



**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES
27 NOVEMBER – 1 DECEMBER 2017**

1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

- 1.1 The Twenty-Second Session of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) was opened at 10:13 on 27 November 2017 by the Chairperson of the Conference for its Twenty-First Session, Ambassador Christoph Israng of Germany.
- 1.2 The following 136 States Parties participated in the Twenty-Second 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, Denmark, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, 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, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, 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, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Tunisia, the United States of America, Uruguay, 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.

* Reissued for technical reasons to amend paragraph 9.7 (by adding “and welcomed”), and paragraph 22.4 (by adding “Australia”).



- 1.4 In accordance with Rule 30 of the Rules of Procedure, and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-22/DEC.1, dated 27 November 2017), 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-22/DEC.2, dated 27 November 2017), nine international organisations, specialised agencies, and other international bodies attended the Twenty-Second 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-22/DEC.3, dated 27 November 2017), the Conference **invited** representatives of the global chemical industry and scientific community to address the Conference during the plenary of its Twenty-Second 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-22/DEC.4, dated 27 November 2017), 66 non-governmental organisations attended and participated in the Twenty-Second Session.
- 1.8 The Permanent Representative of Canada read a joint statement concerning accreditation of non-governmental organisations for the Twenty-Second Session of the Conference on behalf of Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America (C-22/NAT.8, dated 27 November 2017).

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 Abdelouahab Bellouki, Permanent Representative of Morocco, 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, Canada, Cuba, El Salvador, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Slovenia, 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 Christine Weil of Germany, 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

The provisional agenda for the Twenty-Second Session was circulated under cover of C-22/1, dated 13 July 2017.

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 Chemical Weapons Convention

AGENDA ITEM TEN – Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2016

AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Annual Report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 28 July 2016 to 14 July 2017

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

AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2018, submitted by the Executive Council, and all items pertaining to this Budget

AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Scale of assessments for 2018

AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – External Auditor's report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2016

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 Chemical Weapons Convention

AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – The OPCW Programme for Africa

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY – Appointment of the Director-General

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-ONE – Engagement with the chemical industry and the scientific community

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-TWO – Reports of subsidiary bodies

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-THREE – Follow-up to the Third Review Conference

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FOUR – Dates and duration of the next regular sessions of the Conference of the States Parties

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: Colombia, France, Greece, Guatemala, Iraq, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, South Africa, and the Sudan.

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

The Conference **noted** the opening statement by the Director-General (C-22/DG.20, dated 27 November 2017).

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – General debate

8.1 The Conference **received** a message from Mr Thomas Markram, Director and Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations.

8.2 The following delegations made statements during the general debate: Estonia (on behalf of the European Union), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China), South Africa (on behalf of the African Group), the Syrian Arab Republic, Germany, Italy, Libya, the United States of America, France, Costa Rica, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Portugal, Romania, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, Qatar, Japan, Chile, Indonesia, China, the Russian Federation, Algeria, Morocco, Switzerland, Singapore, the Sudan, Uruguay, Pakistan, Poland, India, Jordan, Canada, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Kenya, the Netherlands, Australia, Cuba, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, the

United Arab Emirates, Finland, Mongolia, Bahrain, Belarus, Panama, the Philippines, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Ecuador, Ireland, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Senegal, Guatemala, New Zealand, the Czech Republic, Ghana, Nigeria, Iraq, Ukraine, Thailand, Spain, Sweden, Brazil, Myanmar, Norway, Angola, Argentina, Nepal, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Uganda, Viet Nam, Burkina Faso, Mexico, Tunisia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Sri Lanka, and Colombia.

- 8.3 The following signatory State made a statement during the general debate: Israel.
- 8.4 The following international organisations made a statement during the general debate: the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the World Customs Organization, and 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-22/DEC.4, the following non-governmental organisations gave presentations at the plenary meeting: The Rif Memory Association, Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, ArgIQ, Argentine Council of International Relations, Biosecure, Pakistan House, Mayors for Peace, Organization for Defending Sardasht Victims of Chemical Weapons, Colorado Citizens Advisory Commission for Chemical Demilitarization, United Service Institution of India, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, Farmers Care Foundation, Tehran Peace Museum, Amman Center for Peace and Development, Society for the Study of Peace and Conflict, South Asian Strategic Stability Institute, Green Cross International, Halabja Chemical Victims Society, and Association for the Defence of Chemical Injuries Fars Province.

9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Status of implementation of the Chemical Weapons 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 report by the Director-General on the “Overview of the Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2017” (EC-86/DG.10 C-22/DG.10, dated 24 August 2017); a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2017: Article VII – Initial Measures” (EC-86/DG.8 C-22/DG.8, dated 24 August 2017); and a report by the Director-General entitled “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2017: Additional Measures for States Parties that Possess Industrial Facilities Which Are Declarable Under the Convention” (EC-86/DG.9 C-22/DG.9, dated 24 August 2017).

Subitem 9(b): Implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Technical Secretariat in 2016

- 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 2016 (EC-84/DG.16 C-22/DG.2, dated 14 February 2017).

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 obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) 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.
- 9.5 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-22/DG.19, dated 22 November 2017), 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, 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-22/NAT.1, dated 9 November 2017), 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 same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the Russian Federation provided an annual report (C-22/NAT.3, dated 20 November 2017), and an annual briefing, on the progress achieved towards complete destruction of its chemical weapons. The Conference **noted** and **welcomed** the completion of the destruction of all declared categories of chemical weapons in the Russian Federation.
- 9.8 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), Libya provided an annual report (C-22/NAT.2, dated 16 November 2017), and an annual briefing, on the progress achieved towards complete destruction of its chemical weapons. The Conference **welcomed** the completion of the destruction of declared Category 2 chemical weapons in Libya.
- 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 State Party concerned to include confirmation in the required reporting to the Council and the Conference that it remains on schedule to complete destruction activities by its planned completion date.
- 9.10 The Conference **welcomed** the Council's decision at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012) and the destruction plan beyond the year 2016 for the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China (EC-84/NAT.6, dated 2 March 2017) attached as its Annex 2 adopted by the Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session, bearing in mind that the destruction progress was less than expected in the previous destruction plan attached to the decision "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), and **encouraged** continued cooperation between China and Japan in the implementation of EC-67/DEC.6.
- 9.11 The Conference **recalled** 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) and its Annex 2 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 chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China.

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).

9.14 The Conference **welcomed** the visit by a delegation of the Council to the Haerbaling abandoned chemical weapons site, Jilin Province, China, from 12 to 16 June 2017, jointly invited by China and Japan. 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): Status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons

9.15 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.

9.16 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-86/DG.15 C-22/DG.13, dated 6 September 2017).

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2016

The Conference **considered** and **approved** the report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2016 (C-22/4, dated 29 November 2017).

11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Annual report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 28 July 2016 to 14 July 2017

The Conference **noted** the report of the Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 28 July 2016 to 14 July 2017, 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 Twenty-First Session in Response to Recommendations Made by the Executive Council" (EC-86/9 C-22/2, dated 12 October 2017). The report was introduced by the Vice-Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador María Teresa Infante of Chile, who also briefed the Conference on any developments that had taken place since the cut-off date for the report, on behalf of the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal of Bangladesh.

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** 20 members to serve on the Council for a term of two years, starting on 12 May 2018. 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, Nigeria, South Africa

Asia: Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Pakistan

Eastern Europe: the Czech Republic, the Russian Federation, Ukraine

Latin America and the Caribbean: Chile, Guatemala, Panama, Peru¹

Western Europe and other States: Canada, Denmark, Malta, Portugal, the Netherlands

- 12.2 The Conference **agreed** that the procedure, according to Rule 79 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, for the election of members to the Council as applied to the GRULAC during the Twenty-Second Session of the Conference shall not set a precedent to be followed in the future. Members of the Council should continue to be elected by acclamation by the Conference upon designation by their respective regional groups.

13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2018, submitted by the Executive Council, and all items pertaining to this Budget

In accordance with subparagraph 21(a) of Article VIII of the Convention, and pursuant to Financial Regulation 3.6(a) to the Conference **considered** and **adopted** the Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2018, which the Council had submitted to it (C-22/DEC.5, dated 30 November 2017).

14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Scale of assessments for 2018

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 2018 (C-22/DEC.6, dated 30 November 2017).

¹ Pursuant to Rule 79 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Conference proceeded to a vote, by secret ballot, by a simple majority of members present and voting, to fill the seats pertaining to the Latin America and the Caribbean Group (GRULAC).

15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – External Auditor’s report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2016

The Conference **noted** the Financial Statements of the OPCW and the report of the External Auditor for the year ending 31 December 2016 (EC-86/DG.3 C-22/DG.5, dated 24 July 2017), 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 deficit for 2014 and cash surplus for 2015

- 16.1 At its Eighty-Sixth Session, the Council adopted a decision on the cash deficit for 2014 and cash surplus for 2015 (EC-86/DEC.2, dated 11 October 2017) and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Second Session. The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-22/DEC.7, dated 30 November 2017).

Subitem 16(b): Cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2017

- 16.2 At its Eighty-Sixth Session, the Council considered and forwarded to the Conference at its Twenty-Second 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 2017 (EC-86/DG.20 C-22/DG.16, dated 21 September 2017). The Conference **noted** this Note.

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

- 16.3 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.
- 16.4 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-86/DG.11 C-22/DG.11, dated 30 August 2017).
- 16.5 The Conference **considered** and **approved** the multi-year payment plan submitted by Libya to regularise the payment of its outstanding annual contributions (C-22/DEC.8, dated 30 November 2017).

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

- 16.6 The Council at its Eighty-Sixth 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-Second Session approve these write-offs, totalling EUR 14,828.28 (EC-86/DG.4 C-22/DG.7, dated 24 July 2017). The Conference **adopted** a decision approving the said proposals (C-22/DEC.9, dated 30 November 2017).

Subitem 16(e): Transfers of funds between programmes during 2016

- 16.7 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-84/DG.17 C-22/DG.3, dated 16 February 2017).

Subitem 16(f): Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2016

- 16.8 In accordance with Regulation 12.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, the Council at its Eighty-Fifth 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 2016, and the accompanying Note by the Director-General (EC-85/DG.10 C-22/DG.4, dated 24 May 2017). The Conference **noted** this report.

Subitem 16(g): Establishment of a special fund for the Fourth Review Conference in 2018

- 16.9 At its Eighty-Sixth Session, the Council considered and noted a Note by the Director-General entitled “Request for Establishment of a Special Fund for the Fourth Review Conference in 2018” (EC-86/DG.25, dated 28 September 2017). The Council also adopted a decision on the establishment of a special fund for the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Fourth Review Conference”) in 2018 (EC-86/DEC.3, dated 11 October 2017), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Second Session. The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-22/DEC.10, dated 30 November 2017).

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

- 16.10 At its Eighty-Sixth 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-86/DEC.5, dated 11 October 2017), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Second Session. The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-22/DEC.11, dated 30 November 2017).

Subitem 16(i): Amendments to the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules

- 16.11 At its Eighty-Sixth Session, the Council adopted a decision entitled “Amendments to the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules” (EC-86/DEC.7, dated 11 October 2017), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Second Session.
- 16.12 The Permanent Representation of Germany submitted amendments to the above decision, which were circulated under the symbol of C-22/NAT.4, dated 24 November 2017. Subsequently, the proposal was withdrawn through note verbale dated 29 November 2017.
- 16.13 The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-22/DEC.12, dated 30 November 2017).

Subitem 16(j): Amendments to the OPCW Staff Regulations

- 16.14 At its Eighty-Sixth Session, the Council adopted a decision entitled “Amendments to the OPCW Staff Regulations and Interim Staff Rules” (EC-86/DEC.8, dated 11 October 2017), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Second Session. The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-22/DEC.13, dated 30 November 2017).

Subitem 16(k): Rehiring of inspectors

- 16.15 At its Nineteenth Session, the Conference adopted a decision on the rehiring of inspectors (C-19/DEC.11, dated 4 December 2014) and decided to review the implementation of this decision at its Twenty-Second Session in 2017, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters to the Council on the matter.
- 16.16 At its Eighty-Sixth Session, the Council adopted a decision on the rehiring of inspectors (EC-86/DEC.11, dated 13 October 2017), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Second Session. The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-22/DEC.14, dated 30 November 2017).

Subitem 16(l): OPCW confidentiality regime

- 16.17 The Conference **noted** a report by the Director-General on the OPCW confidentiality regime (EC-85/DG.22 C-22/DG.6, dated 23 June 2017).
- 16.18 At its Eighty-Fifth Session, the Council adopted a decision on amendments to the OPCW Policy on Confidentiality (EC-85/DEC.6, dated 12 July 2017), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Second Session. The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-22/DEC.15, dated 30 November 2017).
- 16.19 The Council also adopted a decision on amendments to the OPCW Media and Public Affairs Policy (EC-85/DEC.7, dated 12 July 2017) and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Second Session. The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-22/DEC.16, dated 30 November 2017).

Subitem 16(m): Appointment of the External Auditor

- 16.20 According to Article 13.1 of the OPCW Financial Regulations, the Conference shall appoint the External Auditor, who shall be the Auditor-General (or an officer holding an equivalent title) of a State Party, and such appointment shall be in the manner and for the period determined by the Conference and for a single period of not less than two years, but not exceeding six years.
- 16.21 At its Eighty-Sixth Session, the Council considered a Note by the Director-General containing a summary of nominations for this post (EC-86/DG.5, dated 23 August 2017). The Council made a recommendation on the re-appointment of the External Auditor of the OPCW, and forwarded it to the Conference at its Twenty-Second Session. The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-22/DEC.17, dated 30 November 2017).
- 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 2016 to 25 August 2017 (EC-86/DG.19 C-22/DG.15, dated 14 September 2017).
- 17.3 The Conference **received** an oral report by the facilitator, Ms Kani Shareef of Iraq, on activities held during the intersessional period, and **took note** of the report by the facilitator in regard to the second “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-86/DEC.4 (dated 11 October 2017), the Conference **encouraged** the widest and active participation of States Parties at the workshop on Article XI to take place in 2018. States Parties, in coordination with the Secretariat, will agree on the content and date of the workshop to promote implementation of Article XI, including recommendations on concrete measures. The Conference **requested** the facilitator to report on developments in this regard to the Conference at its next session.
- 17.4 The Conference **recommended** to submit to the Open-Ended Working Group on Future Priorities, as well as to the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, the report presented by the facilitator in regard to the second “Review and Evaluation Workshop of the Components of an Agreed Framework for the Full Implementation of Article XI” as a contribution to discussion by States Parties on the future priorities of the OPCW.

17.5 The Conference **requested** the Secretariat to continue supporting discussions by States Parties in facilitations on Article XI, including through the provision of advice on recommendations and relevant decisions agreed by States Parties to enhance the implementation of Article XI, as well as their evaluation of the effectiveness of the programme of activities of the Secretariat and suggestions for improvement.

17.6 The Conference **encouraged** the States Parties of the Convention to continue working in the facilitations on Article XI, in order to advance the agreed framework for the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of this Article on the basis of C-16/DEC.10.

18. AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Ensuring the universality of the Chemical Weapons 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 2016 to 15 August 2017 (EC-86/DG.12 C-22/DG.12, dated 30 August 2017).

18.3 The Conference **received** an oral report by the facilitator, 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-86/DG.18 C-22/DG.14, dated 12 September 2017).

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

The Conference **appointed** Mr Fernando Arias as the Director-General of the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, for a term of office beginning on 25 July 2018 and ending on 24 July 2022 (C-22/DEC.18, dated 30 November 2017).

21. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-ONE – 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-22/DG.18, dated 10 October 2017). Representatives of the global chemical industry and the scientific community addressed the Conference.

22. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-TWO – Reports of subsidiary bodies

Committee of the Whole

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

General Committee

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

Confidentiality Commission

- 22.3 The Conference **noted** the report of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Commission for the Settlement of Disputes Related to Confidentiality (CC-19/1, dated 19 May 2017).

Credentials Committee

- 22.4 The report of the Credentials Committee (C-22/3, dated 30 November 2017) was presented by its Chairperson, Ambassador Gladys Marithza Ruíz Sánchez de Vielman of Guatemala. Ambassador Marithza Ruíz Sánchez de Vielman reported orally that, following the close of the Credentials Committee meeting, original credentials had been received from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, and Spain. A copy of credentials had been received from Viet Nam. The Conference **noted** this additional information and **approved** the report.

Committee on Relations with the Host Country

- 22.5 The Vice-Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador María Teresa Infante of Chile, **reported** to the Conference on the status of the work of the Host Country Committee, on behalf of the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal of Bangladesh.

Scientific Advisory Board

- 22.6 The Chairperson of the Scientific Advisory Board, Dr Christopher Timperley, addressed 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

- 22.7 The Conference **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General reporting on the activities of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO) in 2016 (EC-84/DG.7 C-22/DG.1, dated 5 January 2017).
- 22.8 The Conference **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General reporting on the activities of the ABEO in 2017 (EC-86/DG.29 C-22/DG.17, dated 4 October 2017).

22.9 The Chairperson of the ABEO, Dr Jean-Pascal Zanders, addressed the Conference on the work of the Board in 2017.

23. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-THREE – 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-Sixth 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-86/S/6 (dated 28 September 2017). The Conference **noted** the activities in furtherance of its review of the declarations contained in paragraphs 9.3 to 9.16 of RC-3/3*.

24. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FOUR – Dates and duration of the next regular sessions of the Conference of the States Parties

24.1 The Conference **considered** possible dates for the future sessions of the Conference and **decided** to hold its future regular sessions on the following dates:

Twenty-Fourth Session: from 25 to 29 November 2019;

Twenty-Fifth Session: from 30 November to 4 December 2020;

Twenty-Sixth Session: from 29 November to 3 December 2021; and

Twenty-Seventh Session: from 28 November to 2 December 2022.

24.2 The Conference **authorised** the Director-General to conclude 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. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FIVE – Any other business

Specific dates and duration of the Twenty-Third Session of the Conference of the States Parties and the Fourth Review Conference

25.1 Pursuant to its decision from its Twentieth Session on combining the dates for its Fourth Review Conference and for its regular session in 2018 (C-20/5, dated 4 December 2015), the Conference **decided** to hold its Twenty-Third Session on 19 and 20 November 2018 and its Fourth Review Conference from 21 to 30 November 2018.

Establishment of an open-ended working group for the preparations for the Fourth Review Conference

- 25.2 Cognisant of the work undertaken by the Open-ended Working Group on Future Priorities, as mandated by the Conference at its Twentieth Session and established by Council decision (EC-82/DEC.2, dated 14 July 2016), the Conference **decided** to establish an open-ended working group to begin preparations, in cooperation with the Secretariat, for the Fourth Review Conference, which will be convened in accordance with paragraph 22 of Article VIII of the Convention.
- 25.3 The Conference **further decided** to establish the Bureau of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference and, in accordance with the practice of rotation (paragraph 9.4 of EC-68/3, dated 4 May 2012), **agreed** on the following nominations for the Bureau: H.E. Mr I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja of Indonesia (Asian Group) as Chairperson; and H.E. Mrs Odette Melono of Cameroon (African Group), H.E. Mr Marcin Czepelak of Poland (Eastern European Group), H.E. Mr Agustin Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador (GRULAC), and H.E. Mr Kenneth D. Ward of the United States of America (WEOG)² as Vice-Chairpersons of the Open-Ended Working Group.
- 25.4 In terms of the organisational arrangement of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, the working group will be guided by a Bureau that will consist of one Chairperson, and four Vice-Chairpersons representing the regional groups, to ensure that the views of all delegations are taken into account in preparing for the Fourth Review Conference. The Working Group and the Bureau will be guided by the following understandings:
- (a) The Working Group will decide on all matters regarding its agenda, as well as the content, format, and status of its final document(s).
 - (b) The Bureau members, as a management team, will help steer the work of the Working Group, and to that end they will meet at regular intervals.
 - (c) Decision-making by consensus shall be the objective of the Working Group.
 - (d) Active and broad participation of the States Parties in the deliberations and proceedings of the Working Group shall be encouraged. For that purpose, the programme of meetings of the Working Group should be arranged so as to facilitate, where they wish, the involvement of representatives from capitals.
- 25.5 The Conference **agreed** that the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group would brief the Council on the progress made by the Group under a separate agenda item.

Other issues

- 25.6 A representative of South Sudan made a statement informing the Conference of its progress made to join the Convention.

²

WEOG = Western European and Other States Group.

- 25.7 The delegation of Australia introduced a joint paper entitled “Aerosolisation of Central Nervous System-Acting Chemicals for Law Enforcement Purposes” (C-22/NAT.5, dated 28 November 2017) co-sponsored by Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Senegal, 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, Bulgaria, Canada, the United States of America, and the Russian Federation.
- 25.8 The delegation of Belarus introduced a joint declaration entitled “United for the World Free of Chemical Weapons”. The following delegations associated themselves with the above declaration: Angola, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, China, the Gambia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Malawi, Nicaragua, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, South Africa, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). The following delegations made statements: the Russian Federation, the United States of America, Belarus, the Syrian Arab Republic, Canada, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Japan, Nigeria, and Burkina Faso.

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 Twenty-Second Session.

27. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-SEVEN – Closure

The Chairperson closed the session at 16:42 on 1 December 2017.

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