

**REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES
30 NOVEMBER – 4 DECEMBER 2015****1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session**

- 1.1 The Twentieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) was opened at 10:10 on 30 November 2015 by the Chairperson of the Conference for its Nineteenth Session, Ambassador Vesela Mrden Korać of Croatia.
- 1.2 The Conference **received** a video message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki-moon.
- 1.3 The following 134 States Parties participated in the Twentieth Session: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, the Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, the Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Rwanda, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, 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 an observer: Israel.



- 1.5 In accordance with Rules 31 and 32 of these Rules of Procedure, and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-20/DEC.1, dated 30 November 2015), five international organisations, specialised agencies, and other international bodies attended the Twentieth Session.
- 1.6 In accordance with the recommendations of the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Third Review Conference”) (RC-3/3*, dated 19 April 2013), and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-20/DEC.2, dated 30 November 2015), the Conference **invited** representatives of the global chemical industry and scientific community to address the Conference during the plenary of its Twentieth 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-20/DEC.3, dated 30 November 2015), 52 non-governmental organisations attended and participated in the Twentieth 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 Eduardo Ibarrola-Nicolín of Mexico, 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: Costa Rica, Ecuador, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Libya, Morocco, the Russian Federation, Serbia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the 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 Jana Reinišová of the Czech Republic, 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 Twentieth Session was circulated under cover of C-20/1*, dated 9 July 2015.
- 4.2 The Conference **approved** the following agenda for its Twentieth 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 2014

AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Annual report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 12 July 2014 to 9 July 2015

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

AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2016, submitted by the Executive Council, and all items pertaining to this Budget

AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Scale of assessments for 2016

AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – External Auditor's report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2014

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 – Engagement with the chemical industry and the scientific community

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-ONE – Reports of subsidiary bodies

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

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

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-THREE – Establishment of an Advisory Board on Education and Outreach

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FOUR – Establishment of an OPCW Day

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FIVE – Any other business

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

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-SEVEN – Closure

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: Algeria, Bangladesh, Colombia, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Germany, Portugal, the Russian Federation, the Sudan, and the United Arab Emirates.

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

The Conference **noted** the opening statement by the Director-General (C-20/DG.17, dated 30 November 2015).

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – General debate

- 8.1 The following delegations made statements during the general debate: Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Union), the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China), South Africa (on behalf of the African Group), Lesotho, the Syrian Arab Republic, Lithuania, Iraq, China, Canada, Sweden, Guatemala, Uruguay, Uganda, Qatar, Ukraine, Singapore, France, Poland, Tunisia, Zimbabwe, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Switzerland, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Chile, the Russian Federation, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ireland, Pakistan, Algeria, the United States of America, Australia, Sri Lanka, India, Argentina, the Netherlands, Myanmar, Mexico, Luxembourg, Latvia, Malaysia, Panama, Portugal, Finland, Peru, Indonesia, Hungary, Norway, Brazil, Bangladesh, New Zealand, Germany, Bahrain, Morocco, Ecuador, the Republic of Korea, Albania, Cuba, Burundi, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Belarus, Senegal, Cameroon, Kenya, Denmark, Spain, Thailand, Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Armenia, the Philippines, the Czech Republic, the Sudan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), and Viet Nam.

- 8.2 The following signatory State made a statement during the general debate: Israel.
- 8.3 The following international organisation made a statement during the general debate: the International Committee of the Red Cross.
- 8.4 The following representatives from the chemical industry and the scientific community made a statement during the general debate: the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry and the International Council of Chemical Associations.
- 8.5 In accordance with paragraph 2 of C-20/DEC.3, the following non-governmental organisations gave presentations at the plenary meeting that was held following the general debate: Bradford Disarmament Research Centre; Arg IQ – Argentina Calidad de Informacion; Pakistan House; Uganda National Bureau of Standards; Organization for Defending Victims of Chemical Weapons, MEF University for International Security Studies and Strategic Research; Colorado Citizens’ Advisory Commission for Chemical Demilitarization; Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses; Kenyatta University; International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security; Society for Chemical Weapons Victims Support; Society for the Study of Peace and Conflict; Institute for Security Studies; Bülent Ecevit University; Green Cross International; and International Dialogue on Underwater Munitions.

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 2015” (EC-80/DG.14 C-20/DG.11, dated 10 September 2015); a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2015: Article VII – Initial Measures” (EC-80/DG.15 C-20/DG.12, dated 10 September 2015); and a report by the Director-General entitled “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2015: Additional Measures for States Parties that Possess Industrial Facilities Which Are Declarable Under the Convention” (EC-80/DG.16 C-20/DG.13, dated 10 September 2015).

Subitem 9(b): Implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Technical Secretariat in 2014

- 9.2 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 Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) in 2014 (EC-78/DG.8 C-20/DG.2, dated 12 February 2015).

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

- 9.3 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 Executive Council (hereinafter "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.
- 9.4 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.
- 9.5 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 to the Conference on the overall destruction progress by the possessor States concerned (C-20/DG.16, dated 26 November 2015), 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.
- 9.6 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-20/NAT.1, dated 12 November 2015), 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.

- 9.7 Further to the decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the Russian Federation provided an annual report (C-20/P/NAT.1, dated 17 November 2015), 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, as well as on the update to the detailed destruction plan, and information on the projected schedule for destruction activities to meet the amended 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 31 December 2020 for its destruction activities, as submitted to the Council at its Sixty-Eighth and Seventy-Seventh Sessions 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), Libya provided an annual report (C-20/NAT.3*, dated 19 November 2015), 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.
- 9.9 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.
- 9.10 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), and **encouraged** continued cooperation between China and Japan in the implementation of EC-67/DEC.6.
- 9.11 Bearing in mind that the destruction progress was less than expected in the destruction plan attached to the relevant decision (EC-67/DEC.6), the Conference, while recalling the provisions of the Convention that the Abandoning State Party undertakes to destroy all chemical weapons it abandoned on the territory of another State Party and shall provide all necessary financial, technical, expert, facility as well as other resources, **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 destruction of abandoned chemical weapons as soon as possible in accordance with

the Council's decision (EC-67/DEC.6) in a faithful manner and to address challenges including ensuring the safety of people and protecting the environment. The Conference **reaffirmed** that the Territorial State Party shall provide appropriate cooperation.

- 9.12 The Conference **also reaffirmed** the obligation of the Abandoning State Party to provide all available information including, to the extent possible, the location, type, quantity as well as information on the abandonment in accordance with relevant provisions of the Convention, so as to facilitate the expedite destruction of JACWs.
- 9.13 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*), which reaffirmed the role of the Council, the Conference and the Review Conference with regard to the abandoned chemical weapons destruction related issues as defined in the provisions of the Convention and in the Council's decision (EC-67/DEC.6). 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 8 to 11 June 2015, during which the Council delegation was impressed by the progress made since its last visit, while concerns were expressed by members of Council delegation that according to the current destruction pace, the completion of ACW destruction in Haerbaling will significantly fall behind schedule. The Conference **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.

Subitem 9(d) Additional guidelines on the designation of laboratories for the analysis of authentic samples

- 9.14 At its Eightieth Session, the Council considered and adopted a decision on additional guidelines on the designation of laboratories for the analysis of authentic samples (EC-80/DEC.3, dated 8 October 2015) and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twentieth Session.
- 9.15 The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-20/DEC.4, dated 2 December 2015).

Subitem 9(e): Designation of laboratories for the analysis of authentic biomedical samples and guidelines for the conduct of biomedical proficiency tests

- 9.16 At its Eightieth Session, the Council considered and adopted a decision on the designation of laboratories for the analysis of authentic biomedical samples and guidelines for the conduct of biomedical proficiency tests (EC-80/DEC.4, dated 8 October 2015) and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twentieth Session.
- 9.17 The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-20/DEC.5, dated 2 December 2015).

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

- 9.18 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.
- 9.19 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-80/DG.12 C-20/DG.10, dated 9 September 2015).
- 9.20 While noting the report by the Director-General on the status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons, and following the reports of the Fact Finding Mission on the allegations of use of toxic chemicals in Syria (S/1191/2014, dated 16 June 2014; S/1212/2014, dated 10 September 2014; S/1230/2014, dated 18 December 2014; S/1318/2015, dated 29 October 2015; S/1319/2015, dated 29 October 2015; and S/1320/2015, dated 29 October 2015), the Conference **noted** the decision taken by the Council at its Forty-Eighth Meeting on 4 February 2015 (EC-M-48/DEC.1, dated 4 February 2015) and the decision taken by the Council at its Fiftieth Meeting on 23 November 2015 (EC-M-50/DEC.1, dated 23 November 2015) on the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic.

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2014

The Conference **considered** and **approved** the report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2014 (C-20/4, dated 2 December 2015).

11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Annual report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 12 July 2014 to 9 July 2015

- 11.1 The Conference **noted** the report of the Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 12 July 2014 to 9 July 2015, 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 Nineteenth Session in Response to Recommendations Made by the Executive Council” (EC-80/3 C-20/2, dated 8 October 2015). The report was introduced by the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Francesco Azzarello of Italy, who also briefed the Conference on developments that had taken place since the cut-off date for the report (C-20/INF.4, dated 2 December 2015).
- 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-80/3 C-20/2, pursuant to paragraph 14.2 of the report of the Council at its Eightieth Session (EC-80/4*, dated 8 October 2015).

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 the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Conference **elected** 20 members to serve on the Council for a term of two years, starting on 12 May 2016. To ensure that the Council is constituted in accordance with paragraph 23 of Article VIII, the regional distribution of the elective places to be filled is to be as follows:

Africa:	Algeria, Ghana, Libya, South Africa
Asia:	Bangladesh, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, Viet Nam
Eastern Europe:	Poland, the Russian Federation, Slovakia
Latin America and the Caribbean:	Chile, Guatemala, Panama, Peru
Western Europe and Other States:	Australia, Belgium, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland

13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2016, 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 2016, which the Council had submitted to it (C-20/DEC.6, dated 3 December 2015).

13.2 The Medium-Term Plan for the period from 2015 to 2019 (EC-77/S/1 C-19/S/1, dated 23 April 2014) was circulated to the Member States.

14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Scale of assessments for 2016

In accordance with Financial Regulation 3.6(b), the Conference **adopted** a decision on the scale of assessments to be paid by States Parties for the financial year 2016 (C-20/DEC.7, dated 3 December 2015).

15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – External Auditor’s report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2014

The Conference **noted** the Financial Statements of the OPCW and the report of the External Auditor for the year ending 31 December 2014 (EC-80/DG.1 C-20/DG.4, dated 13 July 2015), 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): Establishment of a special fund for OPCW special missions and withholding of the distribution of the cash surplus for 2013

16.1 At its Eightieth Session, the Council noted a Note by the Director-General on the request for the establishment of a special fund for OPCW special missions and withholding of the distribution of the cash surplus for 2013 (EC-80/DG.23, dated

5 October 2015), considered and adopted a decision on the matter (EC-80/DEC.7, dated 8 October 2015), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twentieth Session. The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-20/DEC.11, dated 3 December 2015), as amended.

Subitem 16(b): Cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2015

- 16.2 At its Eightieth Session, the Council considered and forwarded to the Conference at its Twentieth Session 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 2015 (EC-80/DG.18 C-20/DG.14, dated 15 September 2015). The Conference **noted** this Note.
- 16.3 Following the request to the Secretariat by the Council at its Eightieth Session, an update on the cash situation for the financial year to 31 October 2015 was made available (S/1322/2015, dated 4 November 2015 and Corr.1, dated 27 November 2015). The Conference **noted** the update.
- 16.4 The following delegations made statements: the United States of America and China.

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

- 16.5 At its Eleventh Session, the Conference adopted a decision (C-11/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2006) on a mechanism to encourage States Parties that are in arrears to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions through the use of multi-year payment plans, requesting the Secretariat to submit a report to it each year, through the Council, on the status of implementation of agreed multi-year payment plans as at the end of the quarter that falls immediately before the session of the Council that precedes the session of the Conference.
- 16.6 Pursuant to the decision by the Conference at its Eleventh Session (C-11/DEC.5), the Conference **considered** and **noted** the report on the status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans (EC-80/DG.6 C-20/DG.7, dated 28 August 2015).

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

- 16.7 The Council at its Eightieth Session considered a Note by the Director-General on the recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and losses of assets and recommended that the Conference at its Twentieth Session approve these write-offs, totalling EUR 4,633.69 (EC-80/DG.3 C-20/DG.5, dated 4 August 2015) (paragraph 12.17 of EC-80/4*). The Conference **adopted** a decision approving the said proposals (C-20/DEC.8, dated 3 December 2015).

Subitem 16(e): Transfers of funds between programmes during 2014

- 16.8 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-78/DG.7 C-20/DG.1, dated 12 February 2015).

Subitem 16(f): Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2014

- 16.9 In accordance with Regulation 12.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, the Council at its Seventy-Ninth 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 2014, and the accompanying Note by the Director-General (EC-79/DG.3 C-20/DG.3, dated 3 April 2015). The Conference **noted** this report.

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

- 17.1 The Conference at its Sixteenth Session adopted a decision regarding components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of Article XI of the Convention (C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011), and requested the Secretariat to report to the Conference at each annual session on the progress of concrete measures undertaken in implementing the decision, and on the status of implementation of Article XI.

- 17.2 The Conference **noted** a report by the Director-General on the progress made and review of the status of implementation of Article XI of the Convention for the period from 27 August 2014 to 26 August 2015 (EC-80/DG.10 C-20/DG.8, dated 8 September 2015).

- 17.3 The Conference received an oral report by the facilitator, Mr Shoaib Sarwar of Pakistan, on activities held during the intersessional period. He informed the Conference of the proposals presented by the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China, the United States of America, and the Secretariat that are aimed at further enhancing the full, effective, and non-discriminatory provisions on Article XI. The Conference **encouraged** delegations to continue discussions and consultations, with a view to achieving concrete outcomes that could also be drawn from other proposals by States Parties and the Secretariat, and **requested** the Chairperson of the Council to report to the Conference at its next session on developments in this regard.

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

- 18.1 The Council at its Twenty-Third Meeting adopted an action plan for the universality of the Convention (EC-M-23/DEC.3, dated 24 October 2003). The plan requested the Director-General, inter alia, to submit to the Conference at its regular sessions an annual report on the implementation of the action plan, and to keep the Council regularly informed, so that the Conference and the Council may review progress and monitor its implementation effectively.

- 18.2 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 2014 to 15 August 2015 (EC-80/DG.11 C-20/DG.9, dated 9 September 2015).

- 18.3 The Conference received an oral report by the facilitator, H.E. Ambassador Dziunik Aghajanian of Armenia, on the activities held during the intersessional period.

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-80/DG.5 C-20/DG.6, dated 25 August 2015).

20. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY– Engagement with the chemical industry and the scientific community

The Conference **noted** the Note by the Director-General on engaging the chemical industry associations (C-20/DG.15, dated 16 November 2015). Representatives of the global chemical industry addressed the Conference.

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 Seventeenth Meeting of the Commission for the Settlement of Disputes Related to Confidentiality (CC-17/1, dated 22 May 2015).

Credentials Committee

- 21.4 The report of the Credentials Committee (C-20/3, dated 1 December 2015) was presented by Mr Kazi Russel Pervez, Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., on behalf of its Chairperson, Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the OPCW. Mr Pervez reported orally that, following the close of the Credentials Committee meeting, original credentials had been received from Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Ghana, Guatemala, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Norway, Spain, Togo, the United Arab Emirates, and Zimbabwe. Copies of credentials had been received from Lebanon, and Panama. The Conference **noted** this additional information and **approved** the report.

Committee on Relations with the Host Country

- 21.5 The Conference **considered** and **noted** a report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (hereinafter “the Host Country Committee”) on the performance of its activities, for the period from September 2014 to February 2015 (EC-78/HCC/1/Rev.1 C-20/HCC/1/Rev.1, dated 19 March 2015). The Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Francesco Azzarello of Italy, reported to the Conference on the status of the work by the Host Country Committee.

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 agendas of the Council from its Seventy-Third through Eightieth 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), the latest update of which was provided to the Council at its Eightieth Session (EC-79/S/3/Add.1, dated 18 September 2015 and Corr.1, dated 28 September 2015). Starting from the Eightieth Session of the Council, it was decided to introduce a new procedure whereby updates are provided to the Council by way of an addendum to the matrix that encompasses only new activities and developments during the reporting period. A full version of the matrix is produced only once a year, the most recent being document EC-81/S/1 (dated 11 November 2015). 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 – Establishment of an Advisory Board on Education and Outreach

- 23.1 The Council at its Eightieth Session considered and adopted a decision on the establishment of an Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (EC-80/DEC.5, dated 8 October 2015), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twentieth Session. The Conference **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-20/DEC.9, dated 3 December 2015).
- 23.2 The Conference **acknowledged** the establishment of “The Hague Ethical Guidelines”, an inclusive text drafted by chemistry practitioners from States Parties in all regions of the world to serve as “Guidelines for the Practice of Chemistry under the Norms of the Chemical Weapons Convention”. They constitute an important step to advance understanding among chemistry practitioners of the importance of nurturing responsible and ethical norms for scientific research and development. The Conference **encouraged** States Parties as well as the Secretariat and all relevant stakeholders to promote awareness of these guidelines and their possible application, and **asked** the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach to contribute to this effort.

24. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FOUR – Establishment of an OPCW Day

At the Seventy-Ninth Session of the Council, the Secretariat circulated a Note by the Director-General on a proposal for the establishment of an OPCW Day (EC-79/S/1, dated 22 May 2015). The Council subsequently considered and adopted a decision on the matter (EC-79/DEC.4, dated 9 July 2015) and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twentieth Session. The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-20/DEC.10, dated 3 December 2015).

25. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FIVE – Any other business

OPCW-The Hague Award 2015

25.1 The Conference **congratulated** Professor Mahdi Balali-Mood of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Professor Alastair Hay of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as the joint recipients of the second annual OPCW-The Hague Award for their effort and longstanding endeavour to implement the Convention.

25.2 The Conference **welcomed** and **expressed appreciation** for the generous offer made by Professor Mahdi Balali-Mood to allocate the cash prize of the OPCW-The Hague Award for treatment of the victims of chemical weapons in Islamic Republic of Iran. The Conference **also welcomed** and **expressed appreciation** for the generous offer of Professor Hay to use his prize money to support victims of chemical weapons in Iran (the Islamic Republic of), Iraq, and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Future priorities of the OPCW

25.3 The Conference **requested** the Council to establish at its Eighty-First Session an open-ended working group to discuss and formulate recommendations on the future priorities of the OPCW, to be considered at the Fourth Review Conference² in 2018. The working group should provide all States Parties to the Convention with an opportunity to consult regarding all aspects of the Convention.

Dates and duration of the Fourth Review Conference and of the regular session of the Conference of the States Parties in 2018

25.4 In the context of identifying possibilities for combining the Fourth Review Conference with the regular session of the Conference at the end of 2018, the Council at its Eightieth Session requested the Secretariat to explore possible dates with the World Forum.

25.5 Further to that request, the Secretariat looked into the options and has identified a two-week period from 19 to 30 November 2018. The proposal has been communicated to all regional groups, who unanimously expressed their agreement.

25.6 The Conference **decided** to combine the dates for its Fourth Review Conference and for its regular session in 2018. The Conference **considered** and **approved** the dates of 19 to 30 November 2018 for the combined sessions.

² Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

- 25.7 The Conference **authorised** the Director-General to conclude the appropriate agreements with the World Forum, thus ensuring the availability of conference facilities on these dates, while maintaining the flexibility to make necessary adjustments, if so required.
- 25.8 The delegation of Australia introduced a joint paper titled “Aerosolisation of Central Nervous System-Acting Chemicals for Law Enforcement Purposes” (C-20/NAT.2/Rev.1, dated 3 December 2015), co-authored by the delegations of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Germany, Finland, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. The following delegations made statements: Australia, Argentina, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the United States of America.

26. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-SIX – Adoption of the report of the Conference of the States Parties

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

27. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-SEVEN – Closure

The Chairperson **closed** the session at 11:59 on 4 December 2015.

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