



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

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**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
ON THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS ACTIVITIES  
IN THE PERIOD FROM 12 JULY 2014 TO 9 JULY 2015**



EC-80/3

C-20/2

page ii

(blank page)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|           |  |          |
|-----------|--|----------|
| <b>1.</b> | <b>ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS .....</b>  | <b>1</b> |
|           | ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS<br>OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL .....                                | 2        |
|           | ACCREDITATION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ..   | 2        |
|           | APPLICATION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE EXECUTIVE<br>COUNCIL .....  | 2        |
|           | WORKING METHODS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL .....   | 3        |
|           | REPORTS BY THE VICE-CHAIRPERSONS ON ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED<br>UNDER THEIR RESPECTIVE CLUSTERS OF ISSUES .....        | 3        |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION.....</b>   | <b>3</b> |
|           | STATEMENTS AND REPORTS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL .....   | 3        |
|           | DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OPCW ON THE IMPLEMENTATION<br>OF THE CONVENTION FOR 2014 .....                          | 3        |
|           | UNIVERSALITY-RELATED ACTIVITIES .....  | 4        |
|           | VERIFICATION IMPLEMENTATION REPORTS .....  | 4        |
|           | ISSUES RELATED TO MEETING THE FINAL EXTENDED DEADLINE<br>AND OTHER DESTRUCTION-RELATED ISSUES .....                | 4        |
|           | VISITS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL .....   | 6        |
|           | DETAILED PLANS FOR VERIFICATION OF THE DESTRUCTION OF<br>CHEMICAL WEAPONS .....                                    | 7        |
|           | FACILITY AGREEMENTS .....  | 7        |
|           | PROGRESS IN THE ELIMINATION OF THE SYRIAN CHEMICAL WEAPONS<br>PROGRAMME .....                                      | 8        |
|           | Implementation of decisions of the Executive Council<br>on destruction-related issues .....                        | 8        |
|           | Combined plans for the destruction and verification of chemical<br>weapons production facilities .....             | 9        |
|           | Activities of the Declaration Assessment Team .....  | 9        |
|           | REPORTS OF THE OPCW FACT-FINDING MISSION IN SYRIA .....  | 9        |
|           | TIMELY SUBMISSION OF DECLARATIONS UNDER ARTICLE VI OF THE<br>CONVENTION .....                                      | 10       |
|           | PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE VII<br>OBLIGATIONS .....  | 10       |
|           | READINESS OF THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT TO CONDUCT A<br>CHALLENGE INSPECTION AND AN INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED USE .. | 11       |
|           | OPCW CENTRAL ANALYTICAL DATABASE .....   | 11       |
|           | STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE X .....  | 11       |
|           | THE CONTENT OF THE ASSISTANCE-AND-PROTECTION DATA<br>BANK AND ITS USE .....  | 11       |
|           | STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE XI .....   | 11       |
|           | THE OPCW PROGRAMME TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION WITH<br>AFRICA ON THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION .....               | 12       |
|           | THE OPCW'S CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL ANTI-TERRORISM EFFORTS ..  | 12       |
|           | FOLLOW-UP PROCESS TO THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE .....   | 12       |
|           | EDUCATION AND OUTREACH .....   | 12       |

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIME GOVERNING THE HANDLING OF<br>CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT .....                                      | 13        |
| REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON THE PERFORMANCE<br>OF ITS ACTIVITIES .....  | 13        |
| ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS .....   | 13        |
| Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2015, and all items pertaining<br>to this Budget.....   | 13        |
| OPCW income and expenditure.....   | 13        |
| Status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment<br>plans to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions ..... | 14        |
| Transfer of funds.....   | 14        |
| Recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and<br>of losses of assets .....  | 14        |
| Limit of investments of funds of the OPCW .....  | 14        |
| Implementation of the enterprise-resource-planning system.....   | 14        |
| Reduction of the Working Capital Fund.....   | 15        |
| Withholding of the distribution of the cash surplus for 2012 .....   | 15        |
| PERSONNEL MATTERS.....   | 15        |
| Amendment to Interim Staff Rule 4.1.05 on retirement .....   | 15        |
| Amendment of Staff Regulation 4.4 regarding the rehiring of inspectors.....  | 15        |
| Composition of the Technical Secretariat.....  | 15        |
| Implementation of the policy on tenure .....   | 15        |
| Implementation of an amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding<br>downward classification of posts .....  | 15        |
| Adjustment to the Director-General's gross salary.....   | 16        |
| New interim staff rule on independent mediation.....   | 16        |
| <b>3. OTHER DECISIONS AND ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL .....</b>   | <b>16</b> |
| REPORTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF<br>THE OFFICE OF INTERNAL OVERSIGHT AND OF THE EXTERNAL<br>AUDITOR.....                            | 16        |
| NOMINATION OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR OF THE OPCW .....   | 16        |
| STATUS REPORT ON THE VERIFICATION INFORMATION SYSTEM.....  | 17        |
| ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OPCW DAY.....  | 17        |
| AGREEMENTS ON THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF THE OPCW .....  | 17        |
| COMMEMORATION OF THE CENTENARY OF THE FIRST LARGE-SCALE<br>USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS.....  | 17        |
| <b>4. REPORTS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.....</b>  | <b>17</b> |
| REPORTS OF THE ADVISORY BODY ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND<br>FINANCIAL MATTERS .....  | 17        |
| APPOINTMENTS TO THE ADVISORY BODY ON ADMINISTRATIVE<br>AND FINANCIAL MATTERS.....  | 18        |
| REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD .....  | 18        |
| REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF INTERNAL OVERSIGHT FOR 2014.....   | 19        |
| REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST<br>COUNTRY .....  | 19        |

**5. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION OR ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE  
OF THE STATES PARTIES AT ITS TWENTIETH SESSION ..... 19**

DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OPCW ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE CONVENTION IN 2014 ..... 19  
ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OPCW DAY ..... 19  
REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF INTERNAL OVERSIGHT FOR 2014 ..... 19

ATTACHMENT: NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT: THE DESTRUCTION  
OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS ABANDONED BY JAPAN IN THE  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA .....21

ANNEX: ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES  
PARTIES AT ITS NINETEENTH SESSION IN RESPONSE TO  
RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ....25

EC-80/3

C-20/2

page vi

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## 1. ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

1.1 The Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) is the executive organ of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The Council promotes the effective implementation of, and compliance with, the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”). It also supervises the activities of the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”), cooperates with the National Authority of each State Party, and facilitates consultations and cooperation amongst States Parties at their request.

1.2 The following tables show, by regional grouping, the composition of the Council for the period from 12 May 2014 to 11 May 2015, and from 12 May 2015 to 11 May 2016.

**TABLE 1: COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL FROM 12 MAY 2014 TO 11 MAY 2015**

| <b>Regional Group</b>             | <b>States Parties</b>  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Africa                            | Algeria, Cameroon, Kenya, Libya, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Tunisia  |
| Asia                              | China, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Qatar, Republic of Korea, and Saudi Arabia  |
| Eastern Europe                    | Belarus, Croatia, Poland, Russian Federation, and Serbia   |
| Latin America and the Caribbean   | Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and Uruguay   |
| Western European and Other States | Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America |

**TABLE 2: COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL FROM 12 MAY 2015 TO 11 MAY 2016**

| <b>Regional Group</b>             | <b>States Parties</b>  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Africa                            | Algeria, Cameroon, Kenya, Libya, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, and Tunisia  |
| Asia                              | China, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Qatar, Republic of Korea, and Saudi Arabia  |
| Eastern Europe                    | Armenia, Belarus, Croatia, Latvia, and Russian Federation  |
| Latin America and the Caribbean   | Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, and Peru  |
| Western European and Other States | Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America |

1.3 At its Nineteenth Session, the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) adopted decisions on seven matters the Council had referred to it.

### **Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council**

- 1.4 At its Seventy-Eighth Session, the Council elected Ambassador Francesco Azzarello of Italy as its Chairperson, and 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 as its Vice-Chairpersons, for a term of office ending on 11 May 2016.
- 1.5 The following table lists the dates on which the Council held its regular sessions during the period under review.

**TABLE 3: DATES OF REGULAR SESSIONS OF THE COUNCIL**

| <b>Session</b>  | <b>Dates</b>        |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Seventy-Seventh | 7 – 10 October 2014 |
| Seventy-Eighth  | 17 – 19 March 2015  |
| Seventy-Ninth   | 7 – 9 July 2015     |

- 1.6 The Council held seven meetings during the reporting period:
- (a) its Forty-Third Meeting, on 24 July 2014;
  - (b) its Forty-Fourth Meeting, on 28 August 2014;
  - (c) its Forty-Fifth Meeting, on 26 September 2014;
  - (d) its Forty-Sixth Meeting, on 19 November 2014;
  - (e) its Forty-Seventh Meeting, on 4 December 2014;
  - (f) its Forty-Eighth Meeting, on 21, 23, and 29 January and 4 February 2015; and
  - (g) its Forty-Ninth Meeting, on 7 May 2015.

### **Accreditation of representatives to the Executive Council**

- 1.7 The most recent examination of credentials (EC-79/DG.7/Rev.1, dated 26 June 2015), which the Director-General conducted and reported on to the Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session, in accordance with Rule 4 of its Rules of Procedure, established that the credentials of the representatives of members of the Council, as at the date of that report, met the requirements of Rule 3.

### **Application of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council**

- 1.8 During the period under review, observer States Parties attended sessions of the Council, with an average of 46 present at each session. Each request by observers to present their views was granted under Rule 22 of the aforementioned Rules of Procedure.
- 1.9 The Council, bearing in mind Rules 50 and 22 of its Rules of Procedure, invited Myanmar, a State not Party, to attend its Seventy-Ninth Session as an observer.

### **Working methods of the Executive Council**

- 1.10 During the period under review, the Chairperson of the Council, working in consultation with its Vice-Chairpersons and its members, reviewed and published lists of issues under regular consultation and outstanding issues on the agenda of the Council (EC-77/INF.1, dated 1 August 2014; EC-78/INF.1, dated 23 January 2015; and EC-79/INF.1, dated 9 April 2015).
- 1.11 The Chairperson of the Council acted as the coordinator for the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism, which continued its work. The Vice-Chairpersons of the Council were designated as coordinators for chemical weapons issues; chemical-industry and other Article VI issues; administrative and financial issues; and legal, organisational, and other issues. Facilitators were also appointed for many of the issues requiring resolution.
- 1.12 The Council also kept under its consideration the matter of issues relating to the improvement of the methodology of its work.

### **Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues**

- 1.13 The Vice-Chairpersons reported to the Council at its regular sessions on informal consultations held during the intersessional periods.
- 1.14 Facilitators for issues under regular consultation also reported to the Council on consultations held during the intersessional periods.

## **2. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION**

### **Statements and reports by the Director-General**

- 2.1 In his opening statement to each session of the Council during the period under review, the Director-General elaborated, inter alia, on aspects of compliance by States Parties with the requirements of the Convention, and on related activities undertaken by the Secretariat. He also submitted reports to the Council, either in fulfilment of various requirements of the Convention or in response to requests by the Council or the Conference.

### **Draft annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention for 2014**

- 2.2 The Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session considered the “Draft Report of the OPCW on the Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction in 2014” (EC-79/5 C-20/CRP.1, dated 9 July 2015), and forwarded it to the Conference for consideration at its Twentieth Session. The Council requested the Secretariat to post this document on the OPCW external website, clearly indicating that it had yet to be considered and approved by the Conference.

### **Universality-related activities**

- 2.3 Further to a decision of the Council at its Twenty-Third Meeting on an action plan for the universality of the Convention (EC-M-23/DEC.3, dated 24 October 2003), the Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session considered and noted the annual report on the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention during the period from 16 September 2013 to 15 August 2014, which was being submitted to both the Council and the Conference (EC-77/DG.18 C-19/DG.11, dated 15 September 2014).
- 2.4 The Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session was addressed by H.E. Mr U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, who informed the Council of the deposition with the United Nations of Myanmar's instrument of ratification of the Convention. The Council expressed its appreciation of Myanmar's decision and welcomed it as a State Party.

### **Verification implementation reports**

- 2.5 The Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session considered and noted a supplement to the Verification Implementation Report (VIR) for 2013 (EC-77/HP/DG.1, dated 12 September 2014).
- 2.6 The Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session considered and noted the VIR for 2014 (EC-79/HP/DG.1, dated 1 May 2015 and Corr.1, dated 1 July 2015). The Council also noted the comments and views received on the VIR for 2014 (EC-79/HP/DG.2, dated 16 June 2015 and EC-79/DG.20, dated 7 July 2015), as well as the Chairperson's summary of the informal consultations on it (EC-79/3, dated 30 June 2015).

### **Issues related to meeting the final extended deadline and other destruction-related issues**

- 2.7 Further to the relevant decisions by the Conference at its Eleventh, Fourteenth, and Sixteenth Sessions, reports by the possessor States Parties on the progress made by those States Parties that had been granted extensions of deadlines for the destruction of their chemical weapons were circulated to the members of the Council at its Seventy-Seventh, Seventy-Eighth, and Seventy-Ninth Sessions:
- (a) Libya (EC-77/NAT.2, dated 12 September 2014; EC-78/NAT.2, dated 2 March 2015; and EC-79/NAT.4, dated 26 June 2015), with the Council at all three sessions noting the confirmation provided by the delegation of Libya that the necessary measures continued 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 (dated 1 December 2011). The Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session also noted the information by the Director-General that some consultations had been undertaken for determining the most feasible option for destroying the remaining Category 2 chemicals. The Council at the same session requested the Secretariat to continue to work closely with Libya and keep the Council informed of developments;

- (b) the Russian Federation (EC-77/P/NAT.1, dated 8 September 2014; EC-78/P/NAT.4, dated 20 February 2015; and EC-79/P/NAT.4, dated 10 June 2015). At its Seventy-Seventh Session, the Council recalled that, at its previous session, it was informed that, despite measures undertaken by the Russian Federation in order to meet the planned completion date of December 2015 for its destruction activities, “with regard to the Kizner facility, the destruction will continue after 2015”, and the Council “requested the Russian Federation to provide an update to the detailed destruction plan (EC-68/P/NAT.1, dated 3 April 2012) as soon as possible and no later than the Nineteenth Session of the Conference”. Following this request, the Russian Federation provided to the Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session such an update to the detailed destruction plan, which included the amended planned completion date by which the destruction of its remaining chemical weapons is to be completed (EC-68/P/NAT.1/Add.1, dated 6 October 2014). The Council considered and noted this update at its Seventy-Seventh Session and informed the Conference at its Nineteenth Session about its activities related to the issue. The Council at its Seventy-Eighth and Seventy-Ninth Sessions noted the confirmation provided by the delegation of the Russian Federation that the necessary measures continued 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; and
- (c) the United States of America (EC-77/NAT.1, dated 11 September 2014; EC-78/NAT.1, dated 24 February 2015; and EC-79/NAT.2, dated 11 June 2015), with the Council at all three sessions noting the confirmation provided by the delegation of the United States of America that the necessary measures continued 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.
- 2.8 The Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session considered and noted a national paper by Libya entitled “Concept Plan for Destruction of the Remaining Category 2 Chemical Weapons in Libya” (EC-79/NAT.1, dated 1 June 2015).
- 2.9 The Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session considered and noted a Note by the Director-General on the schedule for submission by chemical weapons possessor States of the reports on their destruction activities after the extended deadline of 29 April 2012 (EC-77/DG.19, dated 17 September 2014).
- 2.10 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the Council at its Seventy-Seventh, Seventy-Eighth, and Seventy-Ninth Sessions considered and noted reports by the Director-General on the overall progress of destruction activities by possessor States (EC-77/DG.23, dated 26 September 2014; EC-78/DG.11, dated 9 March 2015; and EC-79/DG.18\*, dated 1 July 2015).

- 2.11 The Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session considered and noted a national paper by Iraq entitled “An Urgent Action to Eliminate the Risk of Remnants in Bunker 13” (EC-79/P/NAT.5, dated 7 July 2015).
- 2.12 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012), the Council at its Seventy-Seventh, Seventy-Eighth, and Seventy-Ninth Sessions noted reports by the Director-General on the overall progress with regard to the destruction of the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China (EC-77/DG.26, dated 6 October 2014; EC-78/DG.12, dated 13 March 2015; and EC-79/DG.17, dated 29 June 2015).
- 2.13 Further to the same decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6), national papers by China (EC-77/NAT.4, dated 29 September 2014; EC-78/NAT.3, dated 2 March 2015; and EC-79/NAT.5\*, dated 18 June 2015) and national papers by Japan (EC-77/NAT.3, dated 10 September 2014; EC-78/NAT.4/Rev.1, dated 13 March 2015; and EC-79/NAT.3, dated 17 June 2015) were circulated to the members of the Council at its Seventy-Seventh, Seventy-Eighth, and Seventy-Ninth Sessions. 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 at all three sessions 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, at its Seventy-Ninth Session, to address challenges, including the safety of people and protecting the environment. Both States Parties reaffirmed their effective commitment to the above-mentioned decision at all three sessions.
- 2.14 The Council at its Seventy-Seventh, Seventy-Eighth, and Seventy-Ninth Sessions welcomed the review of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons conducted by 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”) 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 Third Review Conference with regard to the abandoned chemical weapons destruction-related issues as defined in the provisions of the Convention and in Council decision EC-67/DEC.6.
- 2.15 The Council at its Seventy-Eighth Session noted the voluntary presentation by Italy on the destruction of its old chemical weapons pursuant to Council decision EC-67/DEC.8 (dated 17 February 2012).

#### **Visits by representatives of the Executive Council**

- 2.16 The Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session considered and noted the report of the visit by a delegation of the Council to the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant and Explosive Destruction System in Colorado, the United States of America, from 22 to 27 March 2015 (EC-79/1, dated 1 June 2015).

- 2.17 The Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session noted the report of the visit by a delegation of the Council to the Haerbaling abandoned chemical weapons site, jointly invited by China and Japan, from 8 to 12 June 2015 (EC-79/4, dated 9 July 2015) and expressed its appreciation for the first-hand information on the destruction progress and the bilateral cooperation of the relevant States Parties obtained through the visit.

#### **Detailed plans for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons**

- 2.18 The Council at its Seventy-Eighth Session 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).
- 2.19 The Council at the same session 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 and EC-78/P/DEC.2, both dated 18 March 2015).
- 2.20 The Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session considered and approved amendments to the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons at the Rabta Toxic Chemicals Destruction Facility, Libya (EC-79/DEC.3, dated 8 July 2015).

#### **Facility agreements**

- 2.21 The Council at its Seventy-Eighth Session 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).
- 2.22 The Secretariat submitted to the Council at its Seventy-Eighth Session 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). Proposed amendments to the aforementioned facility agreement had been submitted separately to the Council (EC-78/DEC.3 and EC-78/P/DEC.1, both dated 18 March 2015), which considered and approved them.
- 2.23 The Secretariat submitted to the Council at the same session 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). 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.
- 2.24 The Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session considered and approved the facility agreement with Pakistan regarding on-site inspections at a Schedule 1 single small-scale facility (EC-79/DEC.1 and EC-79/R/DEC.1, both dated 8 July 2015).

- 2.25 The Secretariat submitted to the Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session a Note on amendments, modifications, and updates to the facility agreement regarding on-site inspections at the Rabta Toxic Chemicals Destruction Facility, Libya, and amendments to the agreed detailed plan for verification for that facility (EC-79/S/7, dated 26 June 2015). Proposed amendments to the aforementioned facility agreement had been submitted separately to the Council, which considered and approved them (EC-79/DEC.2, dated 8 July 2015).

### **Progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme**

#### Implementation of decisions of the Executive Council on destruction-related issues

- 2.26 The Council noted Notes by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme at its Forty-Fourth, Forty-Sixth, Forty-Eighth, and Forty-Ninth Meetings, and Seventy-Seventh, Seventy-Eighth, and Seventy-Ninth Sessions (EC-M-44/DG.1, dated 25 July 2014; EC-M-44/DG.2, dated 25 August 2014; EC-77/DG.22, dated 24 September 2014; EC-M-46/DG.1, dated 23 October 2014; EC-78/DG.3, dated 24 November 2014; EC-M-48/DG.1, dated 23 December 2014; EC-78/DG.5, dated 23 January 2015; EC-78/DG.9, dated 23 February 2015; EC-79/DG.1, dated 23 March 2015; EC-M-49/DG.1, dated 23 April 2015; EC-79/DG.8, dated 22 May 2015; and EC-79/DG.15, dated 23 June 2015).
- 2.27 The Council noted national papers by the Syrian Arab Republic on progress relating to the destruction of chemical weapons and chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) on its territory at its Forty-Third, Forty-Fourth, Forty-Sixth, Forty-Eighth, and Forty-Ninth Meetings and its Seventy-Seventh, Seventy-Eighth, and Seventy-Ninth Sessions (EC-M-43/P/NAT.1, dated 18 July 2014; EC-M-44/P/NAT.1, dated 18 August 2014; EC-77/P/NAT.3, dated 14 September 2014; EC-M-46/P/NAT.1, dated 14 October 2014; EC-78/P/NAT.1, dated 13 November 2014; EC-M-48/P/NAT.1, dated 17 December 2014; EC-78/P/NAT.2, dated 16 January 2015; EC-78/P/NAT.3, dated 16 February 2015; EC-79/P/NAT.1, dated 18 March 2015; EC-M-49/P/NAT.1, dated 17 April 2015; EC-79/P/NAT.2, dated 15 May 2015; and EC-79/P/NAT.3, dated 15 June 2015).
- 2.28 The Council at its Forty-Fourth Meeting noted a Note by the Secretariat reporting to the Council on an initial inspection of abandoned chemical weapons declared by the Syrian Arab Republic (EC-M-44/P/S/1, dated 25 August 2014).
- 2.29 Further to its consideration of this issue at its Forty-Fourth Meeting and Seventy-Seventh Session, the Council at its Seventy-Eighth Session 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).
- 2.30 Further to its consideration of this issue at its Seventy-Seventh and Seventy-Eighth Sessions, the Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session decided to defer to its next regular session the consideration of a Note by the Secretariat on the retention of samples of Syrian chemical weapons (EC-77/S/3, dated 12 September 2014) and a draft decision on the matter (EC-77/DEC/CRP.2, dated 12 September 2014).

Combined plans for the destruction and verification of chemical weapons production facilities

- 2.31 The Council at its Forty-Third Meeting considered and adopted a decision on the combined plans for the destruction and verification of 12 declared CWPFs in the Syrian Arab Republic (EC-M-43/DEC.1, dated 24 July 2014). In this context, the Council noted the following documents: a Note by the Director-General on destruction and verification of 12 declared CWPFs in the Syrian Arab Republic (EC-M-43/DG.1/Rev.1, dated 21 July 2014); a Note by the Director-General on the combined destruction and verification plans for 12 declared CWPFs in the Syrian Arab Republic (EC-M-40/DG.2, dated 27 March 2014 and Add.1, dated 20 July 2014); and a national paper by the Syrian Arab Republic on the detailed destruction plan for 12 CWPFs (seven aircraft hangars and five underground structures) in the Syrian Arab Republic (EC-M-40/P/NAT.2, dated 24 March 2014, and Add.1 and Add.2, both dated 20 July 2014).
- 2.32 The Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session noted a national paper by the Syrian Arab Republic containing a detailed destruction plan in respect of the “Al-Maliha” ricin production facility (EC-77/P/NAT.2, dated 12 September 2014).
- 2.33 The Council at its Forty-Sixth Meeting considered and adopted a decision on the combined plan for the destruction and verification of the “Al-Maliha” ricin production facility in the Syrian Arab Republic (EC-M-46/DEC.1, dated 19 November 2014), in the context of a Note by the Director-General on the same subject (EC-M-46/DG.2, dated 27 October 2014).

Activities of the Declaration Assessment Team

- 2.34 The Council noted status reports of the activities of the Declaration Assessment Team: the first status report at its Seventy-Seventh Session (EC-77/P/S/1, dated 3 October 2014); the second status report at its Forty-Eighth Meeting (EC-M-48/P/S/1, dated 14 January 2015); the third status report at its Seventy-Eighth Session (EC-78/P/S/1, dated 4 March 2015); the fourth status report at its Forty-Ninth Meeting (EC-M-49/P/S/1, dated 1 May 2015); and, the fifth status report at its Seventy-Ninth Session (EC-79/P/S/1, dated 1 July 2015).

**Reports of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria**

- 2.35 At its Forty-Fifth Meeting, the Council received the second report of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria containing its key findings (S/1212/2014, dated 10 September 2014), which was also circulated to the Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session.
- 2.36 At the Forty-Eighth Meeting of the Council, the Secretariat circulated the third report of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria (S/1230/2014, dated 18 December 2014).
- 2.37 At the same meeting, the Council noted the Director-General’s statement expressing his intention to include the reports of the Fact-Finding Mission, along with information on the discussion thereof by the Council, as part of his monthly reports to

the United Nations Security Council that are submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013).

- 2.38 The Council at its Forty-Eighth Meeting also considered and adopted a decision, by voting, on the reports of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria (EC-M-48/DEC.1, dated 4 February 2015), with the voting result of 40 for (Kenya, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Poland, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, Tunisia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Algeria, Argentina, Belarus, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, China, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, India, Italy, and Japan), one against (the Islamic Republic of Iran), and no abstentions.

#### **Timely submission of declarations under Article VI of the Convention**

- 2.39 Further to a decision by the Council at its Fifty-First Session (EC-51/DEC.1, dated 27 November 2007), the Council at its Seventy-Eighth and Seventy-Ninth Sessions noted the status reports by the Director-General on the timely submission by States Parties of declarations under Article VI of the Convention (EC-78/DG.4, dated 12 January 2015, and EC-79/DG.13, dated 11 June 2015).
- 2.40 Further to a decision of the Council at its Sixty-Sixth Session on the policy guidelines for determining the number of Article VI inspections (EC-66/DEC.10, dated 7 October 2011), the Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session noted a report by the Director-General on the results of the implementation of these policy guidelines (EC-79/DG.4, dated 7 April 2015).

#### **Progress made in the implementation of Article VII obligations**

- 2.41 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 Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session noted a Note by the Director-General on the “Overview of the Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2014” (EC-77/DG.5 C-19/DG.6, dated 13 May 2014; Corr.1, dated 9 October 2014; and Corr.2, dated 25 November 2014); a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2014: Article VII – Initial Measures” (EC-77/DG.6 C-19/DG.7, dated 13 May 2014 and Corr.1, dated 9 October 2014); and a report by the Director-General entitled “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2014: Additional Measures for States Parties That Possess Industrial Facilities Which are Declarable Under the Convention” (EC-77/DG.7 C-19/DG.8, dated 13 May 2014 and Corr.1, dated 9 October 2014). The Council forwarded the documents to the Conference for consideration at its Nineteenth Session.
- 2.42 The Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session received an oral report from the Vice-Chairperson of the Council for legal, organisational, and other issues, Ambassador Dr Ali Gebril Werfeli of Libya. The Vice-Chairperson informed the Council with regard to the informal consultations held on 24 September 2014, the

briefing on the reports of the Director-General on the implementation of Article VII, and the development of an electronic tool developed by the Secretariat to assist States Parties in the development of their national implementing legislation, known as the Legislative Assistance and Support Tool (LAST).

#### **Readiness of the Technical Secretariat to conduct a challenge inspection and an investigation of alleged use**

- 2.43 The Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session considered and noted a Note by the Director-General reporting on the readiness of the Secretariat to conduct a challenge inspection or an investigation of alleged use (EC-79/DG.12, dated 3 June 2015).

#### **OPCW Central Analytical Database**

- 2.44 The Council at its Seventy-Eighth Session 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). At the same session, the Council considered a Note by the Director-General on the 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).

#### **Status of implementation of Article X**

- 2.45 The Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session considered and noted a report by the Director-General on the status of implementation of Article X of the Convention as at 30 June 2014 (EC-77/DG.3, dated 12 August 2014 and Corr.1, dated 2 October 2014).

#### **The content of the assistance-and-protection data bank and its use**

- 2.46 The Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session considered and noted a Note by the Secretariat on the content of the assistance-and-protection data bank and its use (EC-79/S/5, dated 17 June 2015).

#### **Status of implementation of Article XI**

- 2.47 The Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session considered and noted a report by the Director-General on the progress made and review of the status of implementation of Article XI of Convention (EC-77/DG.20 C-19/DG.12, dated 18 September 2014), and forwarded it to the Conference for consideration at its Nineteenth Session.
- 2.48 The Council at the same session was briefed by Ambassador Dr Gebril Werfeli of Libya, as the Vice-Chairperson on legal, organisational, and other issues, on activities on the implementation of Article XI held during the intersessional period. The Council noted that the former facilitator (Mr Tariq Karim of Pakistan) had circulated, in accordance with paragraph 4.3 of the report of the Council at its Seventy-Sixth Session (EC-76/6, dated 11 July 2014) a first draft of a document entitled "Facilitator's Informal Document" for further discussions and contributions by delegations. The Vice-Chairperson encouraged the continuation of informal

consultations and facilitations, with a view to conducting deliberations and achieving concrete outcomes.

- 2.49 The Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session received an oral report by the facilitator, Mrs Abeer S. Khaleefah of Iraq, on activities held during the intersessional period. The facilitator informed the Council about the informal consultations held on 2 July 2015, where concrete proposals were presented by States Parties of the Non-Aligned Movement and China, the United States of America, and the Secretariat, which, among others, aimed at the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of all the provisions of Article XI.

#### **The OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention**

- 2.50 The Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session considered and noted a Note on the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Africa Programme”) (EC-77/DG.21 C-19/DG.13, dated 23 September 2014).

#### **The OPCW’s contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts**

- 2.51 The Council at its Seventy-Eighth Session 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).

#### **Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference**

- 2.52 The Council at its Seventy-Seventh, Seventy-Eighth, and Seventy-Ninth Sessions considered and noted Notes by the Secretariat entitled “Updated Matrix of Actionable Items Identified at the Third Review Conference” (EC-77/S/4, dated 23 September 2014; EC-78/S/5, dated 25 February 2015; and EC-79/S/3, dated 11 June 2015).
- 2.53 At the Seventy-Seventh Session of the Council, a Note by the Director-General on the status of the follow-up to the recommendations on science and technology made to the Third Review Conference (EC-77/DG.11, dated 5 September 2014) was circulated to the Council members.

#### **Education and outreach**

- 2.54 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. At its Seventy-Eighth Session, the Secretariat informed the Council of its efforts in this regard.
- 2.55 The Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session noted a Note by the Secretariat on ongoing and planned awareness-raising, education and outreach activities (EC-79/S/2, dated 10 June 2015).

- 2.56 The Council at the same session noted a Note by the Director-General on the establishment of an Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (EC-79/DG.11, dated 29 May 2015), for which there was broad support. It was determined that informal consultations would be held, with a view to the adoption of a draft decision (EC-79/DEC/CRP.4, dated 29 May 2015) by consensus at the Eightieth Session of the Council, and to its recommendation to the Conference at its Twentieth Session.

#### **Implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Technical Secretariat**

- 2.57 The Council at its Seventy-Eighth Session 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).

#### **Report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities**

- 2.58 The Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session considered and approved a report on the performance of its activities in the period from 20 July 2013 to 11 July 2014 and submitted it to the Conference for consideration at its Nineteenth Session (EC-77/3 C-19/2, dated 9 October 2014). A note by the Secretariat entitled “The Destruction of Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People’s Republic of China” was attached to the above-mentioned report.

#### **Administrative and financial matters**

##### Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2015, and all items pertaining to this Budget

- 2.59 The Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session considered the Draft Programme and Budget for 2015, which the Director-General had submitted to the Council in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.4 (EC-77/CRP.1, dated 4 July 2014), and transmitted it to the Conference at its Nineteenth Session, together with its comments and recommendations (EC-77/DEC.4\*, dated 9 October 2014).
- 2.60 At the same session, the Medium-Term Plan for the period from 2015 to 2019 (EC-77/S/1 C-19/S/1, dated 23 April 2014) was circulated to the members of the Council.
- 2.61 A Note by the Secretariat on the programme performance for the year 2013 (S/1185/2014, dated 15 May 2014) was also circulated to the members of the Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session.

##### OPCW income and expenditure

- 2.62 The Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session noted a report by the Director-General on OPCW income and expenditure for the financial year to 30 June 2014 (S/1201/2014, dated 22 July 2014).
- 2.63 The Council at the same session considered and forwarded to the Conference at its Nineteenth 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 2014 (EC-77/DG.14 C-19/DG.10, dated 10 September 2014).

Status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions

- 2.64 Further to a decision of the Conference at its Eleventh Session (C-11/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2006), the Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session considered and forwarded to the Conference at its Nineteenth Session a Note by the Director-General on the status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans (EC-77/DG.8 C-19/DG.9, dated 1 September 2014).

Transfer of funds

- 2.65 The Council at its Seventy-Eighth Session 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).

Recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and of losses of assets

- 2.66 The Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session considered a Note by the Director-General on the recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and of losses of assets and recommended that the Conference at its Nineteenth Session approve these write-offs, totalling EUR 18,002.95 (EC-77/DG.2 C-19/DG.5, dated 30 July 2014).

Limit of investments of funds of the OPCW

- 2.67 The Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session noted a report by the Director-General on the limit of investments of funds of the OPCW (EC-77/DG.4 and Corr.1, both dated 21 August 2014).

Implementation of the enterprise-resource-planning system

- 2.68 The Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session noted a Note by the Director-General on the Enterprise-Resource-Planning (ERP) Strategy of the OPCW (EC-77/DG.15, dated 12 September 2014), considered and adopted a decision on the implementation of an ERP system and on the establishment of a special fund for this purpose (EC-77/DEC.1, dated 9 October 2014), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Nineteenth Session.
- 2.69 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Nineteenth Session on the implementation of an ERP system and the establishment of a special fund for this purpose (C-19/DEC.7, dated 3 December 2014), the Council at its Seventy-Eighth and Seventy-Ninth Sessions noted Notes by the Director-General reporting on the status of implementation of the ERP system (EC-78/DG.10, dated 4 March 2015 and EC-79/DG.9, dated 1 June 2015).

#### Reduction of the Working Capital Fund

- 2.70 The Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session noted a Note by the Director-General recommending the reduction of the Working Capital Fund and the use of the remaining balance for ERP implementation (EC-77/DG.17, dated 12 September 2014), considered and adopted a decision on the matter (EC-77/DEC.2, dated 9 October 2014), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Nineteenth Session.

#### Withholding of the distribution of the cash surplus for 2012

- 2.71 The Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session noted a Note by the Director-General on the request for withholding of the distribution of the cash surplus for 2012 (EC-77/DG.16, dated 12 September 2014), with a view to using it for ERP implementation, considered and adopted a decision on the matter (EC-77/DEC.3, dated 9 October 2014), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Nineteenth Session.

#### **Personnel matters**

##### Amendment to Interim Staff Rule 4.1.05 on retirement

- 2.72 The Council at its Forty-Third Meeting considered and adopted a decision on an amendment to Interim Staff Rule 4.1.05 (EC-76/DEC.6, dated 24 July 2014), on the understanding that there would be no financial implications for the Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2015.

##### Amendment of Staff Regulation 4.4 regarding the rehiring of inspectors

- 2.73 Further to its consideration of a Note by the Secretariat on the rehiring of former inspectors (EC-76/S/5, dated 2 July 2014 and Add.1, dated 26 September 2014), the Council at its Forty-Seventh Meeting considered and adopted a decision on this matter (EC-M-47/DEC.1, dated 4 December 2014), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Nineteenth Session.

##### Composition of the Technical Secretariat

- 2.74 The Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session noted a report by the Director-General on the composition of the Secretariat (EC-79/DG.6, dated 19 May 2015).

##### Implementation of the policy on tenure

- 2.75 The Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session considered and noted a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the tenure policy in 2014 (EC-79/DG.5, dated 4 May 2015).

##### Implementation of an amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward classification of posts

- 2.76 The Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session noted a report by the Director-General on the implementation of an amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward

classification of posts during the period from 14 August 2013 to 13 August 2014 (EC-77/DG.9, dated 5 September 2014).

Adjustment to the Director-General's gross salary

- 2.77 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 at its Seventy-Eighth Session adopted a decision adjusting the Director-General's gross salary (EC-78/DEC.8, dated 19 March 2015).

New interim staff rule on independent mediation

- 2.78 The Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session noted a Note by the Director-General on the proposed new interim staff rule on independent mediation (EC-77/DG.24, dated 29 September 2014) and considered and adopted a decision on this matter (EC-77/DEC.5, dated 9 October 2014).

**3. OTHER DECISIONS AND ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**Reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight and of the External Auditor**

- 3.1 The Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session noted the Financial Statements of the OPCW and the report of the External Auditor for the year ending 31 December 2013 (EC-77/DG.1 C-19/DG.4, dated 14 July 2014) and forwarded them to the Conference for consideration at its Nineteenth Session. The Council at the same session received a presentation of the External Auditor's report by his representative, Mr Christian Ahrendt (EC-77/2, dated 8 October 2014).
- 3.2 The Council at the same session noted a Note by the Secretariat on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor (EC-77/S/2, dated 5 August 2014).
- 3.3 Further to its consideration of this issue at its previous session, the Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session deferred the consideration of 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).
- 3.4 The Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session considered and noted a report by the Director-General on the implementation in 2014 of the recommendations contained in the 2013 annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight (OIO) (EC-79/DG.2, dated 25 March 2015).

**Nomination of the External Auditor of the OPCW**

- 3.5 The Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session noted a Note by the Director-General containing the summary of nominations for the External Auditor of the OPCW (EC-77/DG.12, dated 8 September 2014), and the observations of the

Vice-Chairperson for administrative and financial issues, Ambassador Masaru Tsuji of Japan. The Council agreed that the Chairperson would nominate a panel of ambassadors who would evaluate the three candidates for the position of External Auditor of the OPCW, availing itself of technical support if required, in order to enable the Council to make a recommendation to the Conference at its Nineteenth Session.

- 3.6 At its Forty-Sixth Meeting, the Chairperson reported to the Council on the work of the panel of ambassadors and on the panel's decision. The Council took note of the report and recommended to the Conference at its Nineteenth Session that it appoint the Comptroller and Auditor General of the National Audit Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as External Auditor of the OPCW, for the period from 2015 to 2017.

#### **Status report on the Verification Information System**

- 3.7 The Council at its Seventy-Eighth Session noted a status report on the Verification Information System (EC-78/S/1, dated 7 January 2015).

#### **Establishment of an OPCW Day**

- 3.8 Further to the circulation of a Note by the Director-General on a proposal for the establishment of an OPCW Day (EC-79/S/1, dated 22 May 2015), the Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session adopted a decision on the matter (EC-79/DEC.4, dated 9 July 2015), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twentieth Session.

#### **Agreements on the privileges and immunities of the OPCW**

- 3.9 The Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session considered and concluded an agreement between the OPCW and Georgia on the privileges and immunities of the OPCW (EC-77/DEC.6, dated 9 October 2014).
- 3.10 The Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session considered and concluded an agreement between the OPCW and Hungary on the privileges and immunities of the OPCW (EC-79/DEC.5, dated 9 July 2015).

#### **Commemoration of the centenary of the first large-scale use of chemical weapons**

- 3.11 The Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session noted a Note by the Secretariat on the OPCW commemoration of the centenary of the first large-scale use of chemical weapons (S/1214/2014, dated 16 September 2014).

### **4. REPORTS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

#### **Reports of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters**

- 4.1 Further to noting the report of the Thirty-Sixth Session of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF) (ABAF-36/1, dated 5 June 2014), and a Note by the Director-General containing comments on the aforementioned report

(EC-76/DG.13, dated 24 June 2014) at its previous session, the Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session endorsed the recommendations contained therein.

- 4.2 The Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session also noted the report of the Thirty-Seventh Session of the ABAF, which took place from 1 to 4 September 2014 (ABAF-37/1, dated 4 September 2014), and a Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-77/DG.25, dated 30 September 2014).
- 4.3 The Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session considered and noted the report of the Thirty-Eighth Session of the ABAF, which took place from 1 to 3 June 2015 (ABAF-38/1, dated 3 June 2015), and a Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-79/DG.14, dated 22 June 2015).

#### **Appointments to the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters**

- 4.4 The Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session noted a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-77/S/5, dated 2 October 2014), and appointed Mr Khodayar Rouzbahani of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the ABAF, to replace Mr Mahmoud Esfahaninejad, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Mr Rouzbahani (22 September 2014).
- 4.5 The Council at its Seventy-Eighth Session noted a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-78/S/6, dated 27 February 2015) and appointed 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).
- 4.6 At the same session, the Council noted a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-78/S/7, dated 11 March 2015), and appointed Mr Zhongkun Hu 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).
- 4.7 The Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session noted a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-79/S/4, dated 12 June 2015) and appointed Mr Milan Kerber of the Czech Republic to a third term with the ABAF, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Mr Kerber (28 April 2015).
- 4.8 At the same session, the Council noted a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-79/S/6, dated 24 June 2015) and appointed Mrs Katrina Leonard-Johnston of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the ABAF, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Mrs Leonard-Johnston (17 June 2015).

#### **Report of the Scientific Advisory Board**

- 4.9 The report of the Twenty-First Session of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB-21/1, dated 27 June 2014) was circulated to the members of the Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session, as was a Note by the Director-General entitled “Response

to the Report of the Twenty-First Session of the Scientific Advisory Board” (EC-77/DG.10, dated 5 September 2014).

#### **Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2014**

- 4.10 The Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session considered and noted the annual report of the OIO for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014, which the Director-General had submitted to it, along with his comments (EC-79/DG.3 C-20/DG.3, dated 3 April 2015), in accordance with Regulation 12.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations. The Council transmitted this report, and the Director-General’s covering Note, to the Conference for consideration at its Twentieth Session.

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

- 4.11 At its Seventy-Eighth Session, the Council considered and noted a report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (hereinafter “the Host Country Committee”) on the performance of its activities in the intersessional period (EC-78/HCC/1/Rev.1 C-20/HCC/1/Rev.1, dated 19 March 2015).

### **5. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION OR ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES AT ITS TWENTIETH SESSION<sup>1</sup>**

#### **Draft annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2014**

- 5.1 The Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session considered the “Draft Report of the OPCW on the Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction in 2014” (EC-79/5 C-20/CRP.1), and forwarded it to the Conference for consideration at its Twentieth Session.

#### **Establishment of an OPCW Day**

- 5.2 Further to the circulation of a Note by the Director-General on a proposal for the establishment of an OPCW Day (EC-79/S/1), the Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session adopted a decision on the matter (EC-79/DEC.4), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twentieth Session.

#### **Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2014**

- 5.3 The Council at its Seventy-Ninth Session considered and noted the annual report of the OIO for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014, which the Director-General had submitted to it, along with his comments (EC-79/DG.3 C-20/DG.3), in accordance with Regulation 12.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations. The Council transmitted this report, and the

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<sup>1</sup> This section includes only those matters that were forwarded by the Council to the Twentieth Session of the Conference within the period covered by this report, that is, from 12 July 2014 to 9 July 2015.

Director-General's covering Note, to the Conference for consideration at its Twentieth Session.

Attachment: Note by the Technical Secretariat: The Destruction of Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People's Republic of China

Annex: Actions Taken by the Conference of the States Parties at its Nineteenth Session in Response to Recommendations Made by the Executive Council

**Attachment**

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT<sup>2</sup>**

**THE DESTRUCTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS ABANDONED BY JAPAN IN  
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

1. Decision (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012)

The decision entitled “The Deadline of 29 April 2012 and Future Destruction of the Chemical Weapons Abandoned By Japan in the People’s Republic of China” (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012), in which it reads in O.P.8, “Recommends the Conference of States Parties to take note of annual reports of the Council concerning the progress made for the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons from a viewpoint of facilitating the destruction;...”

2. Progress made for the Destruction of Abandoned Chemical Weapons

To date, over 50,000 items of abandoned chemical weapons (hereinafter referred to as “ACWs”) have been recovered from over 90 locations within China. This figure includes the items that have already been destroyed. However, it does not include the estimated 300,000 to 400,000 items buried at Haerbaling, Jilin Province, which have yet to be recovered, nor does it include items at other locations that also have yet to be recovered and declared. (Quoted from EC-79/DG.17)

As at the end of the reporting period on 31 May 2015, the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) had verified the destruction of 37,665 chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China. This figure accounts for all items of ACWs that were declared at Nanjing, items transferred to Nanjing for destruction from surrounding locations, and items destroyed at the mobile destruction facilities (MDFs) in Shijiazhuang and Wuhan, which include all of the items transferred from surrounding locations to the MDFs for destruction as at the date mentioned above. (Quoted from EC-79/DG.17)

According to information provided in their national papers and the destruction plan jointly submitted to the Council by China and Japan, the mobile destruction facility (MDF) currently located at Wuhan, which was originally scheduled to be deployed to Guangzhou, will be redeployed to Harbin to facilitate the destruction of ACW items in northern China. This redeployment will occur following the completion of destruction operations at Wuhan and scheduled maintenance in Japan. During the reporting period, the 143 ACW items that were consolidated at the Wuhan destruction site were destroyed. Afterwards, the Secretariat verified the completion of ACW destruction at the Wuhan site in May 2015. Currently, decontamination operations of

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<sup>2</sup> Attached pursuant to paragraph 14.2 of the report of the Eightieth Session of the Executive Council (EC-80/4\*, dated 8 October 2015).

the MDF are ongoing as at the cut-off date for this report. (Quoted from EC-79/DG.17)

Regarding the Shijiazhuang MDF site, the consolidation at the Shijiazhuang Trust Warehouse of 594 ACW items previously stored at Tianjin took place in May and June. Following this, the fourth phase of destruction operations at this location is tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2015. (Quoted from EC-79/DG.17)

During the reporting period, test destruction operations resumed at the Haerbaling Test Destruction Facility (TDF) following the winter suspension period. According to the 2015 work plan agreed upon by China and Japan, more than 1,000 ACW items are scheduled to be destroyed during this phase of operations. Owing to the fact that Haerbaling is the largest burial site of ACWs in China, the destruction operations will have a major impact on the overall progress in the destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China. (Quoted from EC-79/DG.17)

In accordance with a decision taken by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6), China and Japan hosted the second visit by the Chairperson of the Executive Council and representatives of the Executive Council to the Haerbaling Facility between 8 and 12 June 2015. The visit allowed the Council representatives to obtain an overview and greater understanding of the destruction of ACWs. Upon completion of its visit to Haerbaling, the Council delegation was impressed by the progress made since its last visit in 2013, both in terms of the construction of the site infrastructure, as well as the test destruction operations that have taken place. The delegation commended the continued commitment of Japan as the Abandoning State Party and China as the Territorial State Party to destroy all ACWs as soon as possible and fulfil their obligations under the Convention. (Quoted from EC-79/DG.17)

During the intersessional period, China and Japan carried out a number of bilateral investigations and excavation and recovery operations at various locations. Following these activities, a number of items were confirmed as ACWs, while other suspect items require further identification activities. Amended declarations reflecting the results of these operations will be submitted to the Secretariat in due course. (Quoted from EC-79/DG.17)

Finally, the destruction of the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China is scheduled to continue based on the agreed destruction plan, in accordance with which Japan and China regularly report to the Council (EC-67/NAT.11, dated 15 February 2012). The plan includes time frames for the destruction of ACWs by Japan, with appropriate cooperation from China. The Secretariat remains in close coordination with both China and Japan on the implementation of the Council decision (EC-67/DEC.6). (Quoted from EC-79/DG.17)

### 3. Activities of the Council

The Council considered and approved a report on the performance of its activities in the period from 20 July 2013 to 11 July 2014 (EC-77/3 C-19/2), and submitted it to

the Conference for consideration at its Nineteenth Session. A note by the Secretariat entitled “the Destruction of Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People’s Republic of China” was attached to the above-mentioned report. (Quoted from EC-77/4)

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. Both States Parties reaffirmed their effective commitment to the above-mentioned decision. (Quoted from EC-77/4)

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\*) relating to abandoned chemical weapons issues. The Council expressed appreciation for the first-hand information on the destruction-related progress and the bilateral cooperation of the relevant States Parties obtained through the visit by the delegation of the Council to Haerbaling abandoned chemical weapons site, jointly invited by China and Japan, from 9 to 13 September 2013. (Quoted from EC-77/4)

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. (Quoted from EC-78/2)

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\*), 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. (Quoted from EC-78/2)

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. (Quoted from EC-79/6)

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\*), 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 the report of the visit by a delegation of the Council to the Haerbaling abandoned chemical weapons site, jointly invited by China and Japan, from 8 to 12 June 2015 (EC-79/4, dated 9 July 2015) and expressed its appreciation for the first-hand information on the destruction progress and the bilateral cooperation of the relevant States Parties obtained through the visit. (Quoted from EC-79/6)

Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6), the Council noted a report by the Director-General on the overall progress of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons (EC-77/DG.26, dated 6 October 2014). (Quoted from EC-77/4)

Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6), 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). (Quoted from EC-78/2)

Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6), the Council noted a report by the Director-General on the overall progress of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons (EC-79/DG.17). (Quoted from EC-79/6)

4. Reference documents

(a) National papers

- (i) China (EC-77/NAT.4, dated 29 September 2014; EC-78/NAT.3, dated 2 March 2015, EC-79/NAT.6, dated 7 July 2015); and
- (ii) Japan (EC-77/NAT.3, dated 10 September 2014; EC-78/NAT.4/Rev.1, dated 13 March 2015; EC-79/NAT.3, dated 17 June 2015).

(b) Reports by the Director-General (EC-77/DG.26, dated 6 October 2014; EC-78/DG.12, 13 March 2015; EC-79/DG.17; 29 June 2015)

(c) Report of the Executive Council on the Performance of its Activities in the Period from 20 July 2013 to 11 July 2014 (EC-77/3 C-19/2, dated 9 October 2014)

## **Annex**

### **ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES AT ITS NINETEENTH SESSION IN RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL<sup>3</sup>**

#### **Progress report on the implementation of the plan of action regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations**

5. Further to a decision by the Conference at its Fourteenth Session regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations (C-14/DEC.12), the Conference considered and noted a Note by the Director-General on the “Overview of the Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2014” (EC-77/DG.5 C-19/DG.6, Corr.1, and Corr.2); a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2014: Article VII – Initial Measures” (EC-77/DG.6 C-19/DG.7 and Corr.1); and a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2014: Additional Measures for States Parties that Possess Industrial Facilities Which Are Declarable Under the Convention” (EC-77/DG.7 C-19/DG.8 and Corr.1).

#### **Fostering of international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities**

6. 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 31 August 2013 to 26 August 2014 (EC-77/DG.20 C-19/DG.12).
7. The Conference received an oral report by the facilitator, Mrs Abeer S. Khaleefah of Iraq, on activities held during the intersessional period. She informed the Conference of the proposals presented by the former facilitator, Mr Tariq Karim of Pakistan, as well as by delegations, that are aimed at further enhancing the full, effective, and non-discriminatory provisions of Article XI, and stated that diverse views were expressed during the informal consultations held on 25 November 2014. The Conference encouraged delegations to continue discussions and consultations in this regard, with a view to achieving concrete outcomes that could also be drawn from other proposals by States Parties and the Secretariat.

#### **Ensuring the universality of the Convention**

8. The Conference noted the annual report by the Director-General on the implementation of the action plan for universality of the Convention during the period from 16 September 2013 to 15 August 2014 (EC-77/DG.18 C-19/DG.11).

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<sup>3</sup> This section includes only those matters that were forwarded by the Council to the Nineteenth Session of the Conference within the period covered by this report, that is, from 12 July 2014 to 9 July 2015.

**Report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities in the period from 20 July 2013 to 11 July 2014**

9. The Conference noted the report of the Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 20 July 2013 to 11 July 2014, 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 Eighteenth Session in Response to Recommendations Made by the Executive Council” (EC-77/3 C-19/2). The report was introduced by the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Álvaro Moerzinger of Uruguay, who also briefed the Conference on any developments that had taken place since the cut-off date for the report.
10. The Conference also noted the Note by the Secretariat on “The Destruction of Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People’s Republic of China” attached to EC-77/3 C-19/2, pursuant to paragraph 11.2 of the report of the Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session (EC-77/4, dated 10 October 2014).

**Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2015, submitted by the Executive Council, and all items pertaining to this Budget**

11. In accordance with subparagraph 21(a) of Article VIII of the Convention, and pursuant to Financial Regulation 3.6(a), the Conference considered and adopted the Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2015, which the Council had submitted to it (C-19/DEC.4, dated 3 December 2014).
12. The Medium-Term Plan for the period from 2015 to 2019 (EC-77/S/1 C-19/S/1) was circulated to the Member States, along with the Draft Programme and Budget for 2015.

**External Auditor’s report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2013**

13. The Conference noted the Financial Statements of the OPCW and the report of the External Auditor for the year ending 31 December 2013 (EC-77/DG.1 C-19/DG.4), forwarded to it by the Council in accordance with Regulation 13.10 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules.

**Implementation of an enterprise-resource-planning system and establishment of a special fund for this purpose**

14. At its Seventy-Seventh Session, the Council noted a Note by the Director-General on the ERP Strategy of the OPCW (EC-77/DG.15), considered and adopted a decision on the implementation of an ERP system and on the establishment of a special fund for this purpose (EC-77/DEC.1), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Nineteenth Session.
15. The Conference considered and adopted a decision on the matter (C-19/DEC.7).

### **Reduction of the Working Capital Fund**

16. At its Seventy-Seventh Session, the Council noted a Note by the Director-General recommending the reduction of the Working Capital Fund and the use of the remaining balance for ERP implementation (EC-77/DG.17), considered and adopted a decision on the matter (EC-77/DEC.2), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Nineteenth Session.
17. The Conference considered and adopted a decision on the matter (C-19/DEC.8, dated 3 December 2014).

### **Withholding of the distribution of the cash surplus for 2012**

18. At its Seventy-Seventh Session, the Council noted a Note by the Director-General on the request for withholding of the distribution of the cash surplus for 2012 (EC-77/DG.16), with a view to transferring it to an ERP special fund, considered and adopted a decision on the matter (EC-77/DEC.3), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Nineteenth Session.
19. The Conference considered and adopted a decision on the matter (C-19/DEC.9, dated 3 December 2014).

### **The cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2014**

20. At its Seventy-Seventh Session, the Council considered and forwarded to the Conference at its Nineteenth 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 2014 (EC-77/DG.14 C-19/DG.10). The Conference noted this Note.

### **Status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions**

21. Pursuant to a decision by the Conference at its Eleventh Session (C-11/DEC.5), the Conference considered and noted a report on the status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans (EC-77/DG.8 C-19/DG.9).

### **Recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and of losses of assets**

22. The Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session considered a Note by the Director-General on the recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and of losses of assets and recommended that the Conference at its Nineteenth Session approve these write-offs, totalling EUR 18,002.95 (EC-77/DG.2 C-19/DG.5). The Conference adopted a decision approving the said proposals (C-19/DEC.10, dated 3 December 2014).

### **Proposal for the rehiring of inspectors**

23. Further to its consideration of this issue and of a Note by the Secretariat on the rehiring of former inspectors (EC-76/S/5 and Add.1), the Council at its Forty-Seventh Meeting considered and adopted a decision on this matter (EC-M-47/DEC.1), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Nineteenth Session.
24. The Conference considered and adopted a decision on the matter (C-19/DEC.11, dated 4 December 2014).

### **Appointment of the External Auditor**

25. At its Seventy-Seventh Session, the Council noted a Note by the Director-General containing the summary of nominations for the External Auditor of the OPCW (EC-77/DG.12), and the observations of the Vice-Chairperson for administrative and financial issues, Ambassador Masaru Tsuji of Japan. The Council agreed that the Chairperson would nominate a panel of ambassadors who would evaluate the three candidates for the position of External Auditor of the OPCW, availing itself of technical support if required, in order to enable the Council to make a recommendation to the Conference at its Nineteenth Session.
26. At the Forty-Sixth Meeting of the Council, the Chairperson reported to the Council on the work of the panel of ambassadors and on the panel's decision. The Council took note of the report and recommended to the Conference at its Nineteenth Session that it appoint the Comptroller and Auditor General of the National Audit Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as External Auditor of the OPCW, for the period from 2015 to 2017 (paragraph 5.2 of EC-M-46/3, dated 19 November 2014).
27. The Conference considered and adopted a decision on the appointment of the External Auditor of the OPCW (C-19/DEC.6, dated 3 December 2014).

### **The OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention**

28. The Conference noted a Note by the Director-General on the Africa Programme (EC-77/DG.21 C-19/DG.13).

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

29. The Chairperson of the Council reported to the Conference on the status of the work by the Host Country Committee (C-19/HCC/2, dated 4 December 2014).