



REPORT OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES 2 – 5 DECEMBER 2013

1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

- 1.1 The Eighteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) was opened at 10:50 on 2 December 2013 by the Chairperson of the Seventeenth Session of the Conference, Ambassador Peter Goosen of South Africa. The Conference **received** a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, delivered by his special representative, Mr Jarmo Sareva, Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Director of the Conference on Disarmament Secretariat and Conference Support Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs at Geneva.
- 1.2 The Special Coordinator of the OPCW-UN Joint Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic, Ms Sigrid Kaag, addressed the Conference.
- 1.3 The following 130 States Parties participated in the Eighteenth Session: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
- 1.4 In accordance with Rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the following signatory State participated in this session of the Conference as observer: Israel.



- 1.5 In accordance with Rule 30 of these Rules of Procedure, and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-18/DEC.1, dated 2 December 2013), the following non-signatory States were accorded observer status: Angola and South Sudan.
- 1.6 In accordance with Rules 31 and 32 of these Rules of Procedure, and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-18/DEC.2, dated 2 December 2013), seven international organisations, specialised agencies, and other international bodies attended the Eighteenth Session.
- 1.7 In accordance with Rule 33 of these Rules of Procedure, and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-18/DEC.3*, dated 2 December 2013), 39 non-governmental organisations attended the Eighteenth Session.

2. AGENDA ITEM TWO – Election of the Chairperson

In accordance with Rules 34 and 35 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference, by acclamation, **elected** as its Chairperson Ambassador Dr Sa'ad Abdul Majeed Ibrahim Al-Ali of Iraq, who shall hold office until his successor is elected at the next regular session of the Conference.

3. AGENDA ITEM THREE – Election of Vice-Chairpersons and other officers

- 3.1 In accordance with Rules 34 and 35 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference **elected** representatives of the following 10 States Parties as Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference, to hold office until their successors are elected at its next regular session: Algeria, Armenia, Canada, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mexico, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and United States of America.
- 3.2 Also in accordance with Rules 34 and 35 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference **elected**, as Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole, Ambassador Odette Melono of Cameroon, who shall hold office until a new Chairperson is elected at the next regular session of the Conference.

4. AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Adoption of the agenda

- 4.1 The provisional agenda for the Eighteenth Session was circulated under cover of C-18/1, dated 19 July 2013.
- 4.2 The Conference **approved** the following agenda for its Eighteenth Session:

AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

AGENDA ITEM TWO – Election of the Chairperson

AGENDA ITEM THREE – Election of Vice-Chairpersons and other officers

AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Adoption of the agenda

AGENDA ITEM FIVE – Organisation of work and establishment of subsidiary bodies

AGENDA ITEM SIX – Appointment of the Credentials Committee

AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Statement by the Director-General

AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – General debate

AGENDA ITEM NINE – Status of implementation of the Convention

AGENDA ITEM TEN – Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2012

AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Annual report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 16 July 2012 to 19 July 2013

AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Election of Member States to membership in the Executive Council

AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2014, submitted by the Executive Council, and all items pertaining to this Budget

AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Scale of assessments to be paid by States Parties

AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – External Auditor's report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2012

AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Administrative and financial matters

AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Fostering of international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities

AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Ensuring the universality of the Convention

AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – The OPCW Programme for Africa

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY – Appointment of the Director-General

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-ONE – Reports of subsidiary bodies

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-TWO – Follow-up to the Third Review Conference¹

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-THREE – Any other business

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FOUR – Adoption of the report of the Conference of the States Parties

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FIVE – Closure

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

5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – Organisation of work and establishment of subsidiary bodies

The Conference **considered** and **adopted** the recommendations of the General Committee that were reported to it in accordance with Rule 43(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference.

6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – Appointment of the Credentials Committee

In accordance with Rule 27 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference, on the recommendation of its Chairperson, **appointed** the following 10 members of the Credentials Committee to hold office until new members are appointed at the next regular session of the Conference: Belgium, Croatia, Iraq, Morocco, Nigeria, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, and Uruguay.

7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Statement by the Director-General

7.1 The Conference **noted** the opening statement by the Director-General (C-18/DG.17, dated 2 December 2013).

7.2 The Conference **recalled** the “Report on the Alleged Use of Chemical Weapons in the Ghouta area of Damascus on 21 August 2013,” (S/2013/553, dated 13 September 2013), which concludes that “chemical weapons have been used in the ongoing conflict between the parties in the Syrian Arab Republic, also against civilians, including children, on a relatively large scale;” and, further **looked forward** to receiving the Secretary-General’s final report with regard to the outcome of the investigation into incidents that were not addressed in the report of 13 September 2013.

7.3 The Conference **underscored** that no party in the Syrian Arab Republic should use, develop, acquire, produce, stockpile, retain or transfer chemical weapons and **called** for full cooperation in order to implement the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) decisions.

7.4 The Conference **underlined** that the use of chemical weapons by anyone under any circumstances would be reprehensible and completely contrary to the legal norms and standards of the international community.

7.5 The Conference **expressed its appreciation** to the staff of the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) for their professionalism, commitment, and courage in the conduct of their work with respect to the Syrian Arab Republic.

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – General debate

8.1 The following delegations made statements during the general debate: Lithuania (on behalf of the European Union and associated countries), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China), South Africa (on behalf of the African Group), Uganda, Belarus, Russian Federation, Viet Nam, Ghana, Australia, Syrian Arab Republic, Malaysia, Iran (Islamic Republic of) (in its national capacity), Peru, Singapore, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Cuba, Norway, Chile, Panama, Croatia, United States of America, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, India,

Mexico, Poland, Turkey, Indonesia, Qatar, Algeria, Uruguay, China, Pakistan, Tunisia, Canada, Serbia, Colombia, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Philippines, Somalia, Afghanistan, Cameroon, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Nigeria, Morocco, Bahrain, Guatemala, Argentina, Libya, Sudan, Kazakhstan, and Israel (observer).

- 8.2 The following international organisation made a statement during the general debate: the International Committee of the Red Cross.
- 8.3 Ambassador Krzysztof Paturej of Poland, who was the Chairperson of the Third Review Conference, addressed the Conference.
- 8.4 In accordance with paragraph 2 of C-18/DEC.3*, the following non-governmental organisations gave presentations at the plenary meeting that was held following the general debate: Green Cross International, Society for Chemical Weapons Victims Support, Arms Control Association, Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, Institute for Security Studies, VERTIC, Bradford Disarmament Research Centre, South Asian Strategic Stability Institute, International Dialogue on Underwater Munitions, and Pakistan House.

9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Status of implementation of the Convention

Subitem 9(a): Progress report on the implementation of the plan of action regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations

- 9.1 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Fourteenth Session regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations (C-14/DEC.12, dated 4 December 2009), the Conference **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the “Overview of the Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2013” (EC-74/DG.7 C-18/DG.9, dated 28 August 2013 and Corr.1, dated 14 November 2013); a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2013: Article VII – Initial Measures” (EC-74/DG.8 C-18/DG.10, dated 28 August 2013, Corr.1, dated 11 September 2013, and Corr.2, dated 14 November 2013); and a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2013: Additional Measures for States Parties that Possess Industrial Facilities Which Are Declarable Under the Convention” (EC-74/DG.9 C-18/DG.11, dated 28 August 2013, Corr.1, dated 11 September 2013, and Corr.2, dated 14 November 2013).
- 9.2 The facilitator for this issue, Mr Zlatko Dimitroff of Bulgaria, made an oral report on the consultations carried out during the intersessional period.

Subitem 9(b): Implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Technical Secretariat in 2012

- 9.3 The Conference **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 2012 (EC-71/DG.8 C-18/DG.1, dated 29 January 2013).

Subitem 9(c): Implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues

- 9.4 The Conference **noted** that, at its Sixteenth Session, it had adopted a decision on the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 (C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011). The Conference **expressed its concern** regarding the Director-General's statement in his report to the Sixty-Eighth Session of the Council, provided in accordance with paragraph 2 of C-16/DEC.11, that "three possessor States Parties, namely Libya, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America, have been unable to fully meet the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 for the destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles" (EC-68/DG.9, dated 1 May 2012). The Conference **noted further** that the measures that had been identified in paragraph 3 of its decision (C-16/DEC.11) were now being implemented.
- 9.5 The Conference **further noted** the statements and comments made by States Parties on the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons by possessor States, **recalling** the relevant Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter "the Convention") obligations and relevant decisions by the Conference and the Council. The Conference **recalled** that the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons by possessor States Parties should continue in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and its Annex on Implementation and Verification (hereinafter "the Verification Annex") and with the application of the measures contained in decision C-16/DEC.11.
- 9.6 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (subparagraph 3(g) of C-16/DEC.11), the Director-General provided an annual written report (C-18/DG.16, dated 29 November 2013 and Corr.1, dated 3 December 2013) to the Conference on the overall destruction progress by the possessor States concerned, based on the independent information received by the Secretariat from the Organisation's inspectors undertaking verification in accordance with Part IV(A) D of the Verification Annex, which included information on:
- (a) The progress achieved to meet the planned completion date(s); and
 - (b) The effectiveness of any specific measures that have been undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes.
- 9.7 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the United States of America provided an annual report (C-18/NAT.1, dated 6 November 2013), and an annual briefing, on the progress in the destruction of its remaining stockpiles of chemical weapons, including on any specific measures undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes and information on the projected schedule for destruction activities to meet the planned completion date, which were **considered** and **noted** by the Conference, along with comments on the issue as mentioned above. The Conference **noted** the confirmation provided by the delegation of the United States of America that the necessary measures continue to be undertaken in order to meet the planned completion date of September 2023 for its destruction activities, as submitted to the Council at its Sixty-Eighth Session in accordance with subparagraph 3(c) of C-16/DEC.11.

- 9.8 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the Russian Federation provided an annual report (C-18/P/NAT.1, dated 21 November 2013), and an annual briefing, on the progress in the destruction of its remaining stockpiles of chemical weapons, including on any specific measures undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes and information on the projected schedule for destruction activities to meet the planned completion date, which were **considered** and **noted** by the Conference, along with comments on the issue as mentioned above. The Conference **noted** the confirmation provided by the delegation of the Russian Federation that the necessary measures continue to be undertaken in order to meet the planned completion date of December 2015 for its destruction activities, as submitted to the Council at its Sixty-Eighth Session in accordance with subparagraph 3(c) of C-16/DEC.11.
- 9.9 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), Libya provided an annual report (C-18/NAT.2, dated 14 November 2013), and an annual briefing, on the progress in the destruction of its remaining stockpiles of chemical weapons, including on any specific measures undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes and information on the projected schedule for destruction activities to meet the planned completion date, which were **considered** and **noted** by the Conference, along with comments on the issue as mentioned above. The Conference **noted** the confirmation provided by the delegation of Libya that the necessary measures continue to be undertaken in order to meet the planned completion date of December 2016 for its destruction activities, as submitted to the Council at its Sixty-Eighth Session in accordance with subparagraph 3(c) of C-16/DEC.11.
- 9.10 Pursuant to the above-mentioned decision at its Sixteenth Session (subparagraph 3(f) of C-16/DEC.11), the Conference **undertook** an annual review of the implementation of this decision at a specially designated meeting of the Conference. In furtherance of the implementation of subparagraphs 3(d), 3(f) and 3(h) of its decision C-16/DEC.11, the Conference **encouraged** the possessor States Parties concerned to include confirmation in the required reporting to the Council and the Conference that they remain on schedule to complete destruction activities by their planned completion date.
- 9.11 The Conference **welcomed** the Council's decision on "The deadline of 29 April 2012 and Future Destruction of the Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People's Republic of China" (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012). The Conference **recognised** the achievement of the destruction of 37,073 items of abandoned chemical weapons, and **encouraged** continued cooperation between China and Japan in the implementation of EC-67/DEC.6.
- 9.12 The Conference **welcomed** the review of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons conducted by the Third Review Conference and the report of the Third Review Conference (RC-3/3*, dated 19 April 2013) relating to abandoned chemical weapons issues. The Conference **welcomed** the visit by a delegation of the Council to the Haerbaling abandoned chemical weapons site, jointly invited by China and Japan, from 9 to 13 September 2013 and **expressed** its appreciation for the first-hand information on the destruction-related progress and the bilateral cooperation of the relevant States Parties obtained through the visit.

- 9.13 The Conference **recalled** the “Framework for Elimination of Syrian Chemical Weapons” agreed upon by the United States of America and the Russian Federation on 14 September 2013 (EC-M-33/NAT.1, dated 17 September 2013).
- 9.14 The Conference **noted** the decisions of the Council, pursuant to paragraph 8 of Article IV and paragraph 10 of Article V of the Convention, with respect to the order of destruction and procedures for stringent verification of the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons (EC-M-33/DEC.1, dated 27 September 2013; EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013; and EC-M-35/DEC.2, dated 29 November 2013), and **recognised** that these decisions were taken due to the extraordinary character of the situation posed by Syrian chemical weapons and do not create any precedent for the future.
- 9.15 The Conference **recalled** the letter of the Director-General dated 3 October 2013 transmitting the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2118 (2013), dated 27 September 2013, with respect to the elimination of the Syrian Arab Republic’s chemical weapons programme.
- 9.16 The Conference **noted** the reports by the Director-General on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme (EC-M-34/DG.1, dated 25 October 2013 and EC-M-35/DG.1, dated 25 November 2013), in which he reported that the Syrian authorities have extended the necessary cooperation to the OPCW team in the conduct of its activities.
- 9.17 The Conference **welcomed** the establishment of a special trust fund for the financial resources needed for the activities related to the complete destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons outside the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, and **invited** all States Parties in a position to do so to provide voluntary contributions for this purpose.

Subitem 9(d): Conversion of chemical weapons production facilities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention

- 9.18 Upon the recommendation of the Council at its Seventy-First Session (EC-71/DEC.1, dated 19 February 2013) and in accordance with paragraph 75 of Part V of the Verification Annex, the Conference **considered** and **approved** the request by Iraq to use the chemical weapons production facility (Al-Rashad Site) for purposes not prohibited under the Convention (C-18/DEC.4, dated 4 December 2013).

Subitem 9(e): Status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons

- 9.19 The Conference at its Sixteenth Session endorsed a proposal for the establishment of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons and the establishment of a voluntary trust fund for this purpose (C-16/DEC.13, dated 2 December 2011). It requested the Director-General to report every two years, through the Council, to the Conference at its regular sessions on the status of implementation of this decision.

9.20 The Conference **noted** the report by the Director-General on the status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons (EC-74/DG.12 C-18/DG.13, dated 9 September 2013).

9.21 The Conference **underlined** its encouragement for the States Parties to facilitate and make materials and equipment-related assistance to other States Parties to assist and support the victims of chemical weapons and to make contribution to the voluntary fund regarding the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons, in order to enhance the humanitarian aims of the Network.

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2012

The Conference **considered** and **approved** the report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2012 (C-18/4, dated 4 December 2013).

11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Annual report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities in the period from 16 July 2012 to 19 July 2013

11.1 The Conference **noted** the report of the Council on the performance of its activities in the period from 16 July 2012 to 19 July 2013, its Attachment, entitled “Note by the Technical Secretariat: The Destruction of Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People’s Republic of China”, and its Annex, entitled “Actions Taken by the Conference of the States Parties at its Seventeenth Session in Response to Recommendations Made by the Executive Council at its Seventieth Session” (EC-74/4 C-18/2, dated 9 October 2013). The report was introduced by the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Olexander Horin of Ukraine, who also briefed the Conference on the developments that had taken place since the cut-off date for the report.

11.2 The Conference **also noted** the Note by the Secretariat on “The Destruction of Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People’s Republic of China” attached to EC-74/4 C-18/2, pursuant to paragraph 11.2 of the report of the Council at its Seventy-Fourth Session (EC-74/5, dated 11 October 2013).

12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Election of Member States to membership in the Executive Council

In accordance with paragraph 23 of Article VIII of the Convention, and with Rule 83 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference **elected** 20 members for the following elective places on the Council for a term of two years, starting on 12 May 2014:

Africa:	Algeria, Libya, South Africa, Tunisia
Asia:	Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Pakistan, Qatar
Eastern Europe:	Belarus, Croatia, Russian Federation
Latin America and the Caribbean:	Chile, Guatemala, Panama, Peru
Western Europe and Other States:	Finland, Greece, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain

13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2014, submitted by the Executive Council, and all items pertaining to this Budget

13.1 In accordance with subparagraph 21(a) of Article VIII of the Convention, and pursuant to Financial Regulation 3.6(a), the Conference **considered** and **adopted** the Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2014, which the Council had submitted to it (C-18/DEC.6, dated 4 December 2013).

13.2 The Medium-Term Plan for the period from 2013 to 2015 (EC-70/S/1/Rev.1 C-17/S/1/Rev.1, dated 12 July 2013) was circulated to the Member States, along with the Draft Programme and Budget for 2014.

14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Scale of assessments to be paid by States Parties

In accordance with paragraph 21(b) of Article VIII of the Convention, the Conference **adopted** a decision on the scale of assessments to be paid by States Parties for the financial year 2014 (C-18/DEC.7, dated 4 December 2013).

15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – External Auditor’s report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2012

The Conference **noted** the Financial Statements of the OPCW and the report of the External Auditor for the year ending 31 December 2012 (EC-74/DG.3 C-18/DG.5, dated 30 July 2013), forwarded to it by the Council in accordance with Regulation 13.10 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules.

16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Administrative and financial matters

Subitem 16(a): OPCW income and expenditure for the financial year to 30 June 2013; the cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2013

16.1 The Council at its Seventy-Fourth Session considered and forwarded to the Conference a report by the Director-General on OPCW income and expenditure for the financial year to 30 June 2013 (EC-74/DG.2 C-18/DG.4, dated 30 July 2013 and Corr.1, dated 9 August 2013). The Conference **noted** this report.

16.2 The Council at its Seventy-Fourth Session considered and forwarded to the Conference a Note by the Director-General on the cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2013 (EC-74/DG.14 C-18/DG.15, dated 17 September 2013). The Conference **noted** this Note.

Subitem 16(b): Status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions

16.3 Pursuant to a decision by the Conference at its Eleventh Session (C-11/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2006), the Conference **considered** and **noted** the report on the status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans (EC-74/DG.5 C-18/DG.7, dated 20 August 2013).

Subitem 16(c): Recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and of losses of assets

- 16.4 The Council at its Seventy-Fourth Session considered the Note by the Director-General containing proposals for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and of losses of assets and recommended that the Conference at its Eighteenth Session approve these write-offs, totalling EUR 125,467.94 (EC-74/DG.4 C-18/DG.6, dated 31 July 2013). The Conference **adopted** a decision approving the said proposals (C-18/DEC.8, dated 4 December 2013).

Subitem 16(d): Transfers of funds between programmes in 2012

- 16.5 In accordance with Regulation 4.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, all transfers between Budget programmes shall be reported to the Conference. The Conference **noted** a Note by the Director-General on this matter (EC-71/DG.14 C-18/DG.2, dated 5 February 2013).

Subitem 16(e): Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2012

- 16.6 In accordance with Regulation 12.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, the Council at its Seventy-Second Session considered and forwarded to the Conference the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2012, and the accompanying Note by the Director-General (EC-72/DG.2 C-18/DG.3, dated 2 April 2013). The Conference **noted** this report and the Note by the Director-General.

17. AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Fostering of international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities

- 17.1 The Conference **noted** a report by the Director-General entitled “Progress Made and Review of the Status of the Implementation of Article XI of the Chemical Weapons Convention” (EC-74/DG.13 C-18/DG.14, dated 9 September 2013).
- 17.2 The Conference **emphasised** the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of Article XI. The Conference **noted** the progress made in the implementation of the decision on Article XI of the Convention (C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011) which identified components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of this Article, as well as statements and comments made by the States Parties on the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI.
- 17.3 The Conference **welcomed** that the Third Review Conference reaffirmed that the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of, inter alia, Article XI is essential for the realisation of object and purpose of the Convention and also **called for** the adequate funding for all key programmes, including the OPCW’s international cooperation and assistance programmes, through the regular budget and voluntary funding.
- 17.4 The Conference **received** an oral report by the facilitator, Mr Tariq Karim of Pakistan, on the activities held during the intersessional period and welcomed proposals made by delegations that are aimed at further enhancing the full, effective,

and non-discriminatory implementation of the provisions of Article XI. The Conference **also noted** that the facilitator has received an additional proposal to further develop and enhance actions for the advancement of the objectives of Article XI, which he intends to present to the delegations during the informal consultations to be held shortly.

18. AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Ensuring the universality of the Convention

18.1 The Conference **noted** the annual report by the Director-General on the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention during the period from 16 August 2012 to 15 September 2013 (EC-74/DG.11 C-18/DG.12, dated 30 August 2013 and Add.1, dated 10 October 2013).

18.2 The Conference **recalled** the accession in 2013 of two new States Parties, Somalia and the Syrian Arab Republic. The Conference **reaffirmed** the unqualified commitment of the OPCW to achieve the universality of the Convention and **urgently called upon** all of the States not Party to join the Convention without delay and precondition; in particular those whose non-adherence is a cause for serious concern. It **also recalled** that States that remain outside the Convention would not be able to take advantage of the benefits that it offers to States Parties.

19. AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – The OPCW Programme for Africa

The Conference **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (EC-74/DG.6 C-18/DG.8, dated 20 August 2013).

20. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY – Appointment of the Director-General

20.1 In accordance with the recommendation of the Council at its Seventy-Fourth Session (EC-74/DEC.3, dated 10 October 2013), the Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision renewing the appointment of Mr Ahmet Üzümcü as Director-General of the Secretariat (C-18/DEC.9, dated 4 December 2013).

20.2 The Chairperson and the coordinators of all regional groups warmly welcomed Mr Üzümcü's reappointment, and wished him every success during the period of his second mandate.

21. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-ONE – Reports of subsidiary bodies

Committee of the Whole

21.1 The Conference **noted** that, during this session of the Conference, no items had been allocated to the Committee of the Whole.

General Committee

21.2 The Conference **noted** the reports of the General Committee, and took appropriate action as required.

Confidentiality Commission

- 21.3 The Conference **noted** the report of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Commission for the Settlement of Disputes Related to Confidentiality (hereinafter “the Confidentiality Commission”) (CC-15/1, dated 24 May 2013). The Conference **received** a presentation by Mr Ioannis Seimenis of Greece, Vice-Chairperson of the Confidentiality Commission.
- 21.4 The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on amendments to the operating procedures of the Confidentiality Commission (C-18/DEC.5, dated 4 December 2013).
- 21.5 The Conference was informed by its Chairperson that, following consultations with the Asian Group, pursuant to Rule 4 of the Operating Procedures of the Confidentiality Commission (C-III/DEC.10/Rev.1, dated 2 December 2004), he had made the following appointments: Mr Ze Zhang of China to replace Mr Guangzhou Qu, and Mr Alok Chaturvedi of India to replace Dr William Selvamurthy for the remainder of the incumbents’ term of office.

Credentials Committee

- 21.6 The report of the Credentials Committee was presented by its Chairperson, Ambassador José de Bouza Serrano, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the OPCW. The Chairperson reported orally that, following the close of the Credentials Committee meeting, original credentials have been received from Ghana, Morocco, and Sweden. A copy of credentials had been received from Kazakhstan. The Conference **noted** this additional information and approved the report (C-18/3/Rev.1, dated 5 December 2013).

Committee on Relations with the Host Country

- 21.7 The Conference **considered** and **noted** a report by the Host Country Committee on the performance of its activities, for the period from September 2012 to January 2013 (EC-71/HCC/1 C-18/HCC/1, dated 13 February 2013) and another report for the period from February to September 2013 (EC-74/HCC/1 C-18/HCC/2, dated 30 September 2013).
- 21.8 The Conference **decided** that the Host Country Committee should continue to meet with a view to resolving any issues that may arise in the context of the OPCW Headquarters Agreement and **also decided** to keep this item on its agenda.

22. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-TWO – Follow-up to the Third Review Conference

In paragraph 9.17 of its report (RC-3/3*), the Third Review Conference expressed its intention to keep the declarations contained in paragraphs 9.3 to 9.16 of that document under review at each regular session of the Conference. Subsequently, the agenda of the Council at its Seventy-Third and Seventy-Fourth Sessions included an item on the follow-up to the Third Review Conference. The Secretariat supported the Council in this respect by providing a “Matrix of Actionable Items Identified at the Third Review Conference,” to the Council at its Seventy-Third Session (EC-73/S/2, dated 4 June 2013), which was updated and provided to the Council at its Seventy-Fourth

Session (EC-74/S/3, dated 30 September 2013). The Conference **noted** the activities in furtherance of its review of the declarations contained in paragraphs 9.3 to 9.16 of the report of the Third Review Conference.

23. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-THREE – Any other business

23.1 The delegation of Uruguay made an intervention on the interaction between the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention (C-18/NAT.10, dated 5 December 2013).

23.2 The Conference **welcomed** the unanimous adoption today, on 5 December 2013, by the United Nations General Assembly, of a resolution supporting the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention at its 68th session (A/RES/68/46).

24. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FOUR – Adoption of the report of the Conference of the States Parties

The Conference **considered** and **adopted** the report of its Eighteenth Session.

25. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FIVE – Closure

The Chairperson closed the Eighteenth Session of the Conference at 19:50 on 5 December 2013.

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