# **Executive Council**



OPCW

108th Session 4 - 7 March 2025 EC-108/5 7 March 2025 Original: ENGLISH

## **REPORT OF THE 108TH 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 the 108th Session of the Council in The Hague at 10:11 on 4 March 2025.

#### 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) 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) Status of implementation of Article X
  - (i) Implementation by the Technical Secretariat in 2024 of the regime governing the handling of confidential information

- 7. Countering chemical terrorism
- 8. Emerging technologies
- 9. Administrative and financial matters:
  - (a) Nominations for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
  - (b) Status of implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations
  - (c) Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise resource planning system
  - (d) Adjustment to the Director-General's gross salary
- 10. Education and outreach
- 11. Follow-up to the Review Conferences<sup>1</sup>
- 12. Election of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council
- 13. Report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
- 14. Appointment of the Director-General
- 15. Any other business
- 16. Adoption of the report
- 17. Closure

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

The Council **noted** the opening statement by the Director-General (EC-108/DG.16, dated 4 March 2025).

# 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Review Conference = Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

4.3 The following facilitators also reported on the consultations that had been carried out during the intersessional period: Mr Paul Neville of the United States of America on the reports of the Office of Internal Oversight and the External Auditor; Ms Sandra Rodríguez of Peru on the progress report on the implementation of obligations under Article VII; and Ms Lucía Rodríguez Fetzer of Guatemala on the implementation of the Action Plan for the Universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention).

### 5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – General debate

- 5.1 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: Guatemala (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group), Poland (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, and Ukraine), South Africa (on behalf of the African Group), Uganda (observer) (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China), Algeria, Argentina, Australia (observer), Austria (observer), Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada (observer), Chile, China, Colombia (observer), Costa Rica (observer), Cuba (observer), the Czech Republic (observer), Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia (observer), Finland (observer), France, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Hungary (observer), India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland (observer), Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway (observer), Pakistan, Panama (observer), the Philippines (observer), Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation (observer), Saudi Arabia, Slovenia (observer), South Africa, Spain, the State of Palestine (observer), the Sudan (observer), Sweden (observer), Switzerland (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: the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ukraine, Austria (observer), and the Russian Federation (observer).
- 5.3 The Director-General made a statement.
- 5.4 The Council was addressed by H.E. Mr Asaad Hasan al-Shaibani, caretaker Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic (EC-108/4, dated 5 March 2025). This is without prejudice to positions of members of the Council on recognition of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.

# 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-108/DG.11, dated 26 February 2025).

# 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 delegations of Japan and China briefed the Council on their destruction-related activities (the presentation by Japan was posted on the external server of the OPCW).
- 6.4 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-108/NAT.3, dated 10 February 2025) and a national paper by Japan (EC-108/NAT.2, dated 7 February 2025) 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.
- 6.5 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, **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.
- 6.6 The Council **recalled** that the destruction plan beyond the year 2022 for the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in 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.
- 6.7 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<sup>\*</sup>, 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.

- 6.8 The Council **welcomed** that a total of 13 on-site inspections to the ACW facilities had been successfully conducted in 2024.
- 6.9 The Council **considered** and **noted** the final report of the Chairperson of the Council on the visit by the Chairperson, the Director-General, and members and observers of the Council to the Mudanjiang and Haerbaling ACW sites in China from 18 to 22 September 2024 (EC-108/3, dated 27 February 2025) at the joint invitation of China and Japan, and **expressed its appreciation** for the first-hand information that was obtained through the visit on the progress, difficulties, and challenges in the process of excavation, recovery, and destruction of ACW and the bilateral cooperation of the relevant States Parties.

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

- 6.10 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.
- 6.11 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).
- 6.12 At its Sixty-Sixth Meeting, the Council noted a Note by the Secretariat (EC-M-66/S/1, dated 9 December 2024) circulating Note Verbale NO. NV/ODG-636/24 addressed to the Permanent Representation of the Syrian Arab Republic to the OPCW on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic in relation to the Syrian chemical weapons programme. The Council decided to remain seized of the matter.
- 6.13 The Secretariat circulated a Note entitled "Summary Update of the Activities Carried out by the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria" (S/2344/2024, dated 6 December 2024).
- 6.14 The Council **noted** five reports by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme (EC-108/DG.1, dated 25 October 2024; EC-108/DG.2, dated 25 November 2024; EC-108/DG.3, dated 24 December 2024; EC-108/DG.4, dated 24 January 2025; and EC-108/DG.10, dated 24 February 2025).
- 6.15 The Council **noted** two national papers by the Syrian Arab Republic on the activities related to the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and their production facilities (EC-108/P/NAT.1, dated 15 October 2024; and EC-108/P/NAT.2, dated 15 November 2024).
- 6.16 The Secretariat also circulated a Note entitled "The Situation in the Syrian Arab Republic in Relation to the Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme and the Way Forward" (S/2376/2025, dated 26 February 2025).

- 6.17 The following delegations made statements: Poland (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Türkiye, and Ukraine), Denmark (on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden), the United States of America, Mexico, Spain, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, China, Germany, Ukraine, Guatemala, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Chile, Algeria, Türkiye (observer), the Czech Republic (observer), Canada (on behalf of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand), the Russian Federation (observer), Bosnia and Herzegovina (observer), Austria (observer), the Netherlands (observer), and Qatar.
- 6.18 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General entitled "Report on the Work of the Declaration Assessment Team" (EC-108/DG.13, dated 28 February 2025).

#### Subitem 6(d): Other verification-related issues

6.19 The Secretariat updated the Council on its other verification-related activities (the presentation was posted on the external server of the OPCW).

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

- 6.20 The Secretariat submitted to the Council a Note on amendments and modifications to the arrangement for the destruction at the abandoned chemical weapons mobile destruction facility of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of the People's Republic of China (EC-108/S/5, dated 20 February 2025).
- 6.21 The Council **considered** and **approved** the amendments to the aforementioned arrangement (EC-108/DEC.1, dated 5 March 2025).
- 6.22 The Secretariat also submitted to the Council a Note on amendments to the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction at the abandoned chemical weapons mobile destruction facility of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of the People's Republic of China (EC-108/S/4, dated 20 February 2025).
- 6.23 The Council **considered** and **approved** the amendments to the above-mentioned agreed detailed plan for verification (EC-108/DEC.2, dated 5 March 2025).

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

- 6.24 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-108/DG.14, dated 3 March 2025).
- 6.25 The delegation of Australia (observer) (on behalf of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand) made a statement under this agenda item.
- 6.26 The following delegations made statements on other issues under this agenda item: Poland (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, and Ukraine), Ukraine, the United States of America,

Germany, France, Denmark (on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden), Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, China, Italy, New Zealand (on behalf of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand), Lithuania, Belgium, the Russian Federation (observer), the Czech Republic (observer), and the Netherlands (observer).

- 6.27 The Director-General made a statement.
- 6.28 Upon the request of the delegation of the Russian Federation, Note Verbale No. 77 (dated 13 December 2024) (EC-108/NAT.1, dated 13 December 2024), Note Verbale No. 9 (dated 25 February 2025) (EC-108/NAT.6, dated 25 February 2025), Notes Verbales No. 10 and No. 11 (both dated 26 February 2025) (EC-108/NAT.4 and EC-108/NAT.5, both dated 26 February 2025), and Note Verbale No. 15 (dated 3 March 2025) (EC-108/NAT.7, dated 3 March 2025) were circulated to the members of the Council.
- 6.29 The Secretariat circulated Note Verbale No. NV/ODG-644/24 (dated 19 December 2024) (EC-108/S/1, dated 19 December 2024), Note Verbale No. NV/ODG-666/25 (dated 28 February 2025) (EC-108/S/6, dated 28 February 2025), and Note Verbale NV/ODG-667/25 (dated 7 March 2025) (EC-108/S/7, dated 7 March 2025).

# Subitem 6(g): 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 Convention for the period 1 January to 31 December 2024 (EC-108/DG.5, dated 29 January 2025).

### Subitem 6(h): Status of implementation of Article X

- 6.31 The Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the "Status of Implementation of Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 December 2024" (EC-108/DG.8, dated 14 February 2025).
- 6.32 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).
- 6.33 The delegation of Argentina made a statement.

# Subitem 6(i): Implementation by the Technical Secretariat in 2024 of the regime governing the handling of confidential information

6.34 The Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Secretariat in 2024 (EC-108/DG.6 C-30/DG.1, dated 4 February 2025).

### 7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Countering chemical terrorism

- 7.1 The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the status of the OPCW's contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts (EC-108/DG.12, dated 27 February 2025).
- 7.2 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-108/WP.1, dated 6 March 2025).
- 7.3 The following delegations made statements: Japan, China, Morocco, Algeria, France, and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

### 8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Emerging technologies

- 8.1 The "Global Conference on the Role of Artificial Intelligence in Advancing the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention" was held in Rabat, Morocco from 22 to 24 October 2024.
- 8.2 The Secretariat circulated a Note entitled "Global Conference on the Role of Artificial Intelligence in Advancing the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention: A Path Forward" (S/2360/2025, dated 29 January 2025).
- 8.3 The following delegations made statements: Poland (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, Türkiye, and Ukraine), Morocco, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Germany, the Islamic Republic of Iran, China, India, France, Pakistan, the Russian Federation (observer), and Bosnia and Herzegovina (observer).

### 9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Administrative and financial matters

# Subitem 9(a): Nominations for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

9.1 The Council **noted** a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (EC-108/S/2, dated 27 January 2025), and **appointed** Mr Muhammad Junaid of Pakistan to replace Mr Muhammad Wasif of Pakistan, as of 4 March 2025.

# Subitem 9(b): Status of implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations

- 9.2 The Council **considered** and **noted** a report on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor (EC-108/S/3, dated 20 February 2025).
- 9.3 The facilitator for this issue, Mr Paul Neville 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 9(c): Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise resource planning system

9.4 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-108/DG.9, dated 20 February 2025).

#### Subitem 9(d): Adjustment to the Director-General's gross salary

9.5 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 **adopted** a decision adjusting the Director-General's gross salary and allowances (EC-108/DEC.3, dated 5 March 2025).

#### **10.** AGENDA ITEM TEN – Education and outreach

- 10.1 The Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General reviewing the operation of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach for the period 2022 to 2024 (EC-108/DG.7, dated 14 February 2025).
- 10.2 The delegation of Argentina made a statement.

### 11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Follow-up to the Review Conferences

11.1 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 to the Council at its 103rd Session under the symbol EC-103/WP.1 (dated 26 June 2023).

#### **Organisational governance**

- 11.2 At its Twenty-Eighth Session, the Conference adopted a decision entitled "Amendment of the OPCW Tenure Policy" (C-28/DEC.10, dated 30 November 2023) providing the Director-General the authority to issue, for up to 10 staff members, one-year contract extensions, for a period of no more than three years beyond the seven-year total length of service otherwise provided for in Staff Regulations 4.4(b) and 4.4(d).
- 11.3 At the Twenty-Ninth Session of the Conference, upon request of the delegations of New Zealand and Mexico, a paper entitled "Amendment of the OPCW Tenure Policy to Allow Rehiring on an Exceptional Basis" was circulated (C-29/WP.2, dated 25 November 2024).
- 11.4 At the same session, the Chairperson of the Conference concluded that "the Conference had exhausted its discussions on this matter and that it would not adopt a decision during this session. Accordingly, it will be for the Council, at its next session, to decide on this matter. The Conference agreed to such conclusion" (paragraph 22.13 of C-29/5 (dated 29 November 2024) and Corr.1 (dated 19 December 2024)).

- 11.5 The Council **considered** a draft decision entitled "Amendment of the OPCW Tenure Policy to Allow Rehiring on an Exceptional Basis" (EC-108/DEC/CRP.4, dated 24 February 2025), circulated upon the request of the delegations of New Zealand and Mexico.
- 11.6 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-108/DG.15, dated 4 March 2025).
- 11.7 The following delegations made statements: Mexico, Brazil, Guatemala, India, Algeria, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Bangladesh, Japan, China, Chile, France, the United States of America, Denmark, Morocco, Ghana, Spain, New Zealand, the Russian Federation (observer), the Czech Republic (observer), and the Netherlands (observer).
- 11.8 The Council **adopted** the decision (EC-108/DEC.4, dated 6 March 2025).
- 11.9 The delegation of Argentina made a statement.

# 12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Election of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council

- 12.1 In accordance with Rule 6 of its Rules of Procedure, and with effect from 12 May 2025, the Council **elected** Ambassador Thomas Schieb of Germany as its new Chairperson for a term of office ending on 11 May 2026, and its new Vice-Chairpersons for the same period: Ambassador Mohamed Basri of Morocco; Ambassador Hadi Farajvand of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Ambassador Margareta Kassangana of Poland; and Ambassador Jorge Carvajal of Chile.
- 12.2 The delegation of Germany made a statement.
- 12.3 The delegations of the United States of America and Argentina dissociated themselves from the consensus with regard to the election of the Islamic Republic of Iran as a Vice-Chairperson of the Council.
- 12.4 The following delegations made statements: the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation (observer).

# **13.** AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The Chairperson reported to the Council on the status of the work of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

#### 14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Appointment of the Director-General

- 14.1 In accordance with subparagraph 21(d) and paragraph 43 of Article VIII of the Convention, the Director-General of the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons shall be appointed by the Conference upon the recommendation of the Council for a term of four years, renewable for one further term, but not thereafter.
- 14.2 At its Twenty-Sixth Session, the Conference considered and adopted a decision renewing the appointment of the present Director-General for one further term of four years beginning on 25 July 2022 and ending on 24 July 2026 (C-26/DEC.9, dated 30 November 2021).
- 14.3 The Chairperson of the Council issued a Note entitled "Road Map for the Process of the Appointment of the Next Director-General in 2025" (EC-108/2, dated 7 February 2025).
- 14.4 Pursuant to Rule 48 of its Rules of Procedure, and considering that the Thirtieth Session will be the last regular session of the Conference before the expiry of the term of the present Director-General, the Council **considered** and **adopted** a decision on this matter (EC-108/DEC.5, dated 6 March 2025).
- 14.5 The delegation of the Russian Federation (observer) made a statement.

### 15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – Any other business

The delegation of the Republic of Korea (on behalf of Mexico, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Türkiye, and Australia (MIKTA)) made a statement.

#### 16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Adoption of the report

The Council **considered** and **adopted** the report of its 108th Session.

### 17. AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Closure

The Chairperson closed the session at 15:32 on 7 March 2025.

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