



### REPORT OF THE EIGHTIETH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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

The Chairperson of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”), Ambassador Francesco Azzarello of Italy, opened its Eightieth Session in The Hague at 10:05 on 6 October 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. Election of a Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Council
4. Opening statement by the Director-General
5. Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on the activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues
6. General debate
7. 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) Technical Secretariat’s activities: update on the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria
  - (f) Supplement to the Verification Implementation Report for 2014

---

\* Reissued for technical reasons.



- (g) Status of implementation of Article VII
  - (h) Status of implementation of Article X
  - (i) Status of implementation of Article XI
  - (j) Status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons
  - (k) Progress made in the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention
8. Designated laboratories and proficiency tests:
- (a) Additional guidelines on the designation of laboratories for the analysis of authentic samples
  - (b) Designation of laboratories for the analysis of authentic biomedical samples and guidelines for the conduct of biomedical proficiency tests
9. Report of the Scientific Advisory Board
10. Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference<sup>1</sup>
11. Education and outreach:
- (a) Establishment of an Advisory Board on Education and Outreach
  - (b) Briefing by the Technical Secretariat on ongoing and planned awareness-raising and education-and-outreach activities
12. Administrative and financial matters:
- (a) Report of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
  - (b) Nominations for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
  - (c) Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise-resource-planning system
  - (d) Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2016, and all items pertaining to this Budget
  - (e) Establishment of a special fund for OPCW special missions and withholding of the distribution of the cash surplus for 2013
  - (f) Financial Statements of the OPCW and the External Auditor's report for the year ending 31 December 2014

---

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

- (g) Status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor
  - (h) Cash situation as at 31 August 2015
  - (i) Status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions
  - (j) Recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and of losses of assets
  - (k) Implementation of the amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward classification of posts during the period from 14 August 2014 to 13 August 2015
13. The OPCW Programme for Africa
  14. Draft report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities
  15. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
  16. Credentials of representatives of the members of the Executive Council
  17. Any other business
  18. Adoption of the report
  19. Closure

**3. AGENDA ITEM THREE – Election of a Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Council**

In accordance with Rule 8 of its Rules of Procedure, the Council **elected** Ambassador Ilze Rūse of Latvia as a Vice-Chairperson of the Council, to replace Ambassador Māris Klišāns of Latvia for the unexpired term of office ending on 11 May 2016.

**4. AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Opening statement by the Director-General**

The Council **noted** the opening statement by the Director-General (EC-80/DG.24, dated 6 October 2015).

**5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on the activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues**

- 5.1 The Vice-Chairpersons and coordinators for clusters of issues reported to the Council on informal consultations held during the intersessional period: Ambassador Ilze Rūse of Latvia on chemical weapons issues, Ambassador Jong-hyun Choe of the Republic of Korea on chemical-industry and other Article VI issues, Ambassador Willys Delvalle of Panama on administrative and financial issues, and Ambassador Rose Makena Muchiri of Kenya on legal, organisational, and other issues. The

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

- 5.2 The facilitator for chemical industry and other Article VI issues, Mr Rudiger Zettel of Germany, reported on consultations held during the intersessional period.
- 5.3 The Council **welcomed** the appointment of Mr Shoaib Sarwar of Pakistan as the new facilitator for the implementation of Article XI.

## **6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – General debate**

- 6.1 The following delegations made statements during the general debate: the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China), Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Union), South Africa (on behalf of the African Group), France, Australia (observer), Germany, China, Brazil, Canada (observer), Switzerland (observer), Japan, Mexico, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, India, Kenya, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Chile, New Zealand, Pakistan, Peru, the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), Guatemala, Turkey (observer), Cuba (observer), Panama, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, the Netherlands, Viet Nam (observer), Finland, Italy, Qatar, Austria (observer), Morocco, Latvia, Iraq, the United States of America, Spain, Ecuador (observer), Argentina, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Russian Federation.
- 6.2 Ambassador Eberhard Schanze, member of the Leadership Panel of the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM), established by United Nations Security Council resolution 2235 (2015), addressed the Council and provided an update on the efforts to fully operationalise the JIM.

## **7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Status of implementation of the Convention**

### **Subitem 7(a): Reports by the Director-General on destruction-related issues**

- 7.1 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 with respect to the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles (EC-80/DG.22, dated 28 September 2015).
- 7.2 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012), the Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the overall progress of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons (EC-80/DG.21, dated 28 September 2015).
- 7.3 The Council **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-80/DG.17, dated 14 September 2015).

**Subitem 7(b): Implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues**

- 7.4 The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) briefed the Council on its destruction-related verification activities.
- 7.5 The United States of America, the Russian Federation, Libya, Japan, and China briefed the Council on their destruction-related activities.
- 7.6 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 Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “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.
- 7.7 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, and identifying progress made since the last briefing in order to meet the planned completion date (EC-80/NAT.1, dated 16 September 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.
- 7.8 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 achieved towards complete destruction of its chemical weapons, including information on measures to accelerate such progress, and identifying progress made since the last briefing in order to meet the planned completion date (EC-80/P/NAT.4, dated 15 September 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.
- 7.9 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, and identifying progress made since the last briefing in order to meet the planned completion date (EC-80/NAT.2, dated 21 September 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.

- 7.10 The Council **noted** three Notes by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme (EC-80/DG.2, dated 23 July 2015; EC-80/DG.4, dated 24 August 2015; and EC-80/DG.20, dated 23 September 2015).
- 7.11 The Council **noted** three national papers by the Syrian Arab Republic on activities related to the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and their production facilities (EC-80/P/NAT.1, dated 15 July 2015; EC-80/P/NAT.2, dated 18 August 2015; and EC-80/P/NAT.3, dated 17 September 2015).
- 7.12 The Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session noted a Note by the Secretariat on the retention of samples of Syrian chemical weapons (EC-77/S/3, dated 12 September 2014). The Council **decided** to defer to its next regular session consideration of the draft decision on the issue (EC-77/DEC/CRP.2, dated 12 September 2014).
- 7.13 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6), a national paper by China (EC-80/NAT.4, dated 21 September 2015) and a national paper by Japan (EC-80/NAT.3, dated 17 September 2015) on the overall progress of the destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China 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.
- 7.14 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** 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.

**Subitem 7(c): Other verification-related issues**

- 7.15 The Secretariat briefed the Council on its other verification-related activities.

- 7.16 The Secretariat also provided a follow-up briefing on the activities of the Declaration Assessment Team.
- 7.17 The Council **noted** a Note by the Secretariat entitled “Report on the Work of the Declaration Assessment Team Covering the Period April 2014 to September 2015” (EC-80/P/S/1, dated 29 September 2015).
- 7.18 The following delegations took the floor under this item: Germany, the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, Canada (observer), Brazil, Australia (observer), the United States of America, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation, Chile, China, and Cuba (observer).
- 7.19 The Council **underscored** the substantial unresolved issues, including the gaps, inconsistencies, and discrepancies identified by the Secretariat in its report (EC-80/P/S/1) and **stressed** the importance of fully verifying that the declaration and related submissions of the Syrian Arab Republic are accurate and complete, as required by the Convention and EC-M-33/DEC.1, dated 27 September 2013. The Council **requested** the Secretariat and the Syrian Arab Republic to expedite their efforts to resolve these gaps, inconsistencies, and discrepancies and **further requested** that the Director-General provide a report to the Council before its Eighty-First Session that details all unresolved issues, in particular specifying those for which no further progress has been possible.

**Subitem 7(d): Destruction-related plans and facility agreements**

- 7.20 The Secretariat submitted to the Council a Note on modifications to the facility agreement with the United States of America regarding on-site inspections at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Explosive Destruction System chemical weapons destruction facility, Pueblo, Colorado, the United States of America (EC-80/S/3\*, dated 9 September 2015).
- 7.21 The Secretariat also submitted to the Council a Note on amendments, modifications, and updates to the facility agreement with the United States of America regarding on-site inspections at the Prototype Detonation Test and Destruction Facility, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, the United States of America, and to the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons at that facility (EC-80/S/7, dated 28 September 2015).
- 7.22 Proposed amendments to the aforementioned facility agreement had been submitted separately to the Council, which **considered** and **approved** them (EC-80/DEC.1, dated 7 October 2015). Related amendments to the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Prototype Detonation Test and Destruction Facility, Maryland, the United States of America, are treated in paragraph 7.23 below.
- 7.23 The Council **considered** and **approved** amendments to the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Prototype Detonation Test and Destruction Facility of the United States of America (EC-80/DEC.2, dated 7 October 2015).

**Subitem 7(e): Technical Secretariat's activities: update on the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria**

7.24 The Director-General provided an update in regard to the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria.

**Subitem 7(f): Supplement to the Verification Implementation Report for 2014**

7.25 The Council **considered** and **noted** the supplement to the Verification Implementation Report (VIR) for 2014 (EC-80/HP/DG.1, dated 31 August 2015).

**Subitem 7(g): Status of implementation of Article VII**

7.26 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 **noted** a report by the Director-General on the "Overview of the Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2015" (EC-80/DG.14 C-20/DG.11, dated 10 September 2015); a report by the Director-General on the "Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2015: Article VII – Initial Measures" (EC-80/DG.15 C-20/DG.12, dated 10 September 2015); and a report by the Director-General on the "Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2015: Additional Measures for States Parties that Possess Industrial Facilities Which Are Declarable Under the Convention" (EC-80/DG.16 C-20/DG.13, dated 10 September 2015). The Council **forwarded** the documents to the Conference for consideration at its Twentieth Session.

7.27 The facilitator for this issue, Mr Sébastien Braha of France, reported on consultations held during the intersessional period.

**Subitem 7(h): Status of implementation of Article X**

7.28 The Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the status of implementation of Article X of the Convention as at 30 June 2015 (EC-80/DG.8, dated 31 August 2015 and Corr.1, dated 2 October 2015).

7.29 The facilitator for this issue, Mr Szymon Bocheński of Poland, reported on the consultations carried out during the intersessional period.

**Subitem 7(i): Status of implementation of Article XI**

7.30 The Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the progress made and review of the status of the implementation of Article XI of the Convention (EC-80/DG.10 C-20/DG.8, dated 8 September 2015).

**Subitem 7(j): Status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons**

7.31 The Conference at its Sixteenth Session endorsed a proposal for the establishment of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons and the



establishment of a voluntary trust fund for this purpose (C-16/DEC.13, dated 2 December 2011). It requested the Director-General to report every two years, through the Council, to the Conference at its regular sessions on the status of implementation of this decision.

- 7.32 The Council **noted** the report by the Director-General on the status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons (EC-80/DG.12 C-20/DG.10, dated 9 September 2015).

**Subitem 7(k): Progress made in the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention**

- 7.33 The Council at its Twenty-Third Meeting adopted an action plan for the universality of the Convention (EC-M-23/DEC.3, dated 24 October 2003). The plan requested the Director-General, inter alia, to submit to the Conference at its regular sessions an annual report on the implementation of the action plan, and to keep the Council regularly informed, so that the Conference and the Council may review progress and monitor its implementation effectively.

- 7.34 The Council **considered** and **noted** the annual report on the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention during the period from 16 August 2014 to 15 August 2015, which is being submitted to both the Council and the Conference (EC-80/DG.11 C-20/DG.9, dated 9 September 2015).

- 7.35 The Council **welcomed** the accession of Angola to the Convention on 16 September 2015, bringing the membership of the OPCW to 192 States Parties.

**8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Designated laboratories and proficiency tests**

**Subitem 8(a): Additional guidelines on the designation of laboratories for the analysis of authentic samples**

- 8.1 The Council **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the additional guidelines on the designation of laboratories for the analysis of authentic samples (EC-80/DEC.3, dated 8 October 2015).

**Subitem 8(b): Designation of laboratories for the analysis of authentic biomedical samples and guidelines for the conduct of biomedical proficiency tests**

- 8.2 The Council **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the designation of laboratories for the analysis of authentic biomedical samples and guidelines for the conduct of biomedical proficiency tests (EC-80/DEC.4, dated 8 October 2015).

**9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Report of the Scientific Advisory Board**

- 9.1 The report of the Twenty-Second Session of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) (SAB-22/1, dated 21 July 2015) was circulated to the members of the Council.

9.2 A Note by the Director-General entitled “The Impact of Developments in Science and Technology in the Context of the Chemical Weapons Convention” (EC-80/DG.7, dated 28 August 2015) was also circulated to the members of the Council.

9.3 The Chairperson of the SAB, Dr Christopher Timperley, made a presentation on the report and activities of the SAB.

#### **10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference**

The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Secretariat entitled “Updated Matrix of Actionable Items Identified at the Third Review Conference” (EC-79/S/3/Add.1, dated 18 September 2015 and Corr.1, dated 28 September 2015).

#### **11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Education and outreach**

##### **Subitem 11(a): Establishment of an Advisory Board on Education and Outreach**

11.1 Further to its consideration of this issue at its previous Session, the Council **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the establishment of an Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (EC-80/DEC.5, dated 8 October 2015), and **transmitted** it to the Conference for approval at its Twentieth Session.

##### **Subitem 11(b): Briefing by the Technical Secretariat on ongoing and planned awareness-raising and education-and-outreach activities**

11.2 The Secretariat briefed the Council on ongoing and planned awareness-raising and education-and-outreach activities.

#### **12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Administrative and financial matters**

##### **Subitem 12(a): Report of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters**

12.1 The Council **considered** and **noted** the report of the Thirty-Ninth Session of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF), which took place from 31 August to 3 September 2015 (ABAF-39/1, dated 3 September 2015), and a Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-80/DG.19, dated 18 September 2015).

##### **Subitem 12(b): Nominations for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters**

12.2 The Council **noted** a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-80/S/1, dated 13 August 2015), and **appointed** Mr Shoaib Sarwar of Pakistan, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Mr Sarwar (3 August 2015).

12.3 The Council **also noted** a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-80/S/4, dated 10 September 2015) and **appointed** Mr Max McClellan

of the United States of America to replace Ms Mary B. Rios, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Mr McClellan (24 August 2015).

- 12.4 The Council **further noted** a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-80/S/5, dated 25 September 2015), and **appointed** Mr Peter Maddens of Belgium, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Mr Maddens (7 September 2015).
- 12.5 The Council **further noted** a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-80/S/6, dated 25 September 2015) and **appointed** Mrs Claudia Spahl of Germany to replace Mrs Gönke Roscher, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Mrs Spahl (23 September 2015).

**Subitem 12(c): Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise-resource-planning system**

- 12.6 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-80/DG.9/Rev.1, dated 15 September 2015).

**Subitem 12(d): Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2016, and all items pertaining to this Budget**

- 12.7 The Council **considered** the Draft Programme and Budget for 2016, which the Director-General had submitted to the Council in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.4 (EC-80/CRP.1, dated 3 July 2015) and **transmitted** it to the Conference at its Twentieth Session, together with its comments and recommendations (EC-80/DEC.6, dated 8 October 2015).
- 12.8 The co-facilitators for this issue, Ambassador Eduardo Rodríguez Veltzé of Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Mr Antti Vaaras of Finland, reported on the consultations held during the intersessional period.
- 12.9 A Note by the Secretariat on the programme performance for the year 2014 (S/1267/2015, dated 20 April 2015 and Corr.1, dated 18 May 2015) was also circulated to the members of the Council.

**Subitem 12(e): Establishment of a special fund for OPCW special missions and withholding of the distribution of the cash surplus for 2013**

- 12.10 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the request for the establishment of a special fund for OPCW special missions and withholding of the distribution of the cash surplus for 2013 (EC-80/DG.23, dated 5 October 2015), **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (EC-80/DEC.7, dated 8 October 2015), and **transmitted** it to the Conference for approval at its Twentieth Session.

**Subitem 12(f): Financial Statements of the OPCW and the External Auditor's report for the year ending 31 December 2014**

- 12.11 The Council **noted** the Financial Statements of the OPCW and the report of the External Auditor for the year ending 31 December 2014 (EC-80/DG.1 C-20/DG.4, dated 13 July 2015) and **forwarded** them to the Conference for consideration at its Twentieth Session. The Council **received** a presentation of the External Auditor's report by his representative, Mr Michael Schrenk (EC-80/2, dated 8 October 2015). The Council **expressed its gratitude** for the work done by Mr Schrenk and his team.
- 12.12 The facilitator for this issue, Mr Eric Smith of the United States of America, reported on consultations held during the intersessional period.

**Subitem 12(g): Status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor**

- 12.13 Further to its consideration of this issue at its previous sessions, the Council **considered** and **noted** 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).
- 12.14 The Council **considered** and **noted** a second Note by the Secretariat on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor (EC-80/S/2, dated 26 August 2015).

**Subitem 12(h): Cash situation as at 31 August 2015**

- 12.15 The Council **considered** and **forwarded** to the Conference at its Twentieth 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 2015, to be updated by early November 2015 (EC-80/DG.18 C-20/DG.14, dated 15 September 2015).

**Subitem 12(i): Status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions**

- 12.16 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Eleventh Session (C-11/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2006), the Council **considered** and **forwarded** to the Conference at its Twentieth Session a Note by the Director-General on the status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans (EC-80/DG.6 C-20/DG.7, dated 28 August 2015).

**Subitem 12(j): Recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and of losses of assets**

- 12.17 The Council **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 Twentieth Session approve these write-offs, totalling EUR 4,633.69 (EC-80/DG.3 C-20/DG.5, dated 4 August 2015).

**Subitem 12(k): Implementation of the amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward classification of posts during the period from 14 August 2014 to 13 August 2015**

12.18 The Council **noted** the report by the Director General on the implementation in 2015 of the amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward classification of posts (EC-80/DG.13, dated 10 September 2015).

**13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – The OPCW Programme for Africa**

The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (EC-80/DG.5 C-20/DG.6, dated 25 August 2015).

**14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Draft report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities**

14.1 The Council **considered** and **approved** a report on the performance of its activities in the period from 12 July 2014 to 9 July 2015 (EC-80/3 C-20/2, 8 October 2015), and **submitted** it to the Conference for consideration at its Twentieth Session.

14.2 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.

**15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – Report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country**

The Chairperson reported to the Council on the status of the work of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

**16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Credentials of representatives of the members of the Executive Council**

The Council **considered** and **approved** a report by the Director-General on the credentials of representatives of members of the Council (EC-79/DG.7/Rev.2, dated 25 August 2015).

**17. AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Any other business**

17.1 In the context of identifying possibilities for combining the Fourth Review Conference<sup>2</sup> with the regular session of the Conference at the end of 2018, the Council **requested** the Secretariat to explore possible dates with the World Forum.

17.2 The Council **expressed appreciation** for the work done by Ambassador Nimota Nihinlola Akanbi of Nigeria, Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Terrorism. The recommendations of Ambassador Akanbi on the way

---

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

forward for the OEWG were circulated to the Council (EC-80/WP.1, dated 5 October 2015).

- 17.3 The Council **welcomed** the appointment of Ambassador Joe Tony Aidoo of Ghana as the new Chairperson of the OEWG, who briefed the Council on consultations held during the intersessional period.
- 17.4 The Council **also welcomed** the appointment of Ambassador María Teresa Infante of Chile as the facilitator of the subworking group of the OEWG.

**18. AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Adoption of the report**

The Council **considered** and **adopted** the report of its Eightieth Session.

**19. AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN– Closure**

The Chairperson closed the session at 12:47 on 8 October 2015.

--- 0 ---