



**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA<sup>1</sup>  
FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES  
28 NOVEMBER – 2 DECEMBER 2016**

This annotated provisional agenda has been prepared by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) to guide and assist Member States in their substantive preparations for the Twenty-First Session of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”). It lists the items of business for the session in the sequence in which they appear in the provisional agenda set out for it (see paragraph 4 below) (C-21/1, dated 14 July 2016 and Corr.1, dated 11 November 2016).

**1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session**

The Conference at its Sixteenth Session decided to hold its Twenty-First Session from 28 November to 2 December 2016 (paragraph 21.2 of C-16/5, dated 2 December 2011). The Twenty-First Session will open on 28 November 2016 at 10:00 in the King Willem Alexander Theater in the World Forum. The Chairperson of the Conference for its Twentieth Session, Ambassador Eduardo Ibarrola-Nicolín of Mexico, will open the Twenty-First Session.

**2. AGENDA ITEM TWO – Election of the Chairperson**

Paragraph 15 of Article VIII of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) provides, inter alia, that the Conference shall elect its Chairperson at the beginning of each regular session, and that the Chairperson shall hold office until a new Chairperson is elected at the next regular session.

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

According to Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Conference shall elect 10 Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference, the Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole, and such other officers as it may decide to elect, having due regard to equitable geographical representation. Rule 35 states that such officers of the Conference shall hold office until their successors are elected at its next regular session.

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This document is issued for information purposes only and does not supersede in any way the provisional agenda for the Twenty-First Session of the Conference of the States Parties, or prejudice the outcome of its deliberations.



**4. AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Adoption of the agenda**

According to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, any request for the inclusion in the agenda of supplementary items must be received not later than 30 days before the date set for the opening of any regular session. Because the Director-General had received no such request by 29 October 2016, the Conference is **requested**, subject to the recommendation of the General Committee, to approve the following agenda, which was circulated in C-21/1 and Corr.1.

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<sup>2</sup>

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 is **requested** to consider such recommendations as the General Committee may make to it in accordance with Rule 43(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, and to take such action as it deems appropriate.

**6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – Appointment of the Credentials Committee**

Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference provides that a Credentials Committee shall be appointed at the beginning of each session of the Conference; that it shall consist of 10 members, who shall be appointed by the Conference on the proposal of its Chairperson; that it shall elect its own officers; and that it shall examine the credentials of all representatives and report without delay to the Conference.

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

The Conference is **requested** to note the opening statement made to it by the Director-General (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations).

**8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – General debate**

Detailed information concerning statements in the general debate is contained in paragraph 8 of the information handbook on the Twenty-First Session of the Conference, which has been made available to all delegations. Delegations wishing to make a statement in a language other than the six official languages of the OPCW are required to provide their own interpretation into one of the official languages. To facilitate interpretation, at least 12 copies of each statement must be made

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<sup>2</sup> Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

available before the statements are delivered. Delegations wishing their statements to be made available to other delegations are requested to provide the Secretariat with at least 300 copies before the statements are delivered.

**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 is **requested** to consider and note 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).

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

9.2 The Conference is **requested** to consider and note a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Secretariat in 2015 (EC-81/DG.10 C-21/DG.3, dated 19 February 2016).

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

9.3 Pursuant to a decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (subparagraph 3(f) of C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011), the Conference is **requested** to undertake an annual review of the implementation of this decision at a specially designated meeting (or meetings) of the Conference.

9.4 Pursuant to the provisions of the same subparagraph of the above-mentioned decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session, each possessor State concerned is to provide an annual report to the Conference, and provide an annual briefing at a closed meeting of the Conference, on the progress in the destruction of its remaining stockpiles of chemical weapons and identifying progress made since the last briefing in order to meet the planned completion date. These reports, and briefings, are to also include:

- (a) Reporting on any specific measures undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes.
- (b) Information on the projected schedule for destruction activities to meet the planned completion date.

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 is to provide an annual written report to the Conference on the overall destruction progress by the possessor States concerned that is based on the independent information that is received by the Secretariat from the Organisation's inspectors undertaking verification in accordance with Part IV(A) D of the Verification Annex to the Convention and that is to include information on:

- (a) The progress achieved to meet the planned completion date(s).
- (b) The effectiveness of any specific measures that have been undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes.

9.6 At its Eighty-Second Session, the Executive Council (hereinafter "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 is **requested** to consider and adopt a draft decision on the matter (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations).

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

The Conference is **requested** to consider and approve the draft report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2015 (EC-82/4 C-21/CRP.1, dated 14 July 2016), which was considered and forwarded to it by the Council at its Eighty-Second Session.

**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 is **requested** to note 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 will be introduced by the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Odette Melono of Cameroon, who will also brief the Conference on any developments that have taken place since the cut-off date for the report.

**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 is **requested** to elect 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:	five elective places
Asia:	five elective places
Eastern Europe:	two elective places
Latin America and the Caribbean:	four elective places
Western Europe and other States:	five elective places

**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 The Conference is **requested**, pursuant to Regulation 3.6(a) of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules and on the recommendation of the Council at its Eighty-Third Session (EC-83/DEC.2, dated 13 October 2016), to consider and adopt a draft decision on the OPCW Draft Programme and Budget for 2017 based on recommendations forwarded to it by the Council at its Eighty-Third Session (C-21/DEC/CRP.1, dated 21 October 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) has been circulated to the Member States.

**14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Scale of assessments for 2017**

The Conference is **requested** to adopt, pursuant to Regulation 3.6(b) of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, a draft decision on the scale of assessments to be paid by States Parties for the financial year 2017 (C-21/DEC/CRP.2, dated 28 October 2016).

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

At its Eighty-Third Session, the Council 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). In accordance with Regulation 13.10 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, the report is being forwarded to the Conference, which is **requested** to note it.

**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 is **requested** to note 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 The Conference is **requested** to consider and note the report that the Council, at its Eighty-Third Session, considered and forwarded to it pursuant to the above-mentioned decision (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 is **requested** to adopt a draft decision approving the said proposals (C-21/DEC/CRP.3, dated 7 November 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 is **requested** to note 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 is **requested** to note 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 is **requested** to consider and adopt a draft decision on the matter (C-21/DEC/CRP.4, dated 7 November 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 is **requested** to note 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).

**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 is **requested** to note 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), and to take any further steps it might consider necessary.

**19. AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – The OPCW Programme for Africa**

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

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

The Conference is **requested** to note 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 are expected to address the Conference.



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

### **Committee of the Whole**

- 21.1 The Committee of the Whole is expected to report on the results of its consideration of those agenda items that the Conference refers to it at the recommendation of the General Committee.

### **General Committee**

- 21.2 The Conference is **requested** to note the reports that the General Committee will prepare in accordance with Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, and to take such action as it deems appropriate.

### **Confidentiality Commission**

- 21.3 The Conference is **requested** to note 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 The Conference is **requested** to elect 20 members of the Confidentiality Commission for a term of two years, starting from 1 May 2017. In accordance with Rule 2(b) of the Operating Procedures of the Confidentiality Commission (C-III/DEC.10/Rev.2, dated 4 December 2013), the States Parties belonging to each of the five regions specified in paragraph 23 of Article VIII of the Convention shall select four candidates from among the persons nominated by the States Parties in their region, to serve in a personal capacity. The same Rule also states that the States Parties in each of the regional groups shall do their utmost, through a process of consultation, to reach consensus on their selection; that a list of 20 candidates reflecting the selection of the regional groups shall be submitted to the Conference; and that the decision on appointment shall be taken by the Conference as a matter of substance, in accordance with paragraph 18 of Article VIII of the Convention. Rule 3 of the aforementioned operating procedures stipulates that members shall take up their appointment for a period of two years, starting from 1 May in the year immediately following the session of the Conference at which they were appointed, and that anyone who has completed three consecutive terms as a member of the Confidentiality Commission shall not be eligible for immediate reappointment.

### **Credentials Committee**

- 21.5 The Conference is **requested** to consider and approve the report of the Credentials Committee on the credentials of representatives to the Twenty-First Session of the Conference (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations).

### **Committee on Relations with the Host Country**

- 21.6 At its Eleventh Session, the Conference adopted a decision establishing a Committee on Relations with the Host Country (hereinafter “the Host Country Committee”) (C-11/DEC.9, dated 7 December 2006). The Chairperson of the

Council, Ambassador Odette Melono of Cameroon, will report 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, will address the Conference on the ongoing work of the Board and on its preparation for the report on developments in science and technology to the Fourth Review Conference that was initiated in 2016.

### **Advisory Board on Education and Outreach**

- 21.8 The Chairperson of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach, Dr Jean-Pascal Zanders, will address 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\*, dated 19 April 2013), 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 is **requested** to note 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**

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

## **26. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-SIX – Closure**