in decision C-16/DEC.11.
- 9.5 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (subparagraph 3(g) of C-16/DEC.11), the Director-General provided an annual written report to the Conference on the overall progress with respect to the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles (C-25/DG.16, dated 19 November 2020), based on the independent information received by the Secretariat from the Organisation's inspectors undertaking verification in accordance with Part IV(A) D of the Verification Annex, which included information on the progress achieved to meet the planned completion date(s) and the effectiveness of any specific measures that have been undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes.
- 9.6 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the United States of America provided an annual report (C-25/NAT.3, dated 10 November 2020) and an annual briefing on the progress in the destruction of its remaining stockpiles of chemical weapons,¹ including on any specific measures undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes and information on the projected schedule for destruction activities to meet the planned completion date, which were **considered** and **noted** by the Conference, along with comments on the issue as mentioned above. The Conference **noted** the confirmation provided by the delegation of the United States of America that the necessary measures continue to be undertaken in order to meet the planned completion date of September 2023 for its destruction activities, as submitted to the Council at its Sixty-Eighth Session in accordance with subparagraph 3(c) of C-16/DEC.11.
- 9.7 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States of America.

¹ This briefing was posted on the external server of the OPCW.

- 9.8 Pursuant to the above-mentioned decision at its Sixteenth Session (subparagraph 3(f) of C-16/DEC.11), the Conference **undertook** an annual review of the implementation of this decision at a specially designated meeting of the Conference. In furtherance of the implementation of subparagraphs 3(d), 3(f), and 3(h) of its decision C-16/DEC.11, the Conference **encouraged** the possessor State Party concerned to include confirmation in the required reporting to the Council and the Conference that it remains on schedule to complete destruction activities by its planned completion date.
- 9.9 The Conference **welcomed** the Council's decision at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012) and the destruction plan beyond the year 2016 for the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China (EC-84/NAT.6, dated 2 March 2017) attached as its Annex 2 and adopted by the Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session, bearing in mind that the destruction progress was less than expected in the previous destruction plan attached to the decision "The Deadline of 29 April 2012 and Future Destruction of the Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People's Republic of China" (EC-67/DEC.6), and **encouraged** continued cooperation between China and Japan in the implementation of EC-67/DEC.6.
- 9.10 The Conference **recalled** the provisions of the Convention that the Abandoning State Party undertakes to destroy all chemical weapons it abandoned on the territory of another State Party and shall provide all necessary financial, technical, expert, facility as well as other resources, **expressed its determination** to remain seized of the matter, and **urged** the Abandoning State Party to continue to make the fullest possible effort to complete destruction of abandoned chemical weapons as soon as possible in accordance with the Council's decision (EC-67/DEC.6) and its Annex 2 in a faithful manner and to address challenges including ensuring the safety of people and protecting the environment. The Conference **reaffirmed** that the Territorial State Party shall provide appropriate cooperation.
- 9.11 The Conference **also reaffirmed** the obligation of the Abandoning State Party to provide all available information including, to the extent possible, the location, type, quantity as well as information on the abandonment in accordance with relevant provisions of the Convention, so as to facilitate the expedite destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China.
- 9.12 The Conference **welcomed** the review of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons conducted by the Third Review Conference and the report of the Third Review Conference (RC-3/3*), which reaffirmed the role of the Council, the Conference and the Review Conference with regard to the abandoned chemical weapons destruction-related issues as defined in the provisions of the Convention and in the Council's decision (EC-67/DEC.6), and **welcomed** the review of this issue by the Fourth Review Conference.
- 9.13 The Conference **took note** of the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the overall progress of the destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China.

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

- 9.14 The Conference at its Fourth Special Session adopted a decision entitled “Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use” (C-SS-4/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2018). Since the previous regular session of the Conference and pursuant to paragraph 24 of the above-mentioned decision, the following documents had been circulated to the Council: EC-93/DG.11 (dated 24 February 2020); EC-94/DG.17 (dated 1 July 2020); EC-95/DG.15 (dated 21 September 2020); and EC-96/DG.14 (dated 25 February 2021).
- 9.15 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).
- 9.16 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).
- 9.17 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).
- 9.18 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.
- 9.19 The Secretariat circulated a Note entitled “Second Report by the OPCW Investigation and Identification Team Pursuant to Paragraph 10 of Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 “Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use” Saraqib (Syrian Arab Republic) – 4 February 2018” (S/1943/2021, dated 12 April 2021).
- 9.20 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: France, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Netherlands, Cuba, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Lithuania, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Pakistan, San Marino, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, Denmark, Poland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ireland, the Republic of Korea, Estonia, Germany, Spain, and Canada. The Syrian Arab Republic made a statement, exercising its right of reply.
- 9.21 The delegation of Norway presented a joint statement under this agenda item on behalf of Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece,

Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

- 9.22 The European Union made a statement under this agenda item.
- 9.23 The Russian Federation provided a joint statement on behalf of the Collective Security Treaty Organization.
- 9.24 Under Rule 69 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the draft decision entitled “Addressing the Possession and Use of Chemical Weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic” (C-25/DEC/CRP.10, dated 25 November 2020) was voted on. The vote led to the following result: 87 for (Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, and Zambia); 15 against (Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the State of Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, and Zimbabwe); and 34 abstentions (Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Eswatini, Ethiopia, the Holy See, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Rwanda, South Africa, the Sudan, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, and Viet Nam). In light of that result, the decision was **adopted** (C-25/DEC.9, dated 21 April 2021).
- 9.25 The following delegations explained their vote: Brazil, the Syrian Arab Republic, Morocco, Pakistan, China, Mexico, Algeria, India, the Russian Federation, the State of Palestine, Argentina, Malaysia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, South Africa, the Holy See, Ecuador, Tunisia, and the Lao People’s Democratic Republic.
- 9.26 The delegation of the Czech Republic presented a joint statement under this agenda item on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, the Cook Islands, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, Nauru, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal,

the Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Vanuatu.

- 9.27 The European Union made a statement under this agenda item.
- 9.28 The following delegations made statements: Australia, Lithuania, China, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Poland, France, Estonia, and the United States of America.
- 9.29 The following delegations made statements, exercising their right of reply: the Russian Federation and Germany.

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

The Conference **considered** and **approved** the report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2019 (C-25/4, dated 20 April 2021), 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 **noted** 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 was introduced by the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador, who also briefed the Conference on any developments that have taken place since the cut-off date for the report (the briefing was posted on the external server of the OPCW).

12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Election of Member States to membership in 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 **elected** 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:

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| Africa: | Cameroon, Kenya, Morocco, Senegal, Sudan |
| Asia: | China, Japan, India, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia |
| Eastern Europe: | Czech Republic, Slovakia |
| Latin America and the Caribbean: | Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico |

Western Europe and other States: France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

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 the 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 of the OPCW for 2021 (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 following delegations made statements under this agenda item: China, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, Cuba, the Netherlands, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.
- 13.4 Under Rule 69 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the draft decision on the OPCW Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2021 (C-25/DEC/CRP.3, dated 27 October 2020) was voted on. The vote led to the following result: 103 for (Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, the Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Nauru, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, and Zambia); 14 against (Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, China, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)); and 13 abstentions (Algeria, Angola, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mongolia, Pakistan, Serbia, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, and Uganda). In light of that result, the decision was **adopted** (C-25/DEC.7, dated 1 December 2020).

- 13.5 The following delegations explained their vote: the Islamic Republic of Iran, China, the Russian Federation, Pakistan, India, Cuba, the State of Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic, Algeria, Peru, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bangladesh, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Scale of assessments for 2021

The Conference **adopted**, pursuant to Regulation 3.6(b) of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, a decision on the scale of assessments to be paid by States Parties for the financial year 2021 (C-25/DEC.4, dated 30 November 2020).

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

The Conference **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 and Corr.1, dated 8 April 2021), in accordance with Regulation 13.10 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules.

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 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).
- 16.4 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.

- 16.5 The Secretariat circulated a draft decision by the Russian Federation entitled “Amendments to Draft Decision C-25/DEC/CRP.8 (Dated 20 November 2020) on the Appointment of the External Auditor of the OPCW” (C-25/DEC/CRP.11, dated 19 March 2021).
- 16.6 The Secretariat circulated a report by the Director-General (C-25/DG.20, dated 19 March 2021) 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 Russian Federation.
- 16.7 The Secretariat circulated a national paper by Costa Rica (C-25/NAT.55, dated 15 April 2021), as well as a draft decision co-sponsored by Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay, entitled “Appointment of the External Auditor of the OPCW” (C-25/DEC/CRP.12, dated 15 April 2021).
- 16.8 The Secretariat circulated a report by the Director-General (C-25/DG.21, dated 16 April 2021) 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 Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay.
- 16.9 The Conference **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General containing the summary of nominations (C-25/DG.15*, dated 12 November 2020).
- 16.10 Pursuant to Rule 77 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Conference **considered** and **adopted** the draft decision submitted by Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay (C-25/DEC.10, dated 21 April 2021).
- 16.11 Pursuant to Rule 65 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made a statement under this agenda item and withdrew draft decision C-25/DEC/CRP.8 on behalf of the co-sponsors. The Russian Federation also made a statement under this agenda item, noting that its amendments contained in C-25/DEC/CRP.11 were no longer operative.
- 16.12 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: Brazil, Mexico, and Costa Rica.
- 16.13 In accordance with operative paragraph 1 of the adopted draft decision, and pursuant to Rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Conference **proceeded** to a vote, by secret ballot, by a simple majority of the members present and voting, and **appointed** Mr Rajiv Mehrishi, Comptroller and Auditor General of India, as the External Auditor of the OPCW for the financial years 2021 to 2023.

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 **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-25/DEC.5, dated 30 November 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 **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-25/DEC.8, dated 20 April 2021).

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

- 17.3 At its Eleventh Session, the Conference adopted a decision (C-11/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2006) on a mechanism to encourage States Parties that are in arrears to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions through the use of multi-year payment plans, requesting the Secretariat to submit a report to it each year, through the Council, on the status of implementation of agreed multi-year payment plans as at the end of the quarter that falls immediately before the session of the Council that precedes the session of the Conference.
- 17.4 The Conference **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General reporting on the status of the implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payments plans (EC-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 **noted** 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 **noted** 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 **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-25/DEC.6, dated 30 November 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 **noted** 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 **noted** a report by the Director-General on the progress made and review of the status of implementation of Article XI of the Convention for the period from 26 August 2019 to 25 August 2020 (EC-95/DG.17 C-25/DG.10, dated 22 September 2020).

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

- 18.4 The Conference **received** a report by the co-facilitator for Article XI issues, Mr Junaid Sadiq of Pakistan, on activities held during the intersessional period (the report was posted on the external server of the OPCW).

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

- 19.1 The Council at its Twenty-Third Meeting adopted an action plan for the universality of the Convention (EC-M-23/DEC.3, dated 24 October 2003). The plan requested the Director-General, inter alia, to submit to the Conference at its regular sessions an annual report on the implementation of the action plan, and to keep the Council regularly informed, so that the Conference and the Council may review progress and monitor its implementation effectively.

- 19.2 The Conference **noted** the annual report by the Director-General on the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention during the period from 16 August 2019 to 15 August 2020 (EC-95/DG.20 C-25/DG.12, dated 25 September 2020).

20. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY – The OPCW Programme for Africa

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

20.2 The delegation of Kenya (on behalf of the African Group) made a statement under this agenda item.

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

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

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

Committee of the Whole

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

General Committee

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

Commission for the Settlement of Disputes Related to Confidentiality

22.3 The Conference **noted** 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 In accordance with paragraph 23 of the Confidentiality Annex to the Convention and Rule 2(b) of the Operating Procedures of the Confidentiality Commission (C-III/DEC.10/Rev.2, dated 4 December 2013), the Conference **elected** the following 20 members of the Confidentiality Commission for a term of two years, beginning on 1 May 2021:

Africa	Mr Amine Sid (Algeria) Mr John Billy-Eko (Cameroon) Colonel Crepin Sambou (Senegal) Ms Boipelo Motsi (South Africa)
Asia	Mr Jiang Bo (China) Ms Cecillia Axel Toumahu (Indonesia) Dr Reza Najafi (Iran, Islamic Republic of) Professor Asada Masahiko (Japan)
Eastern Europe	Mr Eduard Klobouček (Czech Republic) Mr Călin Fabian (Romania) Ms Anna Kogteva (Russian Federation) Mr Serhii Trotskyi (Ukraine)

Latin America and the Caribbean	Mr Mariano Enrico (Argentina) Mr Jorge Antonio Caravajal San Martín (Chile) Mr Jesús María Cuevillas Domínguez (Cuba) Mr Isaac Morales Tenorio (Mexico)
Western European and Other States	Ms Aster Boeye (Belgium) Mr Christoph Vedder (Germany) Mr Ioannis Seimenis (Greece) Mr Paul van Rhijn (Netherlands)

Credentials Committee

22.5 In accordance with Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the report of the Credentials Committee (C-25/3/Rev.1, dated 1 March 2021) was presented by the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, Ambassador Jose Eduardo E. Malaya III of the Philippines. Ambassador Malaya III reported orally that, following the close of the Credentials Committee meeting, additional original credentials had been received from Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Eswatini, Ghana, Greece, Iceland, India, Iraq, Liechtenstein, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Seychelles, the Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, and Tunisia, and additional copies of credentials had been received from Bahrain, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, the Gambia, Italy, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nicaragua, Palau, the Philippines, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Thailand, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The Conference **noted** this information and **approved** the written and oral reports as follows:

- (a) Originals of credentials in the form required by Rule 26 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference had been received from the following 79 States Parties: Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, the Holy See, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, the State of Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, and Yemen.
- (b) Faxes or copies of credentials in the form required by Rule 26 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference had been received from the following 71 States Parties: Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of),

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, China, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, the Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, the Philippines, Poland, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, and Zambia.

- (c) Official communications had not been received from the following States Parties regarding their representation: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Benin, Burundi, the Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, the Gambia, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Samoa, Tuvalu, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

- 22.6 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: the United States of America, the State of Palestine, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Cuba, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and the Syrian Arab Republic.
- 22.7 The following delegations made requests for updates to their status under this agenda item: Cuba, Nigeria, Algeria, the Gambia, Saudi Arabia, Andorra, Australia, Fiji, Poland, Côte d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Greece, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Iraq, China, Morocco, Togo, Argentina, Zimbabwe, Nicaragua, India, Malawi, Tunisia, Ghana, Seychelles, the Sudan, Hungary, and Zambia.

Committee on Relations with the Host Country

- 22.8 At its Eleventh Session, the Conference adopted a decision establishing a Committee on Relations with the Host Country (hereinafter "the Host Country Committee") (C-11/DEC.9, dated 7 December 2006). The Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador, reported to the Conference on the status of the work of the Host Country Committee.

Advisory Board on Education and Outreach

- 22.9 The Conference **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General reporting on the activities of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO) covering the period from 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 (EC-95/DG.18 C-25/DG.11, dated 24 September 2020).
- 22.10 The Secretariat circulated a statement by Doctor Johannes-Georg Weinig, Chairperson of the ABEO, to the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference (C-25/WP.1, dated 12 April 2021).

Scientific Advisory Board

- 22.11 The Chairperson of the Scientific Advisory Board, Doctor Christophe Curty, addressed the Conference (the statement was posted on the external server of the OPCW).

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

In paragraph 9.17 of its report (RC-3/3*), the Third Review Conference expressed its intention to keep the declarations contained in paragraphs 9.3 to 9.16 of that document under review at each regular session of the Conference. The Conference **noted** the activities in furtherance of its review of the declarations contained in paragraphs 9.3 to 9.16 of RC-3/3*.

24. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FOUR – Any other business

The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: the Russian Federation and the United States of America. The Russian Federation made a statement, exercising its right of reply.

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

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

26. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-SIX – Closure

The Chairperson closed the session at 17:36 on 22 April 2021.

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