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14 – 17 March 2023

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ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE 102ND SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 14 – 17 MARCH 2023

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 102nd 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 102nd Session of the Council will be opened in The Hague by the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Ziad M.D. Al Atiyah of Saudi Arabia, at 10:00 on 14 March 2023.

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-102/1 (dated 8 February 2023).

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
 - (c) Elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme

¹ This document is issued for information purposes only and does not supersede in any way the provisional agenda for the 102nd Session of the Executive Council, or prejudice the outcome of its deliberations.



- (d) Other verification-related issues
 - (e) Destruction-related plans and facility agreements
 - (f) Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use
 - (g) Timely submission of declarations under Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention
 - (h) Implementation by the Technical Secretariat in 2022 of the regime governing the handling of confidential information
7. OPCW Central Analytical Database
 8. Scientific Advisory Board
 9. Countering chemical terrorism
 10. Administrative and financial matters:
 - (a) Nominations for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
 - (b) Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
 - (c) Status of implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations
 - (d) Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise resource planning system
 - (e) Adjustment to the Director-General's gross salary
 11. The OPCW Programme for Africa
 12. Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference²
 13. Election of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council
 14. Update by the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference
 15. Provisional agenda for the Fifth Review Conference
 16. Report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
 17. Any other business
 18. Adoption of the report
 19. Closure

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

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

The Vice-Chairpersons and coordinators for clusters of issues are expected to report to the Council on informal consultations held during the intersessional period: Ambassador Konstantin Dimitrov of Bulgaria on chemical weapons issues; Ambassador Eniola Olaitan Ajayi of Nigeria on chemical industry and other Article VI issues; Ambassador Carmen María Gallardo de Hernández of El Salvador on administrative and financial issues; and Ambassador Giorgio Novello of Italy on legal, organisational, and other issues.

5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – General debate

With respect to the general debate, delegations should refer to paragraphs 7.1 to 7.3 of the “EC-102 Guidelines for Delegates”, circulated to all States Parties under cover of a joint letter signed on 16 February 2023 by the Chairperson of the Council and the Director-General.

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-102/DG.16, dated 10 March 2023).

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-102/DG.17, dated 10 March 2023).

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

6.3 The Secretariat is expected to provide updates to the Council on its destruction-related verification activities and on Article III-related submissions (the presentations have been posted on the external server of the OPCW).

6.4 The States Parties concerned are expected to brief the Council on their destruction-related activities.

- 6.5 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 achieved towards complete destruction of its chemical weapons stockpile, 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-102/NAT.2, dated 24 February 2023).
- 6.6 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6) and the destruction plan beyond the year 2022 for the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China (EC-101/DEC.2, dated 4 October 2022) attached as annex 3 to the Council's decision EC-67/DEC.6, a national paper by China (EC-102/NAT.3, dated 24 February 2023) and a national paper by Japan (EC-102/NAT.1, dated 21 February 2023) 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.

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

- 6.7 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.
- 6.8 The Council is **requested** to note reports by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme (EC-102/DG.1, dated 25 October 2022; EC-102/DG.2, dated 24 November 2022; EC-102/DG.3, dated 23 December 2022; EC-102/DG.4, dated 24 January 2023; and EC-102/DG.14, dated 24 February 2023).
- 6.9 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-102/P/NAT.1, dated 14 October 2022; EC-102/P/NAT.2, dated 15 November 2022; EC-102/P/NAT.3, dated 14 December 2022; EC-102/P/NAT.4, dated 16 January 2023; and EC-102/P/NAT.5, dated 17 February 2023).
- 6.10 The Council is **requested** to note a Note by the Director-General entitled "Report on the Work of the Declaration Assessment Team" (EC-102/HP/DG.1, dated 6 March 2023).
- 6.11 The Secretariat provided a briefing to the States Parties on 8 March 2023 on its activities related to the Syrian Arab Republic, including on the activities of the Declaration Assessment Team, the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria, and the Investigation and Identification Team.

Subitem 6(d): Other verification-related issues

- 6.12 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

- 6.13 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-102/S/3, dated 17 February 2023).
- 6.14 The Council is **requested** to consider and approve the amendments to the aforementioned facility agreement (EC-102/DEC/CRP.5, dated 17 February 2023).
- 6.15 The Council is also **requested** to consider and approve amendments to the above-mentioned agreed detailed plan for verification (EC-102/DEC/CRP.4, dated 17 February 2023).
- 6.16 The Secretariat has also submitted two Notes on modifications to the agreed detailed plan for verification (EC-102/S/1, dated 9 January 2023) and to the facility agreement (EC-102/S/2, dated 9 January 2023) 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.

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

- 6.17 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-102/DG.15, dated 27 February 2023).
- 6.18 The Secretariat circulated a Note entitled “Third 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’, Douma (Syrian Arab Republic) – 7 April 2018” (S/2125/2023, dated 27 January 2023), which has been provided to the Council and the United Nations Secretary-General for their consideration. The Secretariat provided a briefing on this matter to States Parties on 2 February 2023.

Subitem 6(g): Timely submission of declarations under Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention

- 6.19 Further to a decision by the Council at its Fifty-First Session (EC-51/DEC.1, dated 27 November 2007), the Council is **requested** to note a status report by the Director-General on the timely submission by States Parties of declarations under Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2022 (EC-102/DG.5, dated 24 January 2023).

Subitem 6(h): Implementation by the Technical Secretariat in 2022 of the regime governing the handling of confidential information

- 6.20 The Council is **requested** to consider and note a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Secretariat in 2022 (EC-102/DG.8 C-28/DG.1, dated 9 February 2023).

7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – OPCW Central Analytical Database

- 7.1 The Council is **requested** to consider 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-102/DG.6, dated 24 January 2023) and to adopt a draft decision on the matter (EC-102/DEC/CRP.1, dated 24 January 2023).
- 7.2 The Council is **requested** to consider 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-102/DG.7, dated 27 January 2023) and to adopt a draft decision on the matter (EC-102/DEC/CRP.2, dated 27 January 2023).

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Scientific Advisory Board

- 8.1 The report of the Thirty-Sixth Session of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) has been circulated to the members of the Council (SAB-36/1*, dated 29 September 2022).
- 8.2 The Council is **requested** to note the response by the Director-General to the report of the Thirty-Sixth Session of the SAB (EC-102/DG.13, dated 16 February 2023).

9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Countering chemical terrorism

- 9.1 The Council is **requested** to consider and note a Note by the Director-General on the status of the OPCW's contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts (EC-102/DG.12*, dated 16 February 2023).
- 9.2 The Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T), Ambassador Vusimuzi Philemon Madonsela of South Africa, is expected to brief the Council on the work of the OEWG-T during the intersessional period.

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Administrative and financial matters

Subitem 10(a): Nominations for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

- 10.1 The Council is **requested** to note a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF) (EC-102/S/6, dated 22 February 2023), and to appoint Ms Hollie Marie Mance of the United States of America for a second term with the ABAF, starting on 29 May 2023.
- 10.2 The Council is **requested** to note a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-102/S/7, dated 3 March 2023), and to appoint Mr Hamed Alinejad of the Islamic Republic of Iran to replace Mr Bahram Jamali, as of the date of Mr Alinejad's appointment by the Council.
- 10.3 The Council is **requested** to note a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-102/S/8, dated 8 March 2023), and to appoint Mr Muhammad Wasif of Pakistan to replace Ms Fatima Hamdia Tanweer, as of the date of Mr Wasif's appointment by the Council.

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

- 10.4 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.
- 10.5 The latest revision to the above-mentioned draft decision was submitted by the sponsoring delegations and issued under the symbol EC-92/DEC/CRP.1/Rev.5 (dated 13 March 2023).
- 10.6 The Council is **requested** to take appropriate action on the matter.

Subitem 10(c): Status of implementation of the External Auditor’s recommendations

- 10.7 The Council is **requested** to consider and note a report on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor (EC-102/S/4, dated 17 February 2023).
- 10.8 The facilitator for this issue, Ms Yoko Sakurai of Japan, is expected to report on the consultations carried out during the intersessional period (the report has been posted on the external server of the OPCW).

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

- 10.9 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-102/DG.10, dated 15 February 2023).

Subitem 10(e): Adjustment to the Director-General’s gross salary

- 10.10 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 is **requested** to adopt a draft decision adjusting the Director-General’s gross salary (EC-102/DEC/CRP.3, dated 27 January 2023).

11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – The OPCW Programme for Africa

The Council is **requested** to consider and note a Note by the Director-General on the sixth phase of the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (EC-102/DG.11, dated 16 February 2023).

12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – 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 “Matrix of Actionable Items Identified at the Third Review Conference”. The Council is **requested** to consider and note the updated Matrix (EC-102/S/5, dated 22 February 2023).

13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Election of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council

In accordance with Rule 6 of its Rules of Procedure, and with effect from 12 May 2023, the Council is **requested** to elect its new Chairperson for a term of office ending on 11 May 2024, and its new Vice-Chairpersons for the same period. The Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons shall be elected from among the representatives accredited to the Council.

14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Update by the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference

14.1 The Council at its Ninety-Ninth Session established the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference in accordance with paragraph 22 of Article VIII of the Convention (paragraph 16.2 of EC-99/2, dated 10 March 2022). The Council also established the Bureau of the Open-Ended Working Group.

14.2 The Chairperson of the Bureau of the Open-Ended Working Group, Ambassador Lauri Kuusing of Estonia, is expected to brief the Council on the activities of the Working Group.

14.3 Further to the end of mission of Ambassador Hidehisa Horinouchi of Japan, prior to the expiry of his term of office as Vice-Chairperson (Asian Group) of the Bureau of the Open-Ended Working Group, the Council is **requested** to welcome the appointment of Ambassador Hiroshi Minami of Japan as the new Vice-Chairperson from the Asian Group for the unexpired term of office of the Bureau.

15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – Provisional agenda for the Fifth Review Conference

In accordance with Rule 17 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Council is **requested** to draw up the provisional agenda for the Fifth Review Conference (EC-102/DG.9, dated 9 February 2023).

16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Report by 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.

17. AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Any other business

17.1 A draft decision entitled “Allowing the Convening of Executive Council Meetings or Sessions in Extraordinary Circumstances” was circulated to the Council at its Ninety-Eighth Session 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).

- 17.2 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).
- 17.3 The latest revision to the above-mentioned draft decision was issued under the symbol EC-98/DEC/CRP.7/Rev.3 (dated 13 March 2023), and is co-sponsored by Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, Germany, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania, Mexico, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Saudi Arabia, and Slovakia.
- 17.4 The Council is **requested** to take appropriate action on the matter.
- 18. AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Adoption of the report**
- 19. AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – Closure**

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