



109th Session
8 – 11 July 2025

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NOTE BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**REPORT ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE PROCESS
OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE NEXT DIRECTOR-GENERAL
AND PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE INFORMAL SITTING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON 7 JULY 2025****INTRODUCTION**

1. In accordance with subparagraph 21(d) and paragraph 43 of Article VIII of the Chemical Weapons Convention (Convention), Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council (the Council), and Rule 82 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the States Parties (the Conference), the Director-General of the Technical Secretariat (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.
2. At its Twenty-Second Session in 2017, the Conference, on the recommendation of the Council, appointed Mr Fernando Arias as the Director-General for a term of office beginning on 25 July 2018 and ending on 24 July 2022 (C-22/DEC.18, dated 30 November 2017). At its Twenty-Sixth Session in 2021, the Conference, on the recommendation of the Council, considered and adopted a decision renewing the appointment of Mr Fernando Arias as 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).
3. In view of the above, the Council, at the latest at its 110th Session in October 2025, is to make a recommendation to the Conference at its Thirtieth Session in November 2025 on the appointment of the next Director-General.
4. At the 108th Session of the Council, 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).
5. At the same session, considering that the Thirtieth Session will be the last regular session of the Conference before the expiry of the term of office of the present Director-General, the Council adopted a decision on the process for the appointment of the next Director-General (EC-108/DEC.5, dated 6 March 2025).



NOMINATIONS

6. In accordance with the request of the Council in paragraph 2 of EC-108/DEC.5, on 10 March 2025, the Chairperson invited, on the Council's behalf, States Parties to present their nominations of candidates by no later than 16 May 2025.
7. The Secretariat circulated to the members of the Council Notes on the nomination of candidates for the appointment to the position of Director-General, all of which were received by the deadline of 16 May 2025. These were the nomination of candidates by: Bosnia and Herzegovina (EC-109/S/1, dated 10 March 2025); Ecuador (EC-109/S/2, dated 11 March 2025); Switzerland (EC-109/S/3, dated 17 March 2025); Hungary (EC-109/S/4, dated 18 March 2025); Estonia (EC-109/S/5, dated 25 March 2025); Costa Rica (EC-109/S/6, dated 2 April 2025); Ghana (EC-109/S/7, dated 8 April 2025); Romania (EC-109/S/8, dated 29 April 2025); Botswana (EC-109/S/9, dated 7 May 2025); Tunisia (EC-109/S/10, dated 15 May 2025); and Nigeria (EC-109/S/11, dated 15 May 2025).
8. On 22 May 2025, an informal information session was organised by the Secretariat for the candidates for the position of Director-General. This session provided an opportunity for the candidates to acquire a wider understanding of the scope of activities performed by the Secretariat and its various divisions, including through a question-and-answer (Q&A) session. All candidates attended this information session, either in person or online.

CONSULTATIONS

9. In accordance with the request of the Council in paragraph 3 of EC-108/DEC.5, the Chairperson of the Council is undertaking consultations with all regional groups and individual representatives who so request. On 16 May 2025, the Chairperson of the Council met with the Vice-Chairpersons of the Council, and on 27 May 2025, he met with the regional coordinators to inform them of the state of play of this process.
10. During the week of 2 June 2025, each regional group held meetings with the candidates for the position of Director-General in accordance with the following schedule:
 - African Group: 2 June 2025;
 - Asian Group: 3 June 2025;
 - Eastern European Group: 4 June 2025;
 - Western European and Others Group: 5 June 2025; and
 - Group of Latin American and Caribbean States: 6 June 2025
11. The Chairperson of the Council encourages regional groups, individual representatives, and the candidates to continue meeting with him in order to gain a better understanding both of the positions of the candidates and of the expectations of the delegations, and with a view to assisting the Council in adopting its recommendation to the Conference at its Thirtieth Session in November 2025.
12. The Chairperson will continue to inform the members of the Council on these consultations.

PRESENTATIONS

13. In accordance with paragraph 10 of EC-108/2, the Council members and interested States Parties will have an opportunity to listen to and interact with the candidates during an informal sitting of the Council to be convened on 7 July 2025.
14. The order of presentations at this informal sitting was determined at a meeting of the Bureau of the Council on 20 May 2025 by means of a drawing of lots, and the candidates have been informed accordingly. The order is as follows:
 - H.E. Ambassador Arnaldo Brenes Castro (Costa Rica)
 - H.E. Ambassador András Kocsis (Hungary)
 - H.E. Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior Matter (Switzerland)
 - H.E. Ambassador Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba (Botswana)
 - H.E. Ambassador Francis Danti Kotia (Ghana)
 - H.E. Ambassador Tiina Intelmann (Estonia)
 - H.E. Ambassador Eniola Ajayi (Nigeria)
 - H.E. Ambassador Sabri Bachtobji (Tunisia)
 - H.E. Ambassador Almir Šahović (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
 - Mr Ioan Tudor (Romania)
 - H.E. Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral (Ecuador)
15. The modalities of these in-person presentations are outlined in paragraph 10 of the Note by the Chairperson of the Council entitled “Road Map for the Process of the Appointment of the next Director-General in 2025” (EC-108/2).
16. In accordance with subparagraph 10(d) of the above-mentioned road map, the presentations will be followed by Q&A sessions. Each candidate will receive five questions, one from each regional group. In order to prepare for the Q&A sessions, regional groups are requested to send their respective question for the candidates to the Secretariat by Wednesday, 2 July 2025, at 12:00.
17. In addition, as discussed at the meeting of the Bureau of the Council on 28 May 2025, to ensure fairness and equal participation of the candidates in the process, the Secretariat will share all questions received from the regional groups with the candidates by Friday, 4 July 2025, close of business. For practical reasons, these questions will be shown on the screen in the Ieper Room during the informal sitting and, as a consequence, it will no longer be necessary for regional groups to select a country to ask the questions during the sitting as provided in subparagraph 10(d) of EC-108/2.

18. The informal sitting will be broadcast from the Ieper Room to the Ooms Room for delegates that cannot be seated in the Ieper Room to follow the proceedings. The informal sitting will not be livestreamed; instead, a recording will be made available on the ConnectedViews platform after its conclusion.
19. The programme of work for the informal sitting of the Council on 7 July 2025 is as follows:

Monday, 7 July 2025

09:00 – 11:50

09:00 – 09:15	Introduction by the Chairperson of the Council
09:15 – 09:50	H.E. Ambassador Arnaldo Brenes Castro (Costa Rica)
09:55 – 10:30	H.E. Ambassador András Kocsis (Hungary)
10:35 – 11:10	H.E. Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior Matter (Switzerland)
11:15 – 11:50	H.E. Ambassador Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba (Botswana)

13:20 – 15:55

13:20 – 13:55	H.E. Ambassador Francis Danti Kotia (Ghana)
14:00 – 14:35	H.E. Ambassador Tiina Intelmann (Estonia)
14:40 – 15:15	H.E. Ambassador Eniola Ajayi (Nigeria)
15:20 – 15:55	H.E. Ambassador Sabri Bachtobji (Tunisia)

17:00 – 18:55

17:00 – 17:35	H.E. Ambassador Almir Šahović (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
17:40 – 18:15	Mr Ioan Tudor (Romania)
18:20 – 18:55	H.E. Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral (Ecuador)

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