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5 – 8 October 2021

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ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE NINETY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 5 – 8 OCTOBER 2021

This revised annotated agenda¹ has been prepared by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) to guide and assist members of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) in their substantive preparations for its Ninety-Eighth Session. It lists the items of business for the session in the sequence in which they appear in the provisional agenda set for it (see agenda item two below).

1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

The Ninety-Eighth Session of the Council will be opened in The Hague by the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki of Morocco, at 10:00 on 5 October 2021.

2. AGENDA ITEM TWO – Adoption of the agenda

The Council is **requested** to consider and adopt the following agenda, which has been circulated under cover of EC-98/1 (dated 8 September 2021).

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Opening statement by the Director-General
4. Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on the activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues
5. General debate
6. Status of implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
 - (a) Reports by the Director-General on destruction-related issues
 - (b) Implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues

¹ This document is issued for information purposes only and does not supersede in any way the provisional agenda for the Ninety-Eighth Session of the Executive Council, or prejudice the outcome of its deliberations.



- (c) Elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme
 - (d) Other verification-related issues
 - (e) Destruction-related plans and facility agreements
 - (f) Verification Implementation Report for 2020
 - (g) Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use
 - (h) Status of implementation of Article VII
 - (i) Status of implementation of Article X
 - (j) Status of implementation of Article XI
 - (k) Status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons
 - (l) Progress made in the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention
7. Scientific Advisory Board
8. Countering chemical terrorism
9. Education and outreach
10. Administrative and financial matters:
- (a) Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
 - (b) Report of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
 - (c) Financial Statements of the OPCW and the External Auditor's report for the year ending 31 December 2020
 - (d) Submission of the 2021 Financial Statements to the External Auditor
 - (e) Status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor
 - (f) Recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and losses of assets
 - (g) Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise resource planning system
 - (h) Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2022–2023, and all items pertaining to this Budget, including relevant special funds and the cash deficit for 2019
 - (i) Extension of the special fund for OPCW special missions

- (j) Status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions
 - (k) Implementation of the amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward classification of posts during the period from 14 August 2020 to 13 August 2021
 - (l) Rehiring of inspectors
11. Update of the 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)
 12. The OPCW Programme for Africa
 13. Draft report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities
 14. Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference²
 15. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
 16. Appointment of the Director-General
 17. Any other business
 18. Adoption of the report
 19. Closure

3. AGENDA ITEM THREE – Opening statement by the Director-General

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

4. AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on the activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues

- 4.1 The Vice-Chairpersons and coordinators for clusters of issues will report to the Council on informal consultations held during the intersessional period: Ambassador Gudrun Lingner of Germany on chemical weapons issues; Ambassador Vidmantas Purlys of Lithuania on chemical industry and other Article VI issues; Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral of Ecuador on administrative and financial issues; and Ambassador Alireza Kazemi Abadi of the Islamic Republic of Iran on legal, organisational, and other issues.
- 4.2 The co-facilitators on organisational governance issues, Ambassador Matthew Neuhaus of Australia and Ambassador Laura Dupuy of Uruguay, will report to the Council on consultations held during the intersessional period.

² Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – General debate

With respect to the general debate, delegations are encouraged to refer to paragraphs 11.1 and 11.2 of the “Guidelines for the Delegates” circulated to the members of the Council under cover of the joint letter signed by the Chairperson of the Council and the Director-General on 27 September 2021.

6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – Status of implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention

Subitem 6(a): Reports by the Director-General on destruction-related issues

6.1 Further to a decision by the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011), the Council is **requested** to consider and note a report by the Director-General on the overall progress with respect to the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles (EC-98/DG.26, dated 29 September 2021).

6.2 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012), the Council is **requested** to consider and note a report by the Director-General on the overall progress of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons (EC-98/DG.27, dated 29 September 2021).

6.3 The Council is **requested** to consider and note a Note by the Director-General entitled “Schedule for Submission by Chemical Weapons Possessor States of the Reports on their Destruction Activities after the Extended Deadline of 29 April 2012” (EC-98/DG.8, dated 31 August 2021).

Subitem 6(b): Implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues

6.4 The Secretariat is expected to provide an update to the Council on its destruction-related verification activities (the presentations have been posted on the external server of the OPCW).

6.5 The States Parties concerned are expected to brief the Council on their destruction-related activities (presentations by the United States of America and Japan have been posted on the external server of the OPCW).

6.6 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the Council is **requested** to consider and note a national paper by the United States of America on the progress made towards the completion of the destruction of its chemical weapons, including information on measures to accelerate such progress, and identifying progress made since the last briefing in order to meet the planned completion date. This report is also to include reporting on any specific measures undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programme (EC-98/NAT.4, dated 14 September 2021).

6.7 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-98/NAT.5, dated 14 September 2021) and a national paper by Japan (EC-98/NAT.3, dated 17 September 2021) on the overall progress of the destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China have been circulated to the members of the Council.

- 6.8 The Council is **requested** to consider and note the information provided by the delegation of Latvia on its destruction-related verification activities (EC-98/NAT.2, dated 13 September 2021).

Subitem 6(c): Elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme

- 6.9 Further to its decision at its Eighty-Third Session (EC-83/DEC.5, dated 11 November 2016), the Council decided 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.
- 6.10 The Secretariat provided a briefing to the States Parties on 30 September 2021 on its activities related to the Syrian Arab Republic, including on the activities of the Declaration Assessment Team, the Fact-Finding Mission, and the Investigation and Identification Team.
- 6.11 The Council is **requested** to note reports by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme (EC-98/DG.1, dated 23 July 2021; EC-98/DG.6, dated 24 August 2021; and EC-98/DG.24, dated 24 September 2021).
- 6.12 The Council is **requested** to note national papers by the Syrian Arab Republic on the activities related to the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and their production facilities (EC-98/P/NAT.1, dated 16 July 2021; EC-98/P/NAT.2, dated 16 August 2021; and EC-98/P/NAT.3, dated 16 September 2021).
- 6.13 The Council is **requested** to note a Note by the Director-General entitled "Report on the Work of the Declaration Assessment Team" (EC-98/DG.28 and EC-98/HP/DG.2, both dated 30 September 2021).

Subitem 6(d): Other verification-related issues

- 6.14 The Secretariat is expected to provide an update to the Council on its other verification-related activities (the presentation has been posted on the external server of the OPCW).

Subitem 6(e): Destruction-related plans and facility agreements

- 6.15 The Secretariat has submitted to the Council 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-98/S/3, dated 24 September 2021).

6.16 The Council is **requested** to consider and approve the amendments to the aforementioned facility agreement with the United States of America (EC-98/DEC/CRP.5, dated 24 September 2021).

6.17 The Council is also **requested** to consider and approve amendments to the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility, Richmond, Kentucky, the United States of America (EC-98/DEC/CRP.4, dated 24 September 2021).

Subitem 6(f): Verification Implementation Report for 2020

6.18 The Council is **requested** to consider and note the Verification Implementation Report for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2020 (EC-98/HP/DG.1, dated 24 June 2021 and Add.1, dated 30 September 2021) and the Chairperson's summary of the informal consultations on it (EC-98/2, dated 4 October 2021).

Subitem 6(g): Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use

6.19 The Council is **requested** to note the regular report by the Director-General to the Council on progress made in the implementation of the decision of the Conference entitled "Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use" (C-SS-4/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2018) (EC-98/DG.22, dated 22 September 2021).

Subitem 6(h): Status of implementation of Article VII

6.20 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 is **requested** to note a report by the Director-General on the "Overview of the Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2021" (EC-98/DG.13 C-26/DG.11, dated 14 September 2021); a report by the Director-General on the "Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2021: Article VII – Initial Measures" (EC-98/DG.12 C-26/DG.10, dated 14 September 2021); and a report by the Director-General on the "Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2021: Additional Measures for States Parties that Possess Industrial Facilities Which are Declarable Under the Convention" (EC-98/DG.11 C-26/DG.9, dated 14 September 2021). The Council is also **requested** to submit the documents to the Conference at its Twenty-Sixth Session, along with its recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration.

Subitem 6(i): Status of implementation of Article X

6.21 The Council is **requested** to consider and note a report by the Director-General on the "Status of Implementation of Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 30 June 2021" (EC-98/DG.3, dated 13 August 2021 and Corr.1, dated 29 September 2021).

Subitem 6(j): Status of implementation of Article XI

- 6.22 The Council is **requested** to consider and note a report by the Director-General on the “Progress Made and Review of the Status of the Implementation of Article XI of the Chemical Weapons Convention” (EC-98/DG.9 C-26/DG.7, dated 2 September 2021).

Subitem 6(k): Status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons

- 6.23 The Conference at its Sixteenth Session endorsed a proposal for the establishment of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons and the establishment of a voluntary trust fund for this purpose (C-16/DEC.13, dated 2 December 2011). It requested the Director-General to report every two years, through the Council, to the Conference at its regular sessions on the status of implementation of this decision (paragraph 5 of C-16/DEC.13). The Council is **requested** to note the report by the Director-General on the status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons (EC-98/DG.19 C-26/DG.14, dated 21 September 2021).

Subitem 6(l): Progress made in the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention

- 6.24 The Council at its Twenty-Third Meeting adopted an action plan for the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “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.
- 6.25 The Council is **requested** to consider and note the annual report on the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention during the period from 16 August 2020 to 15 August 2021, which is being submitted to both the Council and the Conference (EC-98/DG.10 C-26/DG.8, dated 3 September 2021).

7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Scientific Advisory Board

- 7.1 The report of the Thirty-Second Session of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) (SAB-32/1, dated 17 June 2021) has been circulated to the members of the Council.
- 7.2 The Council is **requested** to note the response by the Director-General to the report of the Thirty-Second Session of the SAB (EC-98/DG.21, dated 22 September 2021).

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Countering chemical terrorism

The Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Terrorism, Ambassador Vusimuzi Philemon Madonsela of South Africa, is expected to brief the Council on the work of the OEWG during the intersessional period.

9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Education and outreach

The Council is **requested** to consider and note a Note by the Director-General on the activities of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach covering the period from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 (EC-98/DG.17 C-26/DG.13, dated 16 September 2021).

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Administrative and financial matters

Subitem 10(a): Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

- 10.1 A draft decision entitled “OPCW Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters – Rules of Procedure” (EC-92/DEC/CRP.1/Rev.1, dated 4 October 2019), co-sponsored by Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, was submitted to the Council for consideration and adoption.
- 10.2 Following the circulation of EC-92/DEC/CRP.1/Rev.1, the delegation of the Russian Federation submitted a draft decision containing amendments to that draft decision (EC-92/DEC/CRP.6, dated 4 October 2019).
- 10.3 Subsequently, the sponsoring delegations submitted a revision to the above-mentioned draft decision (EC-92/DEC/CRP.1/Rev.2, dated 10 October 2019).
- 10.4 The delegation of the Russian Federation withdrew its proposal through a note verbale dated 25 February 2020 and submitted new amendments on the matter (EC-93/DEC/CRP.2, dated 21 February 2020), together with an explanatory note to it (EC-93/NAT.3, dated 20 February 2020).
- 10.5 Subsequently, the sponsoring delegations submitted a revision to the above-mentioned draft decision (EC-92/DEC/CRP.1/Rev.3, dated 1 October 2020).
- 10.6 The delegation of the Russian Federation submitted new amendments to the above-mentioned draft decision and requested, through a note verbale dated 5 July 2021 (EC-97/NAT.5, dated 6 July 2021), the circulation of a document at the Ninety-Seventh Session of the Council.
- 10.7 The Council at its previous session decided to defer the matter until its next regular session.
- 10.8 The Council is **requested** to take appropriate action on the matter.

Subitem 10(b): Report of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

- 10.9 The Council is **requested** to consider and note the report of the Fifty-First Session of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF), which took place from 27 to 30 July 2021 (ABAF-51/1, dated 30 July 2021), and a Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-98/DG.18, dated 21 September 2021).

Subitem 10(c): Financial Statements of the OPCW and the External Auditor's report for the year ending 31 December 2020

- 10.10 The Council is **requested** to note the Financial Statements of the OPCW and the report of the External Auditor for the year ending 31 December 2020 (EC-98/DG.7 C-26/DG.6, dated 30 August 2021) and to forward them to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Sixth Session.
- 10.11 Mr Damian Brewitt, National Audit Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, is expected to make a statement on the report (the statement will be posted on the external server of the OPCW).

Subitem 10(d): Submission of the 2021 Financial Statements to the External Auditor

- 10.12 The Council is **requested** to note a Note by the Director-General entitled "Submission of the 2021 OPCW Financial Statements to the External Auditor" (EC-98/DG.20, dated 21 September 2021), to consider and adopt a draft decision on the matter (EC-98/DEC/CRP.1, dated 21 September 2021), and to transmit it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Sixth Session.

Subitem 10(e): Status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor

- 10.13 The Council is **requested** to consider and note a report on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor (EC-98/S/1, dated 7 September 2021).
- 10.14 The facilitator for this issue, Mr Nathaniel Haft of the United States of America, is expected to report to the Council on the consultations carried out during the intersessional period.

Subitem 10(f): Recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and losses of assets

- 10.15 The Council is **requested** to consider a Note by the Director-General on the recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and losses of assets, and to recommend that the Conference at its Twenty-Sixth Session approve these write-offs, totalling EUR 12,821.95 (EC-98/DG.2 C-26/DG.4, dated 26 July 2021).

Subitem 10(g): Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise resource planning system

- 10.16 Further to the 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 is **requested** to note a Note by the Director-General reporting on the status of implementation of the ERP system (EC-98/DG.23, dated 23 September 2021).

Subitem 10(h): Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2022–2023, and all items pertaining to this Budget, including relevant special funds and the cash deficit for 2019

- 10.17 Under this subitem the Secretariat circulated Notes by the Director-General entitled “Financial Status of the Special Fund for Cybersecurity, Business Continuity, and Physical Infrastructure Security” (EC-98/DG.15, dated 14 September 2021), and “Financial Status of the Special Fund for IT Infrastructure to Support Implementation of Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3” (EC-98/DG.25, dated 27 September 2021), which the Council is **requested** to note.
- 10.18 The co-facilitators for the budget, Mr Jerzy Gierasimiuk of Poland and Mr Matteo Fachinotti of Switzerland, are expected to report on the consultations held during the intersessional period.
- 10.19 In accordance with subparagraph 32(a) of Article VIII of the Convention, the Council is **requested** to consider the Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2022–2023 (EC-98/CRP.1/Rev.1, dated 4 October 2021) and to submit it, together with its recommendation (EC-98/DEC/CRP.8*, dated 4 October 2021), to the Conference at its Twenty-Sixth Session.
- 10.20 The Council is also **requested** to note that the final cash deficit for 2019 amounted to EUR 1.2 million, as stated in the report by the Director-General entitled “Financial Statements of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and Report of the External Auditor for the Year Ending 31 December 2020” (EC-98/DG.7 C-26/DG.6), and as reported to the ABAF at its Fifty-First Session (ABAF-51/1).
- 10.21 The Council is **requested** to consider and adopt a draft decision to suspend, on an exceptional basis, the application of Financial Regulation 6.3 in respect of the allocation among States Parties of cash surpluses in light of the cash deficit for the year 2019 and to review the treatment of future cash surpluses as and when such surpluses are determined (EC-98/DEC/CRP.3, dated 23 September 2021).

Subitem 10(i): Extension of the special fund for OPCW special missions

- 10.22 The Council is **requested** to note a Note by the Director-General entitled “Financial Status of the Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions” (EC-98/DG.16, dated 14 September 2021).
- 10.23 The Council is **requested** to consider and adopt a draft decision entitled “Extension of the Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions” (EC-98/DEC/CRP.2, dated 22 September 2021) and to transmit it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Sixth Session

Subitem 10(j): Status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions

- 10.24 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Eleventh Session (C-11/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2006), the Council is **requested** to consider and forward to the Conference at its Twenty-Sixth Session a Note by the Director-General reporting on the status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans (EC-98/DG.4* C-26/DG.5, dated 19 August 2021).

Subitem 10(k): Implementation of the amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward classification of posts during the period from 14 August 2020 to 13 August 2021

10.25 The Council is **requested** to note 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 2020 to 13 August 2021 (EC-98/DG.5, dated 19 August 2021).

Subitem 10(l): Rehiring of inspectors

10.26 At its Twenty-Fourth Session, the Conference adopted a decision on the rehiring of inspectors (C-24/DEC.10, dated 28 November 2019) and decided to review the implementation of this decision at its Twenty-Sixth Session, in 2021.

10.27 The Council is **requested** to consider and note an addendum to the report by the Director-General on the implementation of the tenure policy in 2020 (EC-97/DG.8/Add.1, dated 1 October 2021).

11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Update of the 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)

11.1 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 the Working Group on the Manner of Appointment of the External Auditor.

11.2 The Chairperson of the Working Group is expected to provide an update on its activities to the Council.

12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – The OPCW Programme for Africa

The Council is **requested** to consider and note a Note by the Director-General on the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (EC-98/DG.14 C-26/DG.12, dated 9 September 2021 and Corr.1, dated 27 September 2021).

13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Draft report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities

The Council is **requested** to consider and approve a draft report on the performance of its activities in the period from 13 July 2020 to 12 July 2021 (EC-98/CRP.2/Rev.1, dated 1 October 2021), and to submit it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Sixth Session.

14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference

At its Seventy-Third Session (paragraph 13.1 of EC-73/6, dated 19 July 2013), the Council requested the Director-General to submit to each regular session of the Council the updated version of the “Updated Matrix of Actionable Items Identified at the Third Review Conference”. The Council is **requested** to consider and note the updated Matrix (EC-98/S/2, dated 22 September 2021).

15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The Chairperson is expected to report to the Council on the status of the work of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Appointment of the Director-General

16.1 At its previous session, the Chairperson informed the Council that it would be requested at its Ninety-Eighth Session to adopt a decision on its recommendation to the Conference at its Twenty-Sixth Session on the appointment of the Director-General.

16.2 The Council is **requested** to approve a draft decision entitled “Recommendation to the Conference of the States Parties at its Twenty-Sixth Session on the Renewal of the Appointment of the Director-General” (EC-98/DEC/CRP.6, dated 28 September 2021).

17. AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Any other business

17.1 At previous sessions of the Council, Germany submitted working papers entitled “Proposal for an Executive Council Decision to Allow for Convening Executive Council Meetings or Sessions in Emergency Circumstances” (EC-96/WP.2, dated 26 February 2021 and EC-97/WP.1, dated 21 June 2021).

17.2 The Russian Federation submitted a working paper entitled “Response to German Proposal for a Possible Wording and Suggestions for the Draft Decision to Allow for Convening Executive Council Meetings or Sessions in Emergency Circumstances” (EC-98/WP.1, dated 6 August 2021).

17.3 Subsequently, a draft decision entitled “Allowing the Convening of Executive Council Meetings or Sessions in Extraordinary Circumstances” co-sponsored by Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Slovakia, was issued under the symbol EC-98/DEC/CRP.7 (dated 28 September 2021). An explanatory memorandum to this draft decision was also circulated (EC-98/NAT.6, dated 28 September 2021).

17.4 In accordance with Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, the Secretariat circulated a report by the Director-General on the financial, administrative, and programme and budget implications of the proposal (EC-98/DG.29, dated 1 October 2021).

17.5 The Council is **requested** to take appropriate action on the matter.

18. AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Adoption of the report

19. AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – Closure