



**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES
28 NOVEMBER - 2 DECEMBER 2016**

1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

- 1.1 The Twenty-First Session of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) was opened at 10:17 on 28 November 2016 by the Chairperson of the Conference for its Twentieth Session, Ambassador Eduardo Ibarrola-Nicolín of Mexico.
- 1.2 The following 134 States Parties participated in the Twenty-First Session: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, 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, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, the Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, the Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, 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, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, 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, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 In accordance with Rule 30 of these Rules of Procedure, and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-21/DEC.1, dated 28 November 2016), the following non-signatory State was accorded observer status: South Sudan.



- 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-21/DEC.2, dated 28 November 2016), six international organisations, specialised agencies, and other international bodies attended the Twenty-First 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-21/DEC.3, dated 28 November 2016), the Conference **invited** representatives of the global chemical industry and scientific community to address the Conference during the plenary of its Twenty-First 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-21/DEC.4, dated 28 November 2016), 57 non-governmental organisations attended and participated in the Twenty-First 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 Christoph Israng of Germany, 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, Bangladesh, Ecuador, France, Japan, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Slovakia, the United States of America, and Uruguay.
- 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 María Teresa Infante of Chile, 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 Twenty-First Session was circulated under cover of C-21/1, dated 14 July 2016 and Corr.1, dated 11 November 2016.
- 4.2 The Conference **approved** the following agenda for its Twenty-First 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 2015

AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Annual Report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 10 July 2015 to 27 July 2016

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

AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2017, submitted by the Executive Council, and all items pertaining to this Budget

AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Scale of assessments for 2017

AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – External Auditor's report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2015

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 Conference

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

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FOUR – Any other business

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

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-SIX – 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, Chile, the Czech Republic, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Kenya, the Netherlands, Panama, and Romania.

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

The Conference **noted** the opening statement by the Director-General (C-21/DG.17, dated 28 November 2016).

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – General debate

8.1 The Conference **received** a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, delivered by his special representative, Mr Kim Won-soo, Under Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

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

8.3 The following signatory State made a statement during the general debate: Israel.

8.4 The following international organisation made a statement during the general debate: the International Committee of the Red Cross.

- 8.5 The following representatives from the chemical industry and the scientific community made a statement during the general debate: the International Council of Chemical Associations and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry.
- 8.6 In accordance with paragraph 2 of C-21/DEC.4, the following non-governmental organisations gave presentations at the plenary meeting that was held following the general debate: The Rif Memory Association; Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs; Bradford Non-Lethal Weapons Research Project; Arg IQ; Association for the Defence of Chemical Injuries Fars Province; Pakistan House; Uganda National Bureau of Standards; Organization for Defending Victims of Chemical Weapons; Colorado Citizens' Advisory Commission for Chemical Demilitarization; Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses; Biosecure; International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security; The Health Safety Environmental Research Association Rome; Society for Chemical Weapons Victims Support; South Asian Strategic Stability Institute; Centre for Assistance to Justice and Animation for Development; Green Cross International; Kentucky Environment Foundation; and Halabja Chemical Victims Society.

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

- 9.1 A statement entitled “Statement on Behalf of Concerned States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention Concerning the Confirmed Use of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic” (C-21/NAT.17, dated 30 November 2016) was delivered by Canada on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mozambique, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and Zambia. The following delegations made statements: Australia, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), France, Japan, Cuba, and Bulgaria.
- 9.2 A statement entitled “Addressing Concerns over Politicisation of the Work and Scope of the OPCW and the Need to Preserve the Integrity of the Organisation” (C-21/NAT.16, dated 2 December 2016) was prepared and circulated. The following States Parties associated themselves with the statement: Belarus, Burundi, China, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Russian Federation, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

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

- 9.3 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 2016” (EC-83/DG.11 C-21/DG.11, dated 16 September 2016); a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2016: Article VII – Initial Measures” (EC-83/DG.8 C-21/DG.9, dated 16 September 2016); and a report by the Director-General entitled “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2016: Additional Measures for States Parties that Possess Industrial Facilities Which Are Declarable Under the Convention” (EC-83/DG.9 C-21/DG.10, dated 16 September 2016).

- 9.4 The Conference **considered** the question of discrepancies in the reporting of transfers of scheduled chemicals pursuant to Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) and its Annex on Implementation and Verification (hereinafter “the Verification Annex”), and **recommended** that the Industry Cluster give this matter additional focused attention.

Subitem 9(b): Implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Technical Secretariat in 2015

- 9.5 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 2015 (EC-81/DG.10 C-21/DG.3, dated 19 February 2016).

- 9.6 On this agenda item, several States Parties made statements underlining the necessity for strengthening the confidentiality regime, in order to avoid any disclosure of confidential information.

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

- 9.7 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.
- 9.8 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 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 Verification Annex and with the application of the measures contained in decision C-16/DEC.11.

- 9.9 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-21/DG.16, dated 23 November 2016), 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.
- 9.10 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the Russian Federation provided an annual report (C-21/P/NAT.1, dated 15 November 2016), 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.
- 9.11 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-21/NAT.1, dated 10 November 2016), 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.
- 9.12 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), Libya provided an annual report (C-21/NAT.2, dated 16 November 2016), 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.

- 9.13 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.
- 9.14 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.
- 9.15 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.
- 9.16 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 ACWs.
- 9.17 While recalling the Council's decisions EC-46/DEC.4 and EC-67/DEC.6 adopted respectively on 5 July 2006 and 15 February 2012, the Conference **noted with concern** that according to the information provided by the delegation of Japan, although more than 37,000 ACWs have been destroyed in accordance with the provisions of the destruction plan for the destruction of ACWs with the mobile destruction facilities annexed to the decision of the Council (EC-67/DEC.6), the destruction will not be fully completed in the proposed time frame, which is preferably within the year 2016. The Conference **requested** the relevant States Parties to address this issue as soon as practical, preferably within the year 2016, through consultation in accordance with the relevant provisions of the decision of the Council (EC-67/DEC.6) and requested the Council to remain seized of the matter. The Conference **requested** the relevant States Parties to report to the Council about consultation process of the destruction plan.
- 9.18 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. At its Eighty-Second Session, the Council adopted a decision entitled "Review of the Implementation of Decision C-16/DEC.11 (dated 1 December 2011) by the Conference of the States Parties in 2017" (EC-82/DEC.3, dated 14 July 2016) and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-First Session. The Conference **considered and adopted** a decision on the matter (C-21/DEC.5, dated 30 November 2016).

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2015

The Conference **considered and approved** the report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2015 (C-21/4, dated 30 November 2016).

11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Annual report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 10 July 2015 to 27 July 2016

The Conference **noted** the report of the Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 10 July 2015 to 27 July 2016, 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 Twentieth Session in Response to Recommendations Made by the Executive Council" (EC-83/4 C-21/2, dated 11 November 2016). The report was introduced by the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Odette Melono of Cameroon, who also briefed the Conference on the developments that had taken place since the cut-off date for the report.

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

- 12.1 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** 21 members to serve on the Council for a term of two years, starting on 12 May 2017. 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:	Cameroon, Kenya, Morocco, Senegal, the Sudan
Asia:	China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia
Eastern Europe:	Azerbaijan, Estonia
Latin America and the Caribbean:	Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico

Western Europe and other States: France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America

12.2 Armenia disassociated itself from the decision on the election of Azerbaijan to membership of the Council.

13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2017, 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 2017, which the Council had submitted to it (C-21/DEC.6, dated 1 December 2016).

13.2 The Medium-Term Plan for the period from 2017 to 2021 (EC-83/S/1 C-21/S/1, dated 8 April 2016) was circulated to the Member States.

14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Scale of assessments for 2017

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 2017 (C-21/DEC.7, dated 1 December 2016).

15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – External Auditor’s report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2015

The Conference **noted** the Financial Statements of the OPCW and the report of the External Auditor for the year ending 31 December 2015 (EC-83/DG.1 C-21/DG.5, dated 8 August 2016), 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): Cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2016

16.1 At its Eighty-Third Session, the Council considered and forwarded to the Conference at its Twenty-First 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 2016 (EC-83/DG.13 C-21/DG.12, dated 14 September 2016). 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

16.2 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.

- 16.3 Pursuant to the above-mentioned decision, the Conference **considered** and **noted** the report on the status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans (EC-83/DG.7 C-21/DG.8, dated 1 September 2016).

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

- 16.4 The Council at its Eighty-Third Session considered a Note by the Director-General on the recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and recommended that the Conference at its Twenty-First Session approve these write-offs, totalling EUR 1,694.46 (EC-83/DG.3 C-21/DG.6, dated 2 August 2016). The Conference **adopted** a decision approving the said proposals (C-21/DEC.8, dated 1 December 2016).

Subitem 16(d): Transfers of funds between programmes during 2015

- 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-81/DG.8 C-21/DG.1, dated 16 February 2016).

Subitem 16(e): Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2015

- 16.6 In accordance with Regulation 12.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, the Council at its Eighty-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 2015, and the accompanying Note by the Director-General (EC-82/DG.3 C-21/DG.4, dated 15 April 2016). The Conference **noted** this report.

Subitem 16(f): Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions

- 16.7 At its Eighty-Third Session and in accordance with a decision by the Conference at its Twentieth Session (C-20/DEC.11, dated 3 December 2015), the Council considered and adopted a decision to extend the Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions for a period of one further year (EC-83/DEC.4, dated 14 October 2016), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-First Session. The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-21/DEC.9, dated 1 December 2016).

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 26 August 2015 to 25 August 2016 (EC-83/DG.17 C-21/DG.14, dated 21 September 2016).
- 17.3 The Conference **received** an oral report by the facilitator, Mr Shoaib Sarwar of Pakistan, on activities held during the intersessional period. Further to the request of the Conference at its Twentieth Session, the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Odette Melono of Cameroon, provided an update on the developments with regard to the status of implementation of Article XI.
- 17.4 The Conference **took note** of the report by the facilitator in regard to the first “Review and Evaluation Workshop of the Components of an Agreed Framework for the Full Implementation of Article XI”. The Conference **agreed** that such a workshop was important for the promotion of the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of the provisions of Article XI. Consistent with decision EC-83/DEC.2 (dated 13 October 2016), the Conference **encouraged** the widest participation of States Parties at the workshop on Article XI to take place in 2017. States Parties, in coordination with the Secretariat, will agree on the content of the workshop to promote implementation of Article XI, including consensus recommendations on concrete measures. The Conference **requested** the facilitator to report on developments in this regard to the Conference at its next session.
- 17.5 The States Parties of the Non-Aligned Movement and China submitted a position paper “On the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention: Article XI Compliance”.

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 2015 to 15 August 2016 (EC-83/DG.5 C-21/DG.7, dated 18 August 2016).
- 18.3 The Conference received an oral report by the facilitator, Ambassador Dziunik Aghajanian of Armenia, delivered by Mr Andranik Grigoryan, Attaché, on the activities held during the intersessional period.

19. AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – The OPCW Programme for Africa

- 19.1 The Conference **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Africa Programme”) (EC-83/DG.15 C-21/DG.13, dated 15 September 2016).

19.2 The Conference **underlined** the necessity to strengthen the Africa Programme in order to enhance the national capabilities of African States Parties to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the Convention.

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

The Conference **noted** a Note by the Director-General on engaging the chemical industry associations (C-21/DG.15, dated 3 October 2016). Representatives of the global chemical industry and the scientific community 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 Eighteenth Meeting of the Commission for the Settlement of Disputes Related to Confidentiality (hereinafter “the Confidentiality Commission”) (CC-18/1, dated 20 May 2016 and Corr.1, dated 11 July 2016).

21.4 In accordance with paragraph 23 of the Confidentiality Annex to the Convention and Rule 2(b) of the Operating Procedures of the Confidentiality Commission (C-III/DEC.10/Rev.2, dated 4 December 2013), the Conference **elected** the following 20 members of the Confidentiality Commission for a term of two years, beginning on 1 May 2017:

Africa	Mr Tatah Salomon (Cameroon) Mr Ahmed Muftah Ruhuma Naili (Libya) Mr Youssef Bourita (Morocco) Colonel Mr Wagane Faye (Senegal)
Asia	Mr Yang Zhaohui (China) Dr Amandeep Garg (India) H.E. Dr Alireza Jahangiri (Iran, Islamic Republic of) Mr Masahiko Asada (Japan)
Eastern Europe	Ms Lachezara Stoeva (Bulgaria) Mr Štěpán Kochanek (Czech Republic) Mr Marko Stučin (Slovenia) H.E. Mr Călin Fabian (Romania)
Latin America and the Caribbean	Minister Mariano Simón Padrós (Argentina) Colonel Ramiro Calderón (Bolivia, Plurinational State of) Mr Jesús María Cuevillas Domínguez (Cuba) H.E. Mr Gastón Lasarte (Uruguay)

Western European
and Other States

Mr Stefano Dell'Aquila (Italy)
Prof. Dr Christoph Vedder (Germany)
Mr Irvin Høyland (Norway)
Prof. Lucas Osborn (United States of America)

Credentials Committee

- 21.5 The report of the Credentials Committee (C-21/3, dated 29 November 2016) was presented by Mr Dan Sorin Marian of the delegation of Romania to the Conference, on behalf of its Chairperson, Ambassador Brândușa Predescu of Romania. Mr Sorin Marian reported orally that, following the close of the Credentials Committee meeting, original credentials had been received from Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Kuwait, Norway, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, the United States of America, and Uruguay. Copies of credentials had been received from Ghana, Libya, and Togo. The Conference **noted** this additional information and **approved** the report.

Committee on Relations with the Host Country

- 21.6 The Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Odette Melono of Cameroon, reported to the Conference on the status of the work of the Host Country Committee.

Scientific Advisory Board

- 21.7 The Chairperson of the Scientific Advisory Board, Dr Christopher Timperley, addressed the Conference on the ongoing work of the Board and on its preparation of the report on developments in science and technology, initiated in 2016, to the Fourth Special Session to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Advisory Board on Education and Outreach

- 21.8 The Chairperson of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach, Dr Jean-Pascal Zanders, addressed the Conference on the work of the Board since it was established in accordance with a decision of the Conference at its Twentieth Session (C-20/DEC.9, dated 3 December 2015).

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 Eighty-Third Sessions have included an item on the follow-up to the Third Review Conference. 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-83/S/5 (dated 21 September 2016). 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 – Advisory Board on Education and Outreach

Further to a decision of the Conference at its Twentieth Session (C-20/DEC.9, dated 3 December 2015), the Secretariat circulated a Note by the Director-General on the membership of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (EC-81/DG.9 C-21/DG.2, dated 18 February 2016).

24. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FOUR – Any other business

Tenancy Agreement of the OPCW Headquarters building

24.1 The Conference **delegated** to the Council the authority to take action on any matters relating to the Tenancy Agreement of the OPCW Headquarters building at its next regular session.

24.2 The delegation of Australia introduced a joint paper entitled “Aerosolisation of Central Nervous System-Acting Chemicals for Law Enforcement Purposes” (C21/NAT.3/Rev.3, dated 2 December 2016) co-sponsored by Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Uruguay. The following delegations made statements: Switzerland, the United States of America, the Russian Federation, Canada, and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

25. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FIVE – Adoption of the report of the Conference of the States Parties

The Conference **considered** and **adopted** the report of its Twenty-First Session.

26. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-SIX – Closure

The Chairperson closed the session at 15:15 on 2 December 2016.

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