



Eighty-Second Session  
12 – 15 and 20 July 2016

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14 July 2016  
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**DECISION**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON THE FUTURE  
PRIORITIES OF THE OPCW**

**The Executive Council,**

**Cognisant** of the recommendations adopted by States Parties during the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (RC-3/3\*, dated 19 April 2013);

**Convinced** of the need to initiate a transparent, inclusive, comprehensive, balanced, and consensus-driven discussion, managed by States Parties, on the future priorities of the OPCW within the scope of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”);

**Recalling** that the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) at its Twentieth Session requested the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) to “establish at its Eighty-First Session an open-ended working group to discuss and formulate recommendations on the future priorities of the OPCW, to be considered at the Fourth Review Conference in 2018” (C-20/5, dated 4 December 2015);

**Recalling also** the Conference’s expectation that “the working group should provide all States Parties to the Convention with an opportunity to consult regarding all aspects of the Convention”;

**Taking note** of the work of the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) to prepare the Note by the Secretariat entitled “The OPCW in 2025: Ensuring a World Free of Chemical Weapons” (S/1252/2015, dated 6 March 2015) and the Permanent Representatives’ retreat on the future of the OPCW (S/1316/2015, dated 14 October 2015) in which diverse views were expressed; and

**Alert** to the need to avoid duplicating the work or the competence of existing informal mechanisms when establishing new informal mechanisms for consultation among States Parties;

**Hereby:**

1. **Establishes** an Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities of the OPCW (OEWG-FP) as an informal mechanism for receiving, discussing, prioritising, elaborating, and integrating ideas and proposals from States Parties and the Secretariat on the future priorities of the OPCW on any aspect of the Convention or



developments relevant to it with a view to supplying a holistic, coherent, forward-looking, and action-oriented document consisting of recommendations for consideration by the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention as a contribution to the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention;

2. **Appoints** the Permanent Representative of Canada, H.E. Ms Sabine Nölke, and the Permanent Representative of South Africa, H.E. Mr Vusi Bruce Koloane, as the inaugural Co-Chairpersons of the OEWG-FP;
3. **Requests** the Co-Chairpersons of the OEWG-FP to develop methods and a programme of work, in consultation with States Parties, bearing in mind that the OEWG-FP shall operate on a transparent, inclusive, and consensus-driven basis, and to report on progress achieved at the Eighty-Third Session of the Council;
4. **Requests also** the Secretariat to extend to the Co-Chairpersons of the OEWG-FP the customary level of support and advice provided to informal mechanisms;
5. **Further requests** existing informal mechanisms to cooperate with the OEWG-FP and to support where appropriate the fulfilment of the OEWG-FP's mandate;
6. **Further requests** the Co-Chairpersons to make full use of existing informal mechanisms, including by referring topics that fall within another body's mandate to that body for discussion, feedback, and formal input, as appropriate; and
7. **Further requests** the Co-Chairpersons to keep the policy-making organs informed of their work.