



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

Twenty-Fifth Session  
20 – 22 April 2021 (Part II)

C-25/DEC.10  
21 April 2021  
Original: ENGLISH

**DECISION**

**APPOINTMENT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR OF THE OPCW**

**The Conference of the States Parties,**

**Underscoring** that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction establishes, in paragraph 30 of Article VIII, the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) as the executive organ of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), and entrusts the Council with carrying out the functions delegated to it by the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”);

**Recalling** that, according to Financial Regulation 13.1 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, the External Auditor of the OPCW, who shall be the Auditor-General (or an officer holding an equivalent title) of a State Party, shall be appointed 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;

**Recalling also** decision C-10/DEC.6 (dated 10 November 2005), in which the Conference confirmed that “in no case shall a single audit institution hold the position of External Auditor of the OPCW for more than six consecutive years”;

**Noting** that, in response to Note S/1824/2020 (dated 17 January 2020), the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) received nominations for the position of External Auditor of the OPCW from three States Parties;

**Noting also** that, at its Ninety-Fifth Session, the Council considered a Note by the Director-General containing a summary of the nominations for the position of External Auditor of the OPCW (EC-94/DG.9, dated 15 June 2020) and requested the Director-General to forward that Note to the Conference at its Twenty-Fifth Session (C-25/DG.15\*, dated 12 November 2020); and

**Recalling** the external auditing regulations as established in the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules;



**Hereby:**

**Decides**, on an exceptional basis, to appoint, at its Twenty-Fifth Session, the External Auditor of the OPCW, for the financial years 2021 to 2023, by election through secret ballot, in accordance with Rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference (Elections to fill one elective place);

**Requests** the Council to establish, as early as possible, a working group to develop a proposal for the manner in which the Conference shall appoint the External Auditor of the OPCW in the future. The working group may include representatives of the Council, assisted by staff of the Secretariat. To fulfil its mandate, the working group may also consider best practices from other international organisations and rely on the advice of the OPCW Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters; and

**Requests** the Council to report to the Conference at its Twenty-Sixth Session on the results of its working group towards the development of the proposal mentioned in the foregoing paragraph.

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