



OPCW

Executive Council

Seventy-Eighth Session
17 – 19 March 2015

EC-78/2
19 March 2015
Original: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SEVENTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

The Chairperson of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”), Ambassador Álvaro Moerzinger of Uruguay, opened its Seventy-Eighth Session in The Hague at 10:10 on 17 March 2015.

2. AGENDA ITEM TWO – Adoption of the agenda

The Council **considered** and **adopted** the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Opening statement by the Director-General
4. Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on the activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues
5. General debate
6. Status of implementation of the Convention:
 - (a) Reports by the Director-General on destruction-related issues
 - (b) Implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues
 - (c) Other verification-related issues
 - (d) Destruction-related plans and facility agreements
 - (e) Timely submission of declarations under Article VI of the Convention
 - (f) Implementation by the Technical Secretariat in 2014 of the regime governing the handling of confidential information
 - (g) Status of implementation of the Verification Information System



- (h) Technical Secretariat's activities: update on the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria
- 7. OPCW Central Analytical Database
- 8. Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference¹
- 9. Education and outreach: briefing by the Technical Secretariat
- 10. The OPCW's contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts
- 11. Administrative and financial matters:
 - (a) Status of implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations
 - (b) Transfers of funds during 2014
 - (c) Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise-resource-planning (ERP) system
 - (d) Nominations for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
 - (e) Adjustment to the Director-General's gross salary
- 12. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council
- 13. Report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
- 14. Any other business
- 15. Adoption of the report
- 16. Closure

3. AGENDA ITEM THREE – Opening statement by the Director-General

The Council **noted** the opening statement by the Director-General (EC-78/DG.13, dated 17 March 2015).

4. AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on the activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues

- 4.1 The Vice-Chairpersons and coordinators for clusters of issues reported to the Council on informal consultations held during the intersessional period: Ambassador Vesela Mrđen Korać of Croatia on chemical weapons issues, Ambassador Francesco Azzarello of Italy on chemical industry and other Article VI issues, Ambassador Masaru Tsuji of Japan on administrative and financial issues, and Ambassador Dr Ali Gebril Werfeli of Libya on legal, organisational, and other issues. The Chairperson

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

also reported on his own activities on behalf of the Council during the intersessional period.

- 4.2 The facilitators for issues under regular consultation also reported on consultations held during the intersessional period: Ambassador Robert Mikulak of the United States of America on the implementation of the verification regime, Mr Aladdin Al Hamdawi of Iraq on the Secure Information Exchange (SIX) project, Mr Sébastien Braha of France on the implementation of the action plan of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), and Mrs Abeer S. Khaleefah of Iraq on the implementation of Article XI of the Convention.
- 4.3 The Council **expressed appreciation** for the work done by the facilitator for the implementation of Article X of the Convention, Ms Sarah Broughton of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and **welcomed** the appointment of Mr Szymon Bocheński of Poland as the new facilitator.
- 4.4 The Council **also expressed appreciation** for the work done by the facilitator for the report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight and of the External Auditor, the report of the External Auditor on the Financial Statements of the OPCW, and the report of the Office of Internal Oversight, Ms Sakiko Hayakawa of Japan, and **welcomed** the appointment of Mr Eric A. Smith of the United States of America as the new facilitator.

5. **AGENDA ITEM FIVE – General debate**

The following delegations made statements during the general debate: the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China), Latvia (on behalf of the European Union), South Africa (on behalf of the African Group), Poland, Canada (observer), Cuba (observer), Germany, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Malaysia, Brazil, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), the Republic of Korea, China, France, the Netherlands, Spain, India, Australia (observer), Chile, New Zealand, Iraq (observer), Kenya, Croatia, the United States of America, Mexico, Finland, Turkey (observer), Uruguay, Switzerland (observer), Qatar, Argentina, Belarus, Panama, Senegal, Guatemala, and the Russian Federation.

6. **AGENDA ITEM SIX – Status of implementation of the Convention**

Subitem 6(a): Reports by the Director-General on destruction-related issues

- 6.1 Further to a decision by the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011), the Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the overall progress of destruction activities by possessor States Parties (EC-78/DG.11, dated 9 March 2015).
- 6.2 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012), the Council **noted** a report by the Director-General on the overall progress of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons (EC-78/DG.12, dated 13 March 2015).

Subitem 6(b): Implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues

- 6.3 The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) briefed the Council on its destruction-related verification activities, including progress on the destruction of chemical weapons production facilities in the Syrian Arab Republic.
- 6.4 The Council **noted** a voluntary presentation by Italy on the destruction of its old chemical weapons pursuant to Council decision EC-67/DEC.8 (dated 17 February 2012).
- 6.5 The United States of America, the Russian Federation, Libya, Iraq, Japan, and China briefed the Council on their destruction-related activities.
- 6.6 The Council **noted** the statements and comments made by States Parties on the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons by possessor States Parties, recalling the relevant obligations under the Convention, and relevant decisions by the Conference and the Council. The Council **recalled** that the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons by possessor States Parties should continue in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and its Annex on Implementation and Verification and with the application of the measures contained in decision C-16/DEC.11.
- 6.7 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the Council **considered** and **noted** a national paper by the United States of America on the progress made on the completion of the destruction of its chemical weapons, including information on measures to accelerate such progress, as well as appropriate measures in order to meet the planned completion date (EC-78/NAT.1, dated 24 February 2015), along with comments on the issue as mentioned above. The Council **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.
- 6.8 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the Council **considered** and **noted** a national paper by the Russian Federation on the progress made on the completion of the destruction of its chemical weapons, including information on measures to accelerate such progress, as well as appropriate measures in order to meet the planned completion date (EC-78/P/NAT.4, dated 20 February 2015), along with comments on the issue as mentioned above. The Council **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.
- 6.9 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the Council **considered** and **noted** a national paper by Libya on the progress made on the completion of the destruction of its chemical weapons, including information on measures to accelerate such progress, as well as appropriate

measures in order to meet the planned completion date (EC-78/NAT.2, dated 2 March 2015), along with comments on the issue as mentioned above. The Council **noted** the confirmation provided by the delegation of Libya that the necessary measures continue to be undertaken in order to meet the planned completion date of December 2016 for its destruction activities, as submitted to the Council at its Sixty-Eighth Session in accordance with subparagraph 3(c) of C-16/DEC.11.

- 6.10 The Council **noted** two Notes by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme (EC-78/DG.5, dated 23 January 2015 and EC-78/DG.9, dated 23 February 2015).
- 6.11 The Council **noted** two national papers by the Syrian Arab Republic on the activities related to the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and their production facilities (EC-78/P/NAT.2, dated 16 January 2015 and EC-78/P/NAT.3, dated 16 February 2015).
- 6.12 Further to its consideration of this issue at its previous session, the Council **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of the chemical weapons declared as abandoned in the Syrian Arab Republic (EC-78/DEC.9, dated 19 March 2015).
- 6.13 Further to its consideration of this issue at its previous session, the Council **deferred** consideration of a draft decision on the retention of samples of Syrian chemical weapons (EC-77/DEC/CRP.2, dated 12 September 2014).
- 6.14 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6), a national paper by China (EC-78/NAT.3, dated 2 March 2015) and a national paper by Japan (EC-78/NAT.4/Rev.1, dated 13 March 2015) had been circulated to the members of the Council. Bearing in mind the destruction progress was less than expected in the destruction plan attached to the relevant decision (EC-67/DEC.6), while welcoming close cooperation between relevant States Parties, the Council **considered** and **decided** to remain seized of the matter, and **urged** the relevant States Parties to continue to make the fullest possible efforts to complete destruction of abandoned chemical weapons as soon as possible in accordance with the Council decision (EC-67/DEC.6) in a faithful manner and to address challenges including the safety of people and protecting the environment. Both States Parties reaffirmed their effective commitment to the abovementioned decision.
- 6.15 The Council **welcomed** the review of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons conducted by the Third Review Conference and the report of the Third Review Conference (RC-3/3*, dated 19 April 2013), 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 Council **noted** that Japan and China welcomed the visits of the Chairperson of the Council, the Director-General, and a delegation representing the Council to destruction facilities in the second week of June to obtain an overview of the destruction of the abandoned chemical weapons being undertaken to assist exercises of their competencies.

Subitem 6(c): Other verification-related issues

- 6.16 The Secretariat briefed the Council on its other verification-related activities.
- 6.17 The Secretariat also provided a follow-up briefing on the activities of the Declaration Assessment Team.
- 6.18 The Council **noted** a status report on the activities of the Declaration Assessment Team (EC-78/P/S/1, dated 4 March 2015). The following delegations made statements: Germany, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the Russian Federation, Iran (the Islamic Republic of), China, Cuba (observer), and the Syrian Arab Republic (observer).

Subitem 6(d): Destruction-related plans and facility agreements

- 6.19 The Council **considered** and **approved** the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant chemical weapons destruction facility (CWDF), located at Pueblo, Colorado, the United States of America (EC-78/DEC.1, dated 18 March 2015).
- 6.20 The Council **considered** and **approved** the facility agreement with the United States of America regarding on-site inspections at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant CWDF, located at Pueblo, Colorado, the United States of America (EC-78/DEC.2, dated 18 March 2015).
- 6.21 The Secretariat submitted to the Council a Note on modifications to the facility agreement with the Russian Federation regarding on-site inspections at the CWDF located at Shchuchye, Kurganskaya Oblast, the Russian Federation (EC-78/S/4, dated 20 February 2015).
- 6.22 Proposed amendments to the aforementioned facility agreement had been submitted separately to the Council (EC-78/DEC.3, dated 18 March 2015 and EC-78/P/DEC.1, dated 18 March 2015), which **considered** and **approved** them. Related amendments to the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of Category 1 chemical weapons at the CWDF located at Shchuchye, Kurganskaya Oblast, the Russian Federation, are treated in paragraph 6.23 below.
- 6.23 The Council **considered** and **approved** amendments to the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of Category 1 chemical weapons at the CWDF located at Shchuchye, Kurganskaya Oblast, the Russian Federation (EC-78/DEC.4, dated 18 March 2015 and EC-78/P/DEC.2, dated 18 March 2015).
- 6.24 The Secretariat submitted to the Council a Note on amendments, modifications, and updates to the facility agreement with Finland regarding on-site inspections at a single small-scale facility (EC-78/S/3, dated 18 February 2015).
- 6.25 Proposed amendments to the aforementioned facility agreement had been submitted separately to the Council (EC-78/DEC.5, dated 18 March 2015), which **considered** and **approved** them.

Subitem 6(e): Timely submission of declarations under Article VI of the Convention

- 6.26 Further to a decision by the Council at its Fifty-First Session (EC-51/DEC.1, dated 27 November 2007), the Council **noted** a status report by the Director-General on the timely submission by States Parties of declarations under Article VI of the Convention, for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014 (EC-78/DG.4, dated 12 January 2015).

Subitem 6(f): Implementation by the Technical Secretariat in 2014 of the regime governing the handling of confidential information

- 6.27 The Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Secretariat in 2014 (EC-78/DG.8 C-20/DG.2, dated 12 February 2015).

Subitem 6(g): Status of implementation of the Verification Information System

- 6.28 The Council **noted** a status report on the Verification Information System (EC-78/S/1, dated 7 January 2015).

Subitem 6(h): Technical Secretariat's activities: update on the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria

- 6.29 Further to the decision by the Council on the reports of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria (EC-M-48/DEC.1, dated 4 February 2015), a Note by the Secretariat on future activities of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria (S/1255/2015*, dated 10 March 2015 and Add.1, dated 13 March 2015), was circulated to the Council.

7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – OPCW Central Analytical Database

The Council **considered** a Note by the Director-General on the lists of approved data recommended for removal from the OPCW Central Analytical Database (OCAD) (EC-78/DG.1, dated 30 October 2014) and **adopted** a decision on the matter (EC-78/DEC.6, dated 18 March 2015). The Council **also considered** a Note by the Director-General on lists of new validated data of scheduled chemicals for approval by the Council for inclusion in the OCAD (EC-78/DG.2, dated 30 October 2014), and **adopted** a decision on their inclusion (EC-78/DEC.7, dated 18 March 2015).

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference

- 8.1 The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Secretariat entitled “Updated Matrix of Actionable Items Identified at the Third Review Conference” (EC-78/S/5, dated 25 February 2015).
- 8.2 The Secretariat provided a briefing to the Council on the follow-up process to the Third Review Conference.

9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Education and outreach: briefing by the Technical Secretariat

9.1 The Secretariat provided a briefing to the Council on ongoing and future activities related to education and outreach.

9.2 At its Nineteenth Session, the Conference welcomed the initiative for a text of ethical guidelines for chemical professionals related to the Convention and invited the Secretariat to inform the Council of its efforts for the advancement of the initiative and its objectives in close collaboration with relevant professional and chemical industry organisations. The Secretariat informed the Council of its efforts in this regard.

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – The OPCW’s contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts

10.1 The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the status of the OPCW’s contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts (EC-78/DG.6, dated 5 February 2015).

10.2 The facilitator for this issue, Ambassador Nimota Nihinlola Akanbi of Nigeria, reported on the consultations held during the intersessional period.

11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Administrative and financial matters

Subitem 11(a): Status of implementation of the External Auditor’s recommendations

11.1 The Council **considered** a Note by the Secretariat on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor (EC-78/S/2, dated 23 January 2015), and **decided** to consider it further at its next regular session.

Subitem 11(b): Transfers of funds during 2014

11.2 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General on transfers of funds during 2014 (EC-78/DG.7 C-20/DG.1, dated 12 February 2015).

Subitem 11(c): Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise-resource-planning (ERP) system

11.3 Further to the decision by the Conference at its Nineteenth Session on the implementation of an enterprise-resource-planning (ERP) system and the establishment of a special fund for this purpose (C-19/DEC.7, dated 3 December 2014), the Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General reporting on the status of implementation of the ERP system (EC-78/DG.10, dated 4 March 2015).

Subitem 11(d): Nominations for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

11.4 The Council **noted** a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF) (EC-78/S/6, dated 27 February 2015) and **approved** the nomination of Mr Hiroshi Sanomura of Japan to

the ABAF, to replace Ms Sakiko Hayakawa, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Mr Sanomura (23 February 2015).

- 11.5 The Council **also noted** a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-78/S/7, dated 11 March 2015), and **approved** the nomination of Mr Hu Zhongkun of China to the ABAF, to replace Mr Jiang Bo, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Mr Hu (10 March 2015).

Subitem 11(e): Adjustment to the Director-General's gross salary

- 11.6 In accordance with a decision of the Conference at its First Special Session (C-SS-1/DEC.4, dated 25 July 2002) stipulating that the terms of appointment of the Director-General shall be subject to adjustments by the Council to keep the terms in line with those of other executive heads within the United Nations system, the Council **adopted** a decision adjusting the Director-General's gross salary (EC-78/DEC.8, dated 19 March 2015).

12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council

In accordance with Rule 6 of its Rules of Procedure, and with effect from 12 May 2015, the Council **elected** Ambassador Francesco Azzarello of Italy as its new Chairperson, for a term of office ending on 11 May 2016, and its new Vice-Chairpersons for the same period: Ambassador Rose Makena Muchiri of Kenya, Ambassador Jong-hyun Choe of the Republic of Korea, Ambassador Māris Klišāns of Latvia, and Ambassador Willys Delvalle of Panama.

13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country on the performance of its activities in the intersessional period (EC-78/HCC/1/Rev.1 C-20/HCC/1/Rev.1, dated 19 March 2015).

14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN– Any other business

- 14.1 The African Group delivered a statement on comments made under agenda subitem 6(c) regarding the discussions on the activities of the Declaration Assessment Team.
- 14.2 The following delegations made statements on currently unverified reports of alleged recent use of toxic chemicals for hostile purposes in the Syrian Arab Republic: France, Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Netherlands, the United States of America, the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), Iran (the Islamic Republic of), and the Russian Federation.

15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – Adoption of the report

The Council **considered** and **adopted** the report of its Seventy-Eighth Session.

16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Closure

The Chairperson closed the session at 17:20 on 19 March 2015.

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