



103rd Session  
11 – 14 July 2023

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### **ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE 103RD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 11 – 14 JULY 2023**

This revised annotated agenda<sup>1</sup> 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 103rd 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 103rd Session of the Council will be opened in The Hague by the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Lucian Fătu of Romania, at 10:00 on 11 July 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-103/1/Rev.2 (dated 7 July 2023):

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Replacement of the Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Council from the Asian Group
4. Opening statement by the Director-General
5. Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on the activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues
6. General debate
7. Status of implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
  - (a) Reports by the Director-General on destruction-related issues

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<sup>1</sup> This document is issued for information purposes only and does not supersede in any way the provisional agenda for the 103rd Session of the Executive Council, or prejudice the outcome of its deliberations.



- (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
  - (d) Other verification-related issues
  - (e) Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use
  - (f) Timely submission of declarations under Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention
  - (g) Article VII: briefings by the facilitator and by the Technical Secretariat
  - (h) The content of the Protection and Assistance Databank and its use
  - (i) Article X: briefings by the facilitator and by the Technical Secretariat
  - (j) Article XI: briefings by the facilitator and by the Technical Secretariat
  - (k) Report by the Director-General on the Technical Secretariat's readiness to conduct a challenge inspection or an investigation of alleged use
8. Countering chemical terrorism
9. Draft annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2022
10. Reports of the Office of Internal Oversight:
- (a) Implementation in 2022 of the recommendations contained in the 2021 annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight
  - (b) Annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight for the period 1 January to 31 December 2022
11. Administrative and financial matters:
- (a) Report of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
  - (b) Transfers of funds during 2022
  - (c) Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise resource planning system
  - (d) Composition of the Technical Secretariat
  - (e) Implementation of the tenure policy
12. Follow-up to the Review Conferences<sup>2</sup>
13. Credentials of representatives of the members of the Executive Council

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

14. Provisional agenda for the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Conference of the States Parties
15. Dates for the regular sessions of the Executive Council in 2024
16. Any other business
17. Adoption of the report
18. Closure

**3. AGENDA ITEM THREE – Replacement of the Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Council from the Asian Group**

Further to the end of mission of Ambassador Nazar Issa Abdulhadi Al-Khirullah of Iraq prior to the expiry of his term of office as Vice-Chairperson of the Council from the Asian Group, the Council, in accordance with Rules 6 and 8 of its Rules of Procedure, is **requested** to elect a new Vice-Chairperson for the unexpired term of office until 11 May 2024.

**4. AGENDA ITEM FOUR – 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).

**5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on the activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues**

The Vice-Chairpersons and coordinators for clusters of issues will report to the Council on informal consultations held during the intersessional period: the Vice-Chairperson of the Asian Group on chemical weapons issues; Ambassador Eniola Olaitan Ajayi of Nigeria on chemical industry and other Article VI issues; Ambassador Paulo Roberto Caminha de Castilhos França of Brazil on administrative and financial issues; and Ambassador Giorgio Novello of Italy on legal, organisational, and other issues.

**6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – General debate**

With respect to the general debate, delegations should refer to paragraph 1.3 of the minutes of the Council Bureau meeting held on 22 June 2023 and the practical arrangements for the 103rd Session of the Council available online in the INDICO registration system (<https://indico.un.org/event/1005909/>).

**7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Status of implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention**

**Subitem 7(a): Reports by the Director-General on destruction-related issues**

- 7.1 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-103/DG.15, dated 3 July 2023).

- 7.2 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 in the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons (EC-103/DG.18, dated 7 July 2023).

**Subitem 7(b): Implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues**

- 7.3 The Secretariat is expected to provide an update to the Council on its destruction-related verification activities and on Article III-related submissions (the presentation has been posted on the external server of the OPCW).
- 7.4 The States Parties concerned are expected to brief the Council on their destruction-related activities.
- 7.5 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-103/NAT.2, dated 22 June 2023).
- 7.6 The Council is **requested** to consider and note the initial report of the visit by the Chairperson of the Council, the Director-General, and representatives of the Council to the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, Kentucky, the United States of America, from 12 to 14 June 2023 (EC-103/2, dated 7 July 2023).
- 7.7 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 Council decision EC-67/DEC.6, a national paper by China (EC-103/NAT.3, dated 28 June 2023) and a national paper by Japan (EC-103/NAT.1, dated 22 June 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 7(c): Elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme**

- 7.8 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.
- 7.9 The Council is **requested** to note reports by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme (EC-103/DG.2, dated 24 March 2023; EC-103/DG.3, dated 25 April 2023; EC-103/DG.6, dated 24 May 2023, and EC-103/DG.11, dated 23 June 2023).

- 7.10 The Council is **requested** to note the national papers by the Syrian Arab Republic on the activities related to the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and their production facilities (EC-103/P/NAT.1, dated 20 March 2023; EC-103/P/NAT.2, dated 15 April 2023; EC-103/P/NAT.3, dated 15 May 2023; and EC-103/P/NAT.4, dated 15 June 2023).
- 7.11 The Council is **requested** to note a Note by the Director-General entitled “Report on the Work of the Declaration Assessment Team” (EC-103/HP/DG.1, dated 6 July 2023).
- 7.12 The Secretariat circulated a Note by the Secretariat entitled “Report of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission Regarding Incidents of Alleged Use of Toxic Chemicals as a Weapon in Kharbit Massasneh, Syrian Arab Republic, on 7 July and 4 August 2017” (S/2186/2023, dated 28 June 2023).
- 7.13 The Secretariat provided a briefing to States Parties on 3 July 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 7(d): Other verification-related issues**

- 7.14 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).
- 7.15 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 is **requested** to note a Note by the Director-General on the results of the eleventh year of implementation of these policy guidelines (EC-103/DG.1, dated 24 March 2023).

**Subitem 7(e): Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use**

- 7.16 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-103/DG.13, dated 26 June 2023).

**Subitem 7(f): Timely submission of declarations under Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention**

- 7.17 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 for the period 1 January to 31 May 2023 (EC-103/DG.10, dated 16 June 2023).

**Subitem 7(g): Article VII: briefings by the facilitator and by the Technical Secretariat**

- 7.18 The Secretariat has circulated a presentation on the status of implementation of Article VII (the presentation has been posted on the external server of the OPCW).

**Subitem 7(h): The content of the Protection and Assistance Databank and its use**

7.19 The Council is **requested** to consider and note a Note by the Secretariat on the content of the Protection and Assistance Databank and its use (EC-103/S/2, dated 16 June 2023).

**Subitem 7(i): Article X: briefings by the facilitator and by the Technical Secretariat**

7.20 The Secretariat has circulated a presentation on the status of implementation of Article X (the presentation has been posted on the external server of the OPCW).

**Subitem 7(j): Article XI: briefings by the facilitator and by the Technical Secretariat**

7.21 The Secretariat has circulated a presentation on the programme of activities for 2023 in relation to Article XI (the presentation has been posted on the external server of the OPCW).

**Subitem 7(k): Report by the Director-General on the Technical Secretariat's readiness to conduct a challenge inspection or an investigation of alleged use**

7.22 The Council is **requested** to consider and note 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-103/DG.17, dated 6 July 2023).

**8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Countering chemical terrorism**

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.

**9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Draft annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2022**

The Council is **requested** to consider 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 2022” (EC-103/CRP.1, dated 27 June 2023), and to submit it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Eighth Session.

**10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Reports of the Office of Internal Oversight**

**Subitem 10(a): Implementation in 2022 of the recommendations contained in the 2021 annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight**

10.1 The Council is **requested** to consider and note a Note by the Director-General on the implementation in 2022 of the recommendations contained in the 2021 annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight (OIO) (EC-103/DG.7, dated 1 June 2023).

**Subitem 10(b): Annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight for the period 1 January to 31 December 2022**

10.2 The Council is **requested** to consider and note the annual report of the OIO for the period 1 January to 31 December 2022 (EC-103/DG.8 C-28/DG.3, dated 1 June 2023), which the Director-General has submitted to it, along with his comments. The Council is also **requested** to make any comments it deems appropriate on the report. In accordance with Financial Regulation 12.5, the Director-General will transmit the report to the Conference at its Twenty-Eighth Session, together with his own comments and any that the Council may deem appropriate.

**11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Administrative and financial matters**

**Subitem 11(a): Report of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters**

11.1 The Council is **requested** to consider and note the report of the Fifty-Fourth Session of the ABAF, which took place from 6 to 8 June 2023 (ABAF-54/1, dated 8 June 2023), and a Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-103/DG.16, dated 6 July 2023).

**Subitem 11(b): Transfers of funds during 2022**

11.2 The Council is **requested** to note a Note by the Director-General on transfers of funds during 2022 (EC-103/DG.5 C-28/DG.2, dated 31 May 2023).

**Subitem 11(c): Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise resource planning system**

11.3 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-103/DG.9, dated 12 June 2023).

**Subitem 11(d): Composition of the Technical Secretariat**

11.4 The Council is **requested** to note the Director-General's annual report on the composition of the Secretariat (EC-103/DG.12, dated 26 June 2023).

**Subitem 11(e): Implementation of the tenure policy**

11.5 The Council is **requested** to consider and note a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the tenure policy in 2022 (EC-103/DG.4, dated 8 May 2023).

**12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Follow-up to the Review Conferences**

12.1 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 document (EC-103/S/1, dated 13 June 2023).

- 12.2 A working paper entitled “Reflections by H.E. Ambassador Henk Cor van der Kwast Chairperson of the Fifth Review Conference on the Outcome of the Fifth Review Conference” was circulated under the symbol EC-103/WP.1 (dated 26 June 2023).
- 12.3 The Secretariat has circulated the following Notes by the Technical Secretariat: “OPCW Engagement with Civil Society: Discussion Paper” (EC-103/S/4, dated 10 July 2023) and “Report on Gender Equality and Parity at the OPCW Technical Secretariat” (EC-103/S/3, dated 10 July 2023).
- 12.4 Germany submitted a working paper entitled “Follow-up to the Fifth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention: Engagement with Civil Society” (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations).
- 12.5 A draft decision entitled “Establishment of a Working Group on Geographical Representation” was submitted by Chile on behalf of States Parties from Latin America and the Caribbean (EC-103/DEC/CRP.1, dated 10 July 2023). In accordance with Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, the Secretariat has circulated a report by the Director-General on the financial, administrative and programme and budget implications of the proposal (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations).

**13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Credentials of representatives of the members of the Executive Council**

The Council is **requested** to consider and approve a report by the Director-General on the credentials of representatives of members of the Council, which covers the credentials of the newly elected members of the Council (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations).

**14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Provisional agenda for the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Conference of the States Parties**

The Council is **requested** to draw up the provisional agenda for the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Conference (EC-103/DG.14, dated 29 June 2023).

**15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – Dates for the regular sessions of the Executive Council in 2024**

The Council is **requested** to consider dates for its regular sessions in 2024.

**16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Any other business**

**17. AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Adoption of the report**

**18. AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Closure**