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**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
ON THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS ACTIVITIES
IN THE PERIOD FROM 13 JULY 2020 TO 12 JULY 2021**



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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 2020 to 11 May 2021, and from 12 May 2021 to 11 May 2022.

A. 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

B. COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FROM 12 MAY 2021 TO 11 MAY 2022

Regional Group	States Parties
Africa	Algeria, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Sudan
Asia	China, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates
Eastern Europe	Czech Republic, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, 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-Fifth Session, the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) adopted decisions on seven matters the Council had referred to it.

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

- 1.4 At its Sixty-Fifth Meeting, the Council elected Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki of Morocco as its Chairperson with effect from 12 May 2021 and for a term of office ending on 11 May 2022. Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral of Ecuador, Ambassador Gudrun Lingner of Germany, Ambassador Alireza Kazemi Abadi of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Ambassador Vidmantas Purlys of Lithuania would serve as the Vice-Chairpersons for the same period.
- 1.5 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-Fifth	6 – 9 October 2020
Ninety-Sixth	9 – 12 March 2021
Ninety-Seventh	6 – 8 July 2021

- 1.6 The Council held its Sixty-Fifth Meeting during the reporting period, on 20 April 2021.

Accreditation of representatives to the Executive Council

- 1.7 The Council at its Ninety-Seventh Session considered and approved a report by the Director-General on the credentials of representatives of the members of the Council (EC-97/DG.19, dated 1 July 2021).

Application of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council

- 1.8 During the period under review, observer States Parties attended sessions of the Council, with an average of 50 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

- 1.9 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-95/INF.2, dated 2 October 2020, EC-96/INF.1, dated 18 February 2021; and EC-97/INF.2, dated 18 June 2021).
- 1.10 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.
- 1.11 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

- 1.12 The Vice-Chairpersons reported to the Council at its regular sessions on informal consultations held during the intersessional periods.
- 1.13 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 2020

- 2.2 The Council at its Ninety-Seventh 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 2020” (EC-97/2 C-26/CRP.1, dated 7 July 2021), and forwarded it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Sixth 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-Fifth 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 2019 to 15 August 2020, which was being submitted to both the Council and the Conference (EC-95/DG.20 C-25/DG.12, dated 25 September 2020).

Verification implementation reports

- 2.4 The Council at its Ninety-Fifth Session considered and noted the Verification Implementation Report (VIR) for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2019 (EC-94/HP/DG.1, dated 11 May 2020, Add.1, dated 29 June 2020, and Add.2, dated 11 September 2020) and the Note by the Secretariat on comments and views received on the 2019 VIR (EC-94/S/9, dated 25 June 2020 and Add.1, dated 15 September 2020), as well as the Chairperson’s summary of the informal consultations on it (EC-94/2, dated 25 June 2020).

- 2.5 The Council at its Ninety-Fifth Session considered and noted the supplement to the VIR for 2019 (EC-95/HP/DG.1, dated 14 August 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-Fifth, Ninety-Sixth, and Ninety-Seventh Sessions (EC-95/NAT.4, dated 16 September 2020; EC-96/NAT.2, dated 19 February 2021; and EC-97/NAT.4, dated 29 June 2021). 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-Fifth, Ninety-Sixth, and Ninety-Seventh 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-95/DG.27, dated 2 October 2020; EC-96/DG.15, dated 5 March 2021; and EC-97/DG.18, dated 30 June 2021).
- 2.8 The Council at its Ninety-Fifth 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-95/DG.6, dated 31 August 2020).
- 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-Fifth, Ninety-Sixth, and Ninety-Seventh 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-95/DG.25, dated 2 October 2020; EC-96/DG.16, dated 8 March 2021; and EC-97/DG.17, dated 30 June 2021).
- 2.10 Further to the same decision by the Council (EC-67/DEC.6), national papers by China (EC-95/NAT.3, dated 15 September 2020; EC-96/NAT.4, dated 26 February 2021; and EC-97/NAT. 2, dated 16 June 2021) and national papers by Japan (EC-95/NAT.1, dated 15 September 2020; EC-96/NAT.5, dated 5 March 2021; and EC-97/NAT.3, dated 16 June 2021) were circulated to the members of the Council at its Ninety-Fifth, Ninety-Sixth, and Ninety-Seventh Sessions.
- 2.11 The Council at its Ninety-Sixth 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).
- 2.12 The Council at its Ninety-Seventh Session considered and noted the information provided by the delegation of the Netherlands on its destruction-related verification activities (EC-97/NAT.1, dated 24 June 2021).

Detailed plans for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons

- 2.13 The Council at its Ninety-Fifth, Ninety-Sixth, and Ninety-Seventh Sessions received briefings by the Secretariat on its other verification-related activities.
- 2.14 The Secretariat submitted to the Council at its Ninety-Fifth and Ninety-Sixth Sessions a Note on amendments and 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-95/S/5, dated 22 September 2020). The Council approved the revised amendments to the aforementioned detailed plan at its Ninety-Sixth Session (EC-96/DEC.6, dated 10 March 2021).

Facility agreements

- 2.15 The Secretariat submitted to the Council at its Ninety-Fifth and Ninety-Sixth Sessions a Note on amendments and 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-95/S/5).
- 2.16 At its Ninety-Sixth Session, the Council approved the amendments to the aforementioned facility agreement with the United States of America (EC-96/DEC.5, dated 10 March 2021).
- 2.17 At its Ninety-Sixth Session, the Council approved a facility agreement with the Government of India regarding on-site inspections at a Schedule 1 single small-scale facility located at CDEF, Defence Research and Development Organisation, Borkhedi Camp, Wardha Road, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India (EC-96/DEC.4 and EC-96/HP/DEC.1, both dated 9 March 2021).
- 2.18 The Secretariat submitted to the Council at its Ninety-Seventh Session a Note on amendments and modifications to the agreed detailed plan for verification and 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-97/S/1, dated 8 June 2021).
- 2.19 At its Ninety-Seventh Session the Council approved amendments to the aforementioned agreed detailed plan (EC-97/DEC.2, dated 6 July 2021).
- 2.20 The Council at the same session also approved amendments to the aforementioned facility agreement with the United States of America (EC-97/DEC.3, dated 8 July 2021).
- 2.21 At its Ninety-Seventh Session the Council approved a facility agreement between the OPCW and Austria regarding on-site inspections at the Schedule 1 other facility for protective purposes located at 2444 Seibersdorf, Forschungszentrum, Austria (EC-97/DEC.1 and EC-97/HP/DEC.1, both dated 6 July 2021).

Progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme

- 2.22 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

- 2.23 The Council noted reports by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme at its Ninety-Fifth, Ninety-Sixth, and Ninety-Seventh Sessions (EC-95/DG.1, dated 24 July 2020; EC-95/DG.4, dated 24 August 2020; EC-95/DG.19, dated 24 September 2020; EC-96/DG.2, dated 26 October 2020; EC-96/DG.3, dated 24 November 2020; EC-96/DG.4, dated 24 December 2020; EC-96/DG.6, dated 25 January 2021; EC-96/DG.13, dated 24 February 2021; EC-97/DG.2, dated 24 March 2021; EC-97/DG.3, dated 23 April 2021; EC-97/DG.7, dated 25 May 2021; and EC-97/DG.15, dated 24 June 2021).
- 2.24 The Council at its Ninety-Fifth, Ninety-Sixth, and Ninety-Seventh 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-95/P/NAT.1, dated 16 July 2020; EC-95/P/NAT.2, dated 18 August 2020; EC-95/P/NAT.3, dated 15 September 2020; EC-96/P/NAT.1, dated 15 October 2020; EC-96/P/NAT.2, dated 18 November 2020; EC-96/P/NAT.3, dated 18 December 2020; EC-96/P/NAT.4, dated 19 January 2021; EC-96/P/NAT.5, dated 15 February 2021; EC-97/P/NAT.1, dated 12 March 2021; EC-97/P/NAT.2, dated 15 April 2021; EC-97/P/NAT.3, dated 18 May 2021; and EC-97/P/NAT.4, dated 15 June 2021).

Activities of the Declaration Assessment Team

- 2.25 The Council at its Ninety-Fifth, Ninety-Sixth, and Ninety-Seventh Sessions noted three Notes by the Director-General reporting on the work of the Declaration Assessment Team (EC-95/HP/DG.2, dated 1 October 2020; EC-96/HP/DG.1, dated 5 March 2021; and EC-97/HP/DG.1, dated 30 June 2021).

Reports of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria

- 2.26 The Secretariat circulated to the Council at its Ninety-Fifth Session two reports by the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria (FFM) (S/1901/2020 and S/1902/2020, both dated 1 October 2020).
- 2.27 The Secretariat circulated to the Council at its Ninety-Sixth Session a Note on a summary update of the activities carried out by the FFM (S/1922/2020, dated 21 December 2020).
- 2.28 Prior to the Ninety-Fifth, Ninety-Sixth, and Ninety-Seventh Sessions of the Council, the Secretariat provided briefings on its activities related to the Syrian chemical weapons dossier, including updates on the work of the FFM.

Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use

- 2.29 The Council at its Ninety-Fifth, Ninety-Sixth, and Ninety-Seventh Sessions noted three regular reports by the Director-General (EC-95/DG.15, dated 21 September 2020; EC-96/DG.14, dated 25 February 2021; and EC-97/DG.13, dated 22 June 2021) 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).
- 2.30 The Director-General briefed the Council at its Ninety-Fifth Session on activities carried out in support of a request for technical assistance by Germany (S/1906/2020, dated 6 October 2020).
- 2.31 The Council at its Ninety-Sixth Session noted a report by the Director-General (EC-96/DG.1, dated 14 October 2020) on the implementation of its decision entitled “Addressing the Possession and Use of Chemical Weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic” (EC-94/DEC.2, dated 9 July 2020).
- 2.32 The Secretariat circulated to the Council for its consideration at its Ninety-Seventh Session 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).

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

- 2.33 At its Ninety-Sixth Session the Council adopted a decision entitled “Understanding Regarding the Aerosolised Use of Central Nervous System-Acting Chemicals for Law Enforcement Purposes” (EC-96/DEC.7, dated 11 March 2021).

Article VI-related issues

- 2.34 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-Seventh Session noted a report by the Director-General on the results of the ninth year of implementation of these policy guidelines (EC-97/DG.1, dated 23 March 2021).
- 2.35 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-Sixth and Ninety-Seventh 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-96/DG.5*, dated 21 January 2021 and EC-97/DG.11, dated 15 June 2021).

Progress made in the implementation of Article VII obligations

- 2.36 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-Fifth 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 2020” (EC-95/DG.8 C-25/DG.6, dated 4 September 2020 and Corr.1, dated 2 October 2020); 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 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).

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

- 2.37 The Council at its Ninety-Seventh 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-97/DG.14, dated 24 June 2021).

OPCW Central Analytical Database

- 2.38 The Council at its Ninety-Sixth Session considered a Note by the Director-General on lists of newly validated data on scheduled chemicals for approval by the Council for inclusion in the OPCW Central Analytical Database (OCAD) (EC-96/DG.7, dated 28 January 2021) and adopted a decision on the matter (EC-96/DEC.1, dated 9 March 2021).
- 2.39 At the same session the Council considered a Note by the Director-General on lists of newly validated data on non-scheduled chemicals relevant to the Convention for approval by the Council for inclusion in the OCAD (EC-96/DG.8, dated 28 January 2021) and adopted a decision on the matter (EC-96/DEC.2, dated 9 March 2021).

Status of implementation of Article X

- 2.40 The Council at its Ninety-Fifth 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 2020 (EC-95/DG.2, dated 11 August 2020 and Corr.1, dated 29 September 2020).

The content of the Protection and Assistance Databank and its use

- 2.41 The Council at its Ninety-Seventh Session considered and noted a Note by the Secretariat on the content of the Protection and Assistance Databank and its use (EC-97/S/2, dated 15 June 2021).

Status of implementation of Article XI

- 2.42 The Council at its Ninety-Fifth 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-95/DG.17 C-25/DG.10, dated 22 September 2020).

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

- 2.43 The Council at its Ninety-Fifth 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-95/DG.11 C-25/DG.9, dated 10 September 2020).

The OPCW’s contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts

- 2.44 The Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T), Ambassador Vusimuzi Philemon Madonsela of South Africa, briefed the Council at its Ninety-Fifth, Ninety-Sixth, and Ninety-Seventh Sessions on the work of the OEWG-T during the intersessional periods (EC-95/WP.2, dated 7 October 2020; EC-96/WP.3, dated 9 March 2021; and EC-97/WP.2, dated 7 July 2021).
- 2.45 The Council at its Ninety-Sixth Session noted a Note by the Director-General on the status of the OPCW’s contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts (EC-96/DG.10, dated 18 February 2021).

Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference

- 2.46 At its Ninety-Fifth, Ninety-Sixth, and Ninety-Seventh Sessions, the Council considered and noted the updated matrices of actionable items identified at the Third Review Conference¹ (EC-95/S/6, dated 29 September 2020; EC-96/S/4, dated 18 February 2021; and EC-97/S/3, dated 18 June 2021).

Implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Technical Secretariat in 2020

- 2.47 The Council at its Ninety-Sixth 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 2020 (EC-96/DG.12 C-26/DG.1, dated 19 February 2021).

Report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities

- 2.48 The Council at its Ninety-Fifth Session considered and approved a report on the performance of its activities in the period from 13 July 2019 to 12 July 2020, and submitted it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Fifth Session (EC-95/3 C-25/2, dated 7 October 2020). 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.

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

Administrative and financial matters

Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2021, and all items pertaining to this budget

- 2.49 At its Ninety-Fifth Session the Council adopted the Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2021 and submitted it, together with its recommendations, to the Conference at its Twenty-Fifth Session (EC-95/DEC.3, dated 7 October 2020).
- 2.50 Also at its Ninety-Fifth Session, the Council noted the following Notes by the Director-General: “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).
- 2.51 The Secretariat circulated to the Council at its Ninety-Fifth Session a Note on programme performance for the year 2019 (S/1872/2020, dated 4 May 2020 and Corr.1, dated 20 May 2020).

Financial situation of the OPCW

- 2.52 At its Ninety-Fifth Session, the Council considered and forwarded to the Conference for consideration 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).
- 2.53 The Council at the same session 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) and forwarded them to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Fifth Session. Mr Damian Brewitt from the National Audit Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland submitted the report of the External Auditor (EC-95/2, dated 6 October 2020).
- 2.54 Also at its Ninety-Fifth Session, the Council noted a Note by the Director-General on the submission of the 2020 OPCW Financial Statements to the External Auditor (Financial Rule 11.1.02) (EC-95/DG.22, dated 25 September 2020), considered and adopted a decision on the matter (EC-95/DEC.1, dated 7 October 2020), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Fifth Session.

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

- 2.55 Further to a decision of the Conference at its Eleventh Session (C-11/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2006), the Council at its Ninety-Fifth Session considered and forwarded to the Conference at its Twenty-Fifth Session a Note by the Director-General 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).

Transfers of funds

- 2.56 The Council at its Ninety-Seventh Session noted a Note by the Director-General on transfers of funds during 2020 (EC-97/DG.12 C-26/DG.3, dated 22 June 2021).

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-Fifth, Ninety-Sixth, and Ninety-Seventh Sessions noted Notes by the Director-General reporting on the status of implementation of the ERP system (EC-95/DG.23, dated 25 September 2020; EC-96/DG.11, dated 18 February 2021; and EC-97/DG.16, dated 29 June 2021).

Extension of the Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions

- 2.58 At its Ninety-Fifth Session, the Council noted a Note by the Director-General on the financial status of the Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions (EC-95/DG.12, dated 10 September 2020), considered and adopted a decision on the extension of the Fund (EC-95/DEC.2, dated 7 October 2020), and transmitted the decision to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Fifth Session.

Appointments to the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

- 2.59 At its Ninety-Fifth Session, the Council noted four Notes by the Secretariat on nominations for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF) and appointed the following members: Mr Hans-Christian Mangelsdorf of Germany, for a second term with the ABAF (EC-95/S/1, dated 17 August 2020); Ms Hollie Marie Mance of the United States of America, to replace Ms Leslie Hyland, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Ms Mance (29 May 2020) (EC-94/S/6, dated 15 June 2020); Ms Fatima Hamdia Tanweer of Pakistan, to replace Mr Aizaz Khan, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Ms Tanweer (4 September 2020) (EC-95/S/3, dated 16 September 2020); and Ms Yoko Sakurai of Japan, to replace Mr Arata Mizukami, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Ms Sakurai (8 September 2020) (EC-95/S/4, dated 16 September 2020).
- 2.60 At its Ninety-Sixth Session, the Council noted three Notes by the Secretariat on nominations for membership of the ABAF and appointed the following members: Mr Bahram Jamali of the Islamic Republic of Iran to replace Mr Seyed Mehdi Hosseini Esfidvajani, for a term with the ABAF starting on 9 March 2021 (EC-96/S/2, dated 8 February 2021); Ms Qian Wang of China for a second term with the ABAF, starting on 25 May 2021 (EC-96/S/3, dated 8 February 2021); and Mr Milan Kerber of the Czech Republic for a fifth term with the ABAF, starting on 29 May 2021 (EC-96/S/6, dated 3 March 2021).

- 2.61 At its Ninety-Seventh Session, the Council noted a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF and appointed Mr Anton Minaev of the Russian Federation for a first term with the ABAF as of 7 July 2021, the date of Mr Minaev's appointment by the Council (EC-97/S/4*, dated 24 June 2021).

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

- 2.62 At its Ninety-Seventh Session, 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.3, dated 1 October 2020) and proposed amendments thereto (EC-97/NAT.5, dated 6 July 2021).

Personnel matters

Composition of the Technical Secretariat

- 2.63 The Council at its Ninety-Seventh Session noted the Director-General's annual report on the composition of the Secretariat (EC-97/DG.9, dated 8 June 2021).

Implementation of the tenure policy

- 2.64 At its Ninety-Seventh Session the Council noted a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the tenure policy in 2020 (EC-97/DG.8, dated 8 June 2021).

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

- 2.65 The Council at its Ninety-Fifth 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 2019 to 13 August 2020 (EC-95/DG.7, dated 31 August 2020).

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-Sixth Session adopted a decision adjusting the Director-General's gross salary (EC-96/DEC.3, dated 9 March 2021).

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-Seventh Session drew up the provisional agenda for the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference (EC-97/DG.10, dated 15 June 2021).

Establishment of a working group to develop a proposal on the manner of appointment of future External Auditors of the OPCW by the Conference of the States Parties pursuant to C-25/DEC.10 (dated 21 April 2021)

- 3.2 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Twenty-Fifth Session (C-25/DEC.10, dated 21 April 2021), the Council at its Ninety-Seventh Session established 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 Council appointed the following members to the working group: Ms Beatrice Wanjui Mwaura from Kenya; Ms Qian Wang from China; Ambassador Alexander Shulgin from the Russian Federation; Ms Bianca Müller from Germany; and Ambassador Jorge Skinner-Klée Arenales from Guatemala (Chairperson of the working group).

Status report on the Verification Information System

- 3.3 The Council at its Ninety-Sixth Session noted a status report on the Verification Information System (EC-96/S/5, dated 18 February 2021).

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-Fifth Session 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 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 (EC-95/DG.18 C-25/DG.11, dated 24 September 2020).

Reports of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

- 4.2 At its Ninety-Fifth Session the Council considered and noted the reports of the Forty-Fifth, Forty-Sixth, Forty-Seventh, Forty-Eighth, and Forty-Ninth Sessions of the ABAF (ABAF-45/1, dated 3 August 2018; ABAF-46/1, dated 7 June 2019; ABAF-47/1, dated 2 August 2019; ABAF-48/1, dated 5 June 2020; and ABAF-49/1, dated 31 July 2020), as well as the respective Notes by the Director-General containing comments on the reports (EC-89/DG.11, dated 28 August 2018; EC-91/DG.19*, dated 1 July 2019; EC-92/DG.11, dated 9 September 2019; EC-94/DG.22, dated 6 July 2020; and EC-95/DG.24, dated 1 October 2020).
- 4.3 The Council at its Ninety-Seventh Session considered the report of the Fiftieth Session of the ABAF (ABAF-50/1, dated 4 June 2021), and the Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-97/DG.20, dated 5 July 2021).

Reports of the Scientific Advisory Board

- 4.4 The report of the Twenty-Ninth Session of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) (SAB-29/1, dated 2 September 2020) was circulated to the Council at its Ninety-Fifth Session. The Council noted the response by the Director-General to that report (EC-95/DG.26, dated 2 October 2020).

- 4.5 The report of the Thirtieth Session of the SAB (SAB-30/1, dated 12 November 2020) was circulated to the Council at its Ninety-Sixth Session. The Council noted the response by the Director-General to that report (EC-96/DG.9, dated 10 February 2021).
- 4.6 The report of the Thirty-First Session of the SAB (SAB-31/1, dated 4 March 2021) was circulated to the Council at its Ninety-Seventh Session. The Council noted the response by the Director-General to that report (EC-97/DG.5, dated 18 May 2021).

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2020

- 4.7 The Council at its Ninety-Seventh Session considered and noted the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight (OIO) for the period 1 January to 31 December 2020, which the Director-General had submitted to it, along with his comments (EC-97/DG.6 C-26/DG.2, dated 17 May 2021). In accordance with Regulation 12.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, the Director-General transmitted this report, along with his own comments and any other comments made by the Council, to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Sixth Session.

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

- 4.8 The Council at its Ninety-Fifth and Ninety-Sixth Sessions considered and noted two reports by the Secretariat on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor (EC-95/S/2, dated 14 September 2020 and EC-96/S/1, dated 28 January 2021).
- 4.9 At its Ninety-Fifth 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 requested the Director-General to forward it to the Conference at its Twenty-Fifth Session.
- 4.10 At its Ninety-Seventh Session the Council considered and noted a report by the Director-General on the implementation in 2020 of the recommendations contained in the 2019 annual report of the OIO (EC-97/DG.4, dated 14 May 2021).

Report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

- 4.11 The Chairperson of the Council reported to the Council at its Ninety-Fifth and Ninety-Sixth Sessions on the status of the work of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

Reports of the co-facilitators on organisational governance issues

- 4.12 The co-facilitators on organisational governance issues, Ambassador Matthew Neuhaus of Australia and Ambassador Laura Dupuy of Uruguay, reported to the Council at its Ninety-Fifth, Ninety-Sixth, and Ninety-Seventh Sessions on consultations they had held during the intersessional periods.

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

Implementation by the Technical Secretariat in 2020 of the regime governing the handling of confidential information

- 5.1 The Council at its Ninety-Sixth 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 2020 (EC-96/DG.12 C-26/DG.1), and forwarded it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Sixth Session.

Draft annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2020

- 5.2 The Council at its Ninety-Seventh 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 2020” (EC-97/2 C-26/CRP.1), and forwarded it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Sixth Session.

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2020

- 5.3 The Council at its Ninety-Seventh Session considered and noted the annual report of the OIO for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2020, which the Director-General had submitted to it, along with his comments (EC-97/DG.6 C-26/DG.2). In accordance with Regulation 12.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, the Director-General transmitted this report, along with his own comments and any other comments made by the Council, to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Sixth Session.

Transfers of funds during 2020

- 5.4 The Council at its Ninety-Seventh Session noted a Note by the Director-General on transfers of funds during 2020 (EC-97/DG.12 C-26/DG.3). This Note was forwarded to the Conference at its Twenty-Sixth 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-Fifth 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. Reports by the Director-General overall progress with respect to the destruction of Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in The People's Republic of China.

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 June 2020 to 31 August 2020), around 57,700 of the 83,700 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. (Quoted from EC-95/DG.25, dated 2 October 2020).

The national papers submitted by Japan (EC-95/NAT.1, dated 15 September 2020) and China (EC-95/NAT.3, dated 15 September 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. (Quoted from EC-95/DG.25, dated 2 October 2020).

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 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. (Quoted from EC-95/DG.25, dated 2 October 2020).

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 (Quoted from EC-95/DG.25, dated 2 October 2020).

The thirty-second trilateral meeting between China, Japan, and the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) was held on 23 September 2020 in virtual mode. The objectives of these meetings are to ensure transparency, to discuss technical and practical issues, to implement projects in accordance with the appropriate verification measures, and to plan for future activities. 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. (Quoted from EC-95/DG.25, dated 2 October 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. (Quoted from EC-95/DG.25, dated 2 October 2020).

China and Japan have continued bilateral consultations to make progress on the excavation, recovery, and destruction of ACWs at various sites in China. Because of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the number of ACWs destroyed remains the same as that reported for the preceding reporting period. At the end of the reporting period (1 September 2020 to 31 January 2021), around 57,700 of the 83,700 items of declared ACWs 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. (Quoted from EC-96/DG.16, dated 8 March 2021).

The national papers submitted by Japan (EC-96/NAT.5, dated 5 March 2021) and China (EC-96/NAT.4, dated 26 February 2021) 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. (Quoted from EC-96/DG.16, dated 8 March 2021).

Owing to the fact that Haerbaling is the largest burial site of ACWs in China, the destruction operations at this site will have a major impact on the overall progress of the destruction of ACWs. To expedite the destruction of the ACW items, four new controlled detonation chambers (CDCs) will be installed in addition to the existing two chambers (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. (Quoted from EC-96/DG.16, dated 8 March 2021).

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. (Quoted from EC-96/DG.16, dated 8 March 2021).

The thirty-third trilateral meeting between China, Japan, and the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) was held on 21 December 2020 in virtual mode. The objectives of these meetings are to ensure transparency, to discuss technical and practical issues, to implement projects in accordance with the appropriate verification measures, and to plan for future activities. 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 2021. (Quoted from EC-96/DG.16, dated 8 March 2021).

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 ACWs 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. (Quoted from EC-96/DG.16, dated 8 March 2021).

China and Japan have continued bilateral consultations to make progress on the excavation, recovery, and destruction of ACW at various sites in China. At the end of the reporting period (1 February to 31 May 2021), around 57,700 of the 83,700 items of declared ACW on the territory of China had been verified as destroyed. However, the total number of declared items does not include the remaining ACW items, initially estimated at over 330,000, that were buried in Haerbaling, Jilin Province, nor does it include items at other locations that also have yet to be recovered and declared. (Quoted from EC-97/DG.17, dated 30 June 2021).

The national papers submitted by Japan (EC-97/NAT.3, dated 16 June 2021) and China (EC-97/NAT.2, dated 16 June 2021) note that, during the reporting period, excavation, recovery, and destruction operations resumed in Haerbaling, Jilin Province, while at other locations, the destruction operations and related activities, such as excavations and recoveries, remain suspended because of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. (Quoted from EC-97/DG.17, dated 30 June 2021).

Haerbaling is the largest burial site of ACW in China, meaning that 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) are being installed in addition to the existing two chambers, i.e. one CDC and one static detonation chamber (SDC). After a suspension of operations dating back to early 2020 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, destruction and excavation, and recovery operations at Haerbaling resumed in May 2021. Approximately 800 ACW items were recovered from burial pit No. 1. In addition, 330 ACW items were destroyed, of which 96 were destroyed in the CDC and 234 in the SDC. To date, the total number of ACW destroyed at the Haerbaling destruction facility has reached 17,691 ACW items. (Quoted from EC-97/DG.17, dated 30 June 2021).

Destruction operations at the Harbin mobile destruction facility (MDF) began in May 2019. However, further scheduled destruction operations have been postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the reporting period, China and Japan continued their bilateral consultations to resume destruction operations at the Harbin MDF. (Quoted from EC-97/DG.17, dated 30 June 2021).

The selection of sites in Taiyuan and Guangzhou for the high mobility destruction facility has been completed. Although the schedule was delayed, progress has been made in the consultations between China and Japan in order to prepare for the planned destruction operations at Guangzhou in 2021. The destruction operations at Taiyuan will begin after the completion of destruction operations at Guangzhou. ACW items currently stored in Taiyuan are expected to be destroyed by the end of 2022, in accordance with the destruction plan. (Quoted from EC-97/DG.17, dated 30 June 2021).

The thirty-fourth trilateral meeting between China, Japan, and the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) was held on 30 March 2021 in virtual mode. The objectives of these meetings are to ensure transparency, to discuss technical and practical issues, to implement projects in accordance with the appropriate verification measures, and to plan for future activities. 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 2021. (Quoted from EC-97/DG.17, dated 30 June 2021).

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 items 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. (Quoted from EC-97/DG.17, dated 30 June 2021).

3. Activities of the Council

Further to a 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 the Council’s 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-95/NAT.3, dated 15 September 2020) and a national paper by Japan (EC-95/NAT.1, dated 15 September 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-95/4, dated 9 October 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-95/4, dated 9 October 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-95/4, dated 9 October 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-95/4, dated 9 October 2020).

The Council 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. (Quoted from EC-95/4, dated 9 October 2020).

Further to a 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 the Council's 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-96/NAT.4, dated 26 February 2021) and a national paper by Japan (EC-96/NAT.5, dated 5 March 2021) 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-96/2, dated 12 March 2021).

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-96/2, dated 12 March 2021).

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-96/2, dated 12 March 2021).

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-96/2, dated 12 March 2021).

The Council took note of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the overall progress of the destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China. (Quoted from EC-96/2, dated 12 March 2021).

Further to a 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-97/NAT.2, dated 16 June 2021) and a national paper by Japan (EC-97/NAT.3, dated 16 June 2021) 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-97/3, dated 8 July 2021).

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-97/3, dated 8 July 2021).

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-97/3, dated 8 July 2021).

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-97/3, dated 8 July 2021).

The Council 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 and the encouraging partial resumption of excavation, recovery operation and destruction operations since May 2021. (Quoted from EC-97/3, dated 8 July 2021).

4. Reference documents

- (a) National papers
 - (i) China: (EC-95/NAT.3, dated 15 September 2020; EC-96/NAT.4, dated 26 February 2021; and EC-97/NAT.2, dated 16 June 2021).
 - (ii) Japan: (EC-95/NAT.1, dated 15 September 2020; EC-96/NAT.5, dated 5 March 2021; and EC-97/NAT.3, dated 16 June 2021).
- (b) Reports by the Director-General: (EC-95/DG.25, dated 2 October 2020; EC-96/DG.16, dated 8 March 2021; and EC-97/DG.17, dated 30 June 2021).
- (c) Reports of the Executive Council: (EC-95/4, dated 9 October 2020; EC-96/2, dated 12 March 2021; and EC-97/3, dated 8 July 2021).

Annex

**ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES
AT ITS TWENTY-FIFTH 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 2020” (EC-95/DG.8 C-25/DG.6 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 2020: Article VII – Initial Measures” (EC-95/DG.9 C-25/DG.7 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 2020: Additional Measures for States Parties that Possess Industrial Facilities Which Are Declarable Under the Convention” (EC-95/DG.10 C-25/DG.8 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-95/DG.17 C-25/DG.10).

Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use

3. Further to a decision by the Council at its Ninety-Fourth Session entitled “Addressing the Possession and Use of Chemical Weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic” (EC-94/DEC.2, dated 9 July 2020) and the report of the Director-General on the implementation of that decision (EC-96/DG.1, dated 14 October 2020), the Conference considered and adopted a decision on the matter entitled “Addressing the Possession and Use of Chemical Weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic” (C-25/DEC.9, dated 21 April 2021).

Ensuring the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention

4. 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 2019 to 15 August 2020 (EC-95/DG.20 C-25/DG.12).

Advisory Board on Education and Outreach

5. The Conference considered and noted a Note by the Director General reporting on the activities of the ABEO covering the period from 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 (EC-95/DG.18 C-25/DG.11).

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

6. 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 2019 (EC-93/DG.8 C-25/DG.1, dated 11 February 2020).

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

7. 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).

Report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities

8. 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-Third Session in Response to Recommendations Made by the Executive Council” (EC-95/3 C-25/2). 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 had taken place since the cut-off date for the report.

Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2021, and all items pertaining to this budget

9. 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 2021, which the Council had submitted to it (C-25/DEC.7, dated 1 December 2020).

External Auditor’s report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2019

10. 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 and Corr.1), 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 2020 Financial Statements to the External Auditor

11. 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) 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).

Nomination of the External Auditor of the OPCW

12. At its Ninety-Fifth Session the Council considered a Note by the Director-General containing a summary of the nominations received in reply to the Director-General's Note S/1824/2020 (dated 17 January 2020), requesting nominations for the post of External Auditor of the OPCW (EC-94/DG.9), and requested the Director-General to forward it to the Conference at its Twenty-Fifth Session for its consideration. The Conference considered and noted the Note by the Director-General (C-25/DG.15*, dated 12 November 2020).

Scale of assessments for 2021

13. In accordance with Financial Regulation 3.6(b) of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, the Conference adopted 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).

Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions

14. In accordance with a decision by the Conference at its Twentieth Session (C-20/DEC.11, dated 3 December 2015), the Council at its Ninety-Fifth Session considered and adopted a decision to extend the Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions (EC-95/DEC.2), 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).

Cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2020

15. 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). 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

16. 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-95/DG.5 C-25/DG.5).

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2019

17. 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 OIO 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.

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

18. The Conference noted a Note by the Director-General on the Africa Programme (EC-95/DG.11 C-25/DG.9).

Committee on Relations with the Host Country

19. 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.

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