



106th Session
9 – 12 July 2024

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REPORT OF THE 106TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

The Chairperson of the Executive Council (the Council), Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral of Ecuador, opened its 106th Session in The Hague at 10:06 on 9 July 2024.

2. AGENDA ITEM TWO – Adoption of the agenda

The Council **considered** and **adopted** the following agenda:

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
 - (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
7. Countering chemical terrorism
 8. Scientific Advisory Board
 9. Draft annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2023
 10. Reports of the Office of Internal Oversight:
 - (a) Implementation in 2023 of the recommendations contained in the 2022 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 2023
 11. Administrative and financial matters:
 - (a) Report of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
 - (b) Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
 - (c) Transfers of funds during 2023
 - (d) Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise resource planning system
 - (e) Composition of the Technical Secretariat
 - (f) Implementation of the tenure policy
 12. The OPCW Programme for Africa
 13. Follow-up to the Review Conferences¹
 14. Credentials of representatives of the members of the Executive Council
 15. Provisional agenda for the Twenty-Ninth Session of the Conference of the States Parties
 16. Draft report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities
 17. Dates for the regular sessions of the Executive Council in 2025

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

18. Any other business
19. Adoption of the report
20. Closure

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

The Council **noted** the opening statement by the Director-General (EC-106/DG.21, dated 9 July 2024).

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 reported to the Council on informal consultations held during the intersessional period: Ambassador Mutlaq bin Majed Al Qahtani of Qatar on chemical weapons issues; Ambassador Salima Abdelhak of Algeria on chemical industry and other Article VI issues; Ambassador Beti Jacheva of North Macedonia on administrative and financial issues; and Ambassador Giorgio Novello of Italy on legal, organisational, and other issues.
- 4.2 The Chairperson briefed the Council on his own activities during the intersessional period.
- 4.3 Mr Jerzy Gierasimiuk of Poland, the co-facilitator on the Programme and Budget of the OPCW, reported on the consultations during the intersessional period carried out with his co-facilitator, Mr Jorge Francisco de la Lama Rebollo of Mexico.
- 4.4 The Council **expressed appreciation** for the work done by the outgoing facilitators, Mr Frank Groome of Ireland, for his work as co-facilitator for the Programme and Budget of the OPCW, Ms Rebecca Kimbrell of the United States of America for her work as facilitator for the reports of the Office of Internal Oversight and the External Auditor, and Ms Fatima Hamdia Tanweer of Pakistan for her work as facilitator on the full implementation of Article XI. The Council **welcomed** the appointment during the intersessional period of Mr Jorge Francisco de la Lama Rebollo of Mexico as the new co-facilitator for the Programme and Budget of the OPCW.

5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – General debate

- 5.1 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: El Salvador (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group), Ghana (on behalf of the African Group), Hungary (observer) (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, and Ukraine), Uganda (observer) (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China), Algeria, Argentina, Australia (observer), Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of) (observer), Brazil, Canada (observer), Chile, China, Colombia (observer), Costa Rica (observer), Cuba (observer), the Czech Republic (observer), Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Guatemala, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq (observer), Ireland (observer), Italy, Japan, Latvia (observer), Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar (observer), the Netherlands (observer), New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway (observer), Pakistan, Panama (observer), Poland, Qatar, the

Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation (observer), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia (observer), South Africa, Spain, the State of Palestine (observer), Sweden (observer), Switzerland (observer), the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), Türkiye (observer), Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (observer).

- 5.2 The following delegations exercised their right of reply: Belgium, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lithuania, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Australia (observer), Canada (observer), the Czech Republic (observer), the Netherlands (observer), the Russian Federation (observer), and the Syrian Arab Republic (observer).

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 Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012), the Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the overall progress with respect to the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons (EC-106/DG.16, dated 1 July 2024).

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

- 6.2 The Technical Secretariat (the Secretariat) provided an update to the Council on its destruction-related verification activities and on Article III-related submissions made during the intersessional period (the presentations were posted on the external server of the OPCW).
- 6.3 The delegation of Japan briefed the Council on its destruction-related activities (the presentation was posted on the external server of the OPCW). The delegation of China also briefed the Council on its destruction-related activities (the presentation was posted on the external server of the OPCW), and made a further statement.
- 6.4 The following delegations made statements: Japan and the Syrian Arab Republic (observer).
- 6.5 The following delegations exercised their right of reply: China and Japan.
- 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 Council decision EC-67/DEC.6, a national paper by China (EC-106/NAT.3, dated 7 June 2024) and a national paper by Japan (EC-106/NAT.2, dated 10 June 2024) 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.

- 6.7 The Council **reaffirmed** the obligation to complete the destruction of all abandoned chemical weapons (ACW) in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the relevant decisions of the Council by recalling that the Abandoning State Party shall provide all necessary financial, technical, expert, facility as well as other resources and that the Territorial State Party shall provide appropriate cooperation, and **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 3 in a faithful manner, and to address challenges including ensuring the safety of people and protecting the environment.
- 6.8 The Council **recalled** that the Destruction Plan Beyond the Year 2022 for the Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People's Republic of China (EC-101/DEC.2) stipulated the common recognition regarding the destruction of ACW with the Mobile Destruction Facility, the destruction of ACW in Haerbaling (Jilin Province), the destruction of other ACW, including consultation in making a medium- to long-term plan for the excavation of ACW, and the consolidation of ACW storehouses, continuing to use its best efforts to collect and provide information on traces of ACW by the Abandoning State Party and continuing to hold consultations, and that the relevant States Parties jointly affirmed that they would accelerate in all aspects the destruction process and that their best efforts will be used towards the completion of the destruction of ACW as early as possible.
- 6.9 The Council **recalled** that the review of the destruction of ACW 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 of the States Parties (the Conference), and the Review Conference with regard to the issues related to ACW 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 and **noted** the constructive discussion related to this issue at the Fifth Review Conference.
- 6.10 The Council **welcomed** that a total of seven on-site inspections to the ACW facilities had been successfully conducted in 2024. The Council **welcomed** the joint invitation by China and Japan to the Chairperson of the Council, the Director-General, and a delegation representing the Council to visit the ACW sites in Mudanjiang and Haerbaling in September 2024.

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

- 6.11 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.
- 6.12 As stated in Note by the Director-General EC-81/DG.5 (dated 25 January 2016), all of the chemicals declared by the Syrian Arab Republic that had been removed from its territory in 2014 have been destroyed. The Secretariat has also verified the destruction of all 27 chemical weapons production facilities declared by the Syrian Arab Republic (EC-89/DG.1, dated 24 July 2018).

- 6.13 The Secretariat provided a briefing to States Parties on 2 July 2024 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.
- 6.14 The Council **noted** four reports by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme (EC-106/DG.2, dated 25 March 2024; EC-106/DG.5, dated 24 April 2024; EC-106/DG.7, dated 24 May 2024; and EC-106/DG.14, dated 24 June 2024).
- 6.15 The Council **noted** four national papers by the Syrian Arab Republic on the activities related to the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and their production facilities (EC-106/P/NAT.1, dated 15 March 2024; EC-106/P/NAT.2, dated 15 April 2024; EC-106/P/NAT.3, dated 15 May 2024; and EC-106/P/NAT.4, dated 14 June 2024).
- 6.16 The following delegations made statements: Hungary (observer) (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, and Ukraine), the United States of America, France, China, Denmark (on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden), Italy, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Belgium, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), the Russian Federation (observer), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (observer), Austria (observer), and Cuba (observer).
- 6.17 The following delegations exercised their right of reply: the United States of America and the Syrian Arab Republic (observer).
- 6.18 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General entitled “Report on the Work of the Declaration Assessment Team” (EC-106/HP/DG.1, dated 4 July 2024).
- 6.19 The Secretariat circulated a Note by the Secretariat entitled “Report of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria regarding Incidents of Alleged Use of Toxic Chemicals as a Weapon in Qalib Al-Thawr, Al-Salamiyah, on 9 August 2017, and Al-Balil, Souran, on 8 November 2017, in Hama Governorate, the Syrian Arab Republic” (S/2295/2024, dated 11 June 2024).

Subitem 6(d): Other verification-related issues

- 6.20 The Secretariat updated the Council on its other verification-related activities (the presentation was posted on the external server of the OPCW).
- 6.21 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 **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the results of the twelfth year of implementation of these policy guidelines (EC-106/DG.1, dated 15 March 2024).

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

- 6.22 The Council **noted** 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-106/DG.15, dated 27 June 2024).
- 6.23 The following delegations made statements: India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, China, Ukraine, France, Qatar, the United States of America, Algeria, the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (observer), Canada (observer) (on behalf of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand), and the Russian Federation (observer).
- 6.24 The following delegations exercised their right of reply: Iran (Islamic Republic of), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Australia (observer) (on behalf of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand), and the Syrian Arab Republic (observer).
- 6.25 The following delegations made statements on other issues under this agenda item: Hungary (observer) (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, and Ukraine), Germany, New Zealand (on behalf of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand), France, Italy, Japan, Ukraine, China, Denmark (on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden), Poland, Lithuania, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the Russian Federation (observer), Austria (observer), and the Syrian Arab Republic (observer).
- 6.26 The following delegations exercised their right of reply: Germany, New Zealand, Ukraine, Estonia (observer), and the Russian Federation (observer).
- 6.27 Upon the request of the delegation of the Russian Federation, Note Verbale No. 21 (dated 7 March 2024) was circulated to the members of the Council (EC-106/NAT.1, dated 7 March 2024).
- 6.28 Upon the request of the delegation of Germany, on behalf of Albania, Canada, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, Note Verbale No. 26/2024 (dated 1 July 2024) was circulated to the members of the Council (EC-106/NAT.4, dated 1 July 2024).
- 6.29 Upon the request of the delegation of the Russian Federation, Note Verbale No. 40 (dated 10 July 2024) was circulated to the members of the Council (EC-106/NAT.6, dated 10 July 2024).

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

- 6.30 Further to a decision by the Council at its Fifty-First Session (EC-51/DEC.1, dated 27 November 2007), the Council **noted** 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 2024 (EC-106/DG.11, dated 17 June 2024).

Subitem 6(g): Article VII: Briefings by the facilitator and by the Technical Secretariat

6.31 The Secretariat circulated a presentation on the status of implementation of Article VII (the presentation was posted on the external server of the OPCW).

Subitem 6(h): The content of the Protection and Assistance Databank and its use

6.32 The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Secretariat on the content of the Protection and Assistance Databank and its use (EC-106/S/1, dated 13 June 2024).

Subitem 6(i): Article X: Briefings by the facilitator and by the Technical Secretariat

6.33 The Secretariat circulated a presentation on the status of implementation of Article X (the presentation was posted on the external server of the OPCW).

6.34 The facilitator for this issue, Ms Martina Filippiová of the Czech Republic, reported on the consultations carried out during the intersessional period (the report was posted on the external server of the OPCW).

Subitem 6(j): Article XI: Briefings by the facilitator and by the Technical Secretariat

6.35 The Secretariat circulated a presentation on the programme of activities for 2024 in relation to Article XI (the presentation was posted on the external server of the OPCW).

Subitem 6(k): Report by the Director-General on the Technical Secretariat's readiness to conduct a challenge inspection or an investigation of alleged use

6.36 The Council **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-106/DG.17, dated 2 July 2024).

7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Countering chemical terrorism

7.1 The Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T), Ambassador Vusimuzi Philemon Madonsela of South Africa, briefed the Council on the work of the OEWG-T during the intersessional period (EC-106/WP.1, dated 11 July 2024).

7.2 The following delegations made statements: the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United States of America, Algeria, the Russian Federation (observer), Canada (observer) (on behalf of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand), and the Syrian Arab Republic (observer).

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Scientific Advisory Board

- 8.1 The report of the Thirty-Eighth Session of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) (SAB-38/1, dated 31 May 2024) was circulated to the members of the Council.
- 8.2 The following delegations made statements: Brazil, Germany, and China.
- 8.3 The Council **noted** the response by the Director-General to the report of the Thirty-Eighth Session of the SAB (EC-106/DG.19, dated 4 July 2024).

9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Draft annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2023

- 9.1 The Council **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 2023” (EC-106/CRP.2, dated 20 June 2024).
- 9.2 The following delegations made statements: the Islamic Republic of Iran, China, the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), the Russian Federation (observer), and Hungary (observer) (on behalf of the European Union).
- 9.3 The Council **submitted** the draft report of the OPCW (EC-106/CRP.2) to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Ninth Session.
- 9.4 The delegations of the Islamic Republic of Iran and China dissociated themselves from the submission to the Conference of the above-mentioned draft report in its current form.
- 9.5 The Director-General made a statement.

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

- 10.1 The facilitator for the reports of the Office of Internal Oversight and the External Auditor, Ms Rebecca Kimbrell of the United States of America, reported to the Council on the consultations carried out during the intersessional period (the report was posted on the external server of the OPCW).

Subitem 10(a): Implementation in 2023 of the recommendations contained in the 2022 annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight

- 10.2 The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight in 2023 (EC-106/DG.4, dated 17 April 2024).

Subitem 10(b): Annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight for the period 1 January to 31 December 2023

- 10.3 The Council **considered** and **noted** the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight for the period 1 January to 31 December 2023 (EC-106/DG.6 C-29/DG.3, dated 24 April 2024), which the Director-General has submitted to it, along with his comments. In accordance with Financial Regulation 12.5, the Director-General transmitted the report, along with his own comments and any other comments made by the Council, to the Conference at its Twenty-Ninth Session.

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 **considered** and **noted** the report of the Fifty-Sixth Session of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF), which took place from 4 to 6 June 2024 (ABAF-56/1, dated 6 June 2024), and a Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-106/DG.18, dated 4 July 2024).

Subitem 11(b): Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

11.2 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.

11.3 The latest revision to the above-mentioned draft decision (EC-92/DEC/CRP.1/Rev.7, dated 10 July 2024), co-sponsored by Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, was circulated to the members of the Council.

11.4 The following delegations made statements: China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United States of America, Brazil, Japan, and New Zealand.

11.5 The Council **decided** to defer the matter until a future regular session.

Subitem 11(c): Transfers of funds during 2023

11.6 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General on transfers of funds during 2023 (EC-106/DG.3/Rev.1 C-29/DG.2/Rev.1, dated 25 June 2024).

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

11.7 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 **noted** a Note by the Director-General reporting on the status of implementation of the ERP system (EC-106/DG.10, dated 17 June 2024).

Subitem 11(e): Composition of the Technical Secretariat

11.8 The Council **noted** the Director-General’s annual report on the composition of the Secretariat (EC-106/DG.13, dated 20 June 2024).

Subitem 11(f): Implementation of the tenure policy

- 11.9 The Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the tenure policy in 2023 (EC-106/DG.8 C-29/DG.4, dated 3 June 2024).

12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – The OPCW Programme for Africa

- 12.1 The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (EC-106/DG.9 C-29/DG.5, dated 17 June 2024).

- 12.2 The following delegations made statements: Ghana (on behalf of the African Group), the United States of America, Algeria, Germany, France, Morocco, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada (observer), and the Czech Republic (observer).

13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Follow-up to the Review Conferences

- 13.1 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).

OPCW engagement with civil society

- 13.2 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” at the 103rd Session of the Council (EC-103/WP.2, dated 4 July 2023).

- 13.3 The delegations of Germany and Costa Rica updated the Council on the ongoing consultations on engagement with civil society.

- 13.4 The following delegations made statements: China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, New Zealand (on behalf of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand), the Russian Federation (observer), the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (observer), and Sweden (observer).

- 13.5 The Council **took note** of the continuing consultations regarding the engagement with civil society.

Other issues

- 13.6 The delegations of Mexico and Ghana made a joint statement on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

- 13.7 The delegation of Chile also made a statement.

14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Credentials of representatives of the members of the Executive Council

The Council **considered** and **approved** 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 (EC-106/DG.20, dated 10 July 2024).

15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – Provisional agenda for the Twenty-Ninth Session of the Conference of the States Parties

The Council **drew up** the provisional agenda for the Twenty-Ninth Session of the Conference (EC-106/DG.12, dated 19 June 2024).

16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Draft report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities

The Council **considered** and **approved** a report on the performance of its activities in the period from 15 July 2023 to 11 May 2024 (EC-106/3 C-29/2, dated 9 July 2024), and **submitted** it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Ninth Session.

17. AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Dates for the regular sessions of the Executive Council in 2025

The Council **decided** that the 108th Session of the Council shall be held from 4 to 7 March 2025, that the 109th Session of the Council shall be held from 8 to 11 July 2025, and that the 110th Session of the Council shall be held from 7 to 10 October 2025.

18. AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Any other business

Artificial intelligence

18.1 The Secretariat circulated a Note by the Secretariat entitled “Artificial Intelligence and the OPCW: A Meeting with Experts” (S/2289/2024, dated 23 May 2024).

18.2 The Director-General made a statement.

18.3 The following delegations made statements: Hungary (observer) (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, and Ukraine), Germany, Morocco, the United States of America, Mexico (on behalf of Mexico, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Türkiye, and Australia (MIKTA)), India, China, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Spain, Italy, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Ghana, Saudi Arabia, and the Russian Federation (observer).

18.4 The Council **decided** to include an agenda item on emerging technologies on the agenda of all future regular sessions of the Council.

Other issues

18.5 The delegations of Brazil and Australia (observer) (on behalf of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand) made statements on other issues under this agenda item.

19. AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – Adoption of the report

The Council **considered** and **adopted** the report of its 106th Session.

20. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY – Closure

The Chairperson closed the session at 13:57 on 12 July 2024.

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