



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

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**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS  
ACTIVITIES IN THE PERIOD FROM 10 JULY 2015 TO 27 JULY 2016**



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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 among 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 2015 to 11 May 2016, and from 12 May 2016 to 11 May 2017.

**TABLE 1: 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

**TABLE 2: COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL FROM 12 MAY 2016 TO 11 MAY 2017**

<b>Regional Group</b>	<b>States Parties</b>
Africa	Algeria, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, and Sudan
Asia	Bangladesh, China, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Viet Nam
Eastern Europe	Armenia, Latvia, Poland, Russian Federation, and Slovakia
Latin America and the Caribbean	Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, and Peru
Western European and Other States	Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America

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

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

- 1.4 At its Eighty-First Session, the Council elected Ambassador Odette Melono of Cameroon as its Chairperson, with effect from 12 May 2016 and for a term of office ending on 11 May 2017. Ambassador Dziunik Aghajanian of Armenia, Ambassador Christoph Israng of Germany, Ambassador Alireza Jahangiri of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Ambassador Willys Delvalle of Panama will serve as the Vice-Chairpersons for the same period.
- 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>
Eightieth	6 – 8 October 2015
Eighty-First	15 – 18 and 23 March 2016
Eighty-Second	12 – 15 and 20 July 2016

- 1.6 The Council held three meetings during the reporting period:
- (a) its Fiftieth Meeting, on 23 November 2015;
  - (b) its Fifty-First Meeting, on 24 February 2016; and
  - (c) its Fifty-Second Meeting, on 20 and 27 July 2016.

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

- 1.7 The Council at its Eightieth Session 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).
- 1.8 The most recent examination of credentials (EC-82/DG.20, dated 6 July 2016), which the Director-General conducted and reported on to the Council at its Eighty-Second Session, in accordance with Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, 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 of the aforementioned Rules.

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

- 1.9 During the period under review, observer States Parties attended sessions of the Council, with an average of 48 present at each session. Each request by observers to present their views was granted under Rule 22 of the aforementioned Rules of Procedure.
- 1.10 In accordance with Rule 8 of its Rules of Procedure, the Council at its Eightieth Session 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.



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

- 1.11 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 consideration and outstanding issues on the agenda of the Council (EC-80/INF.1, dated 10 September 2015; EC-81/INF.1, dated 29 January 2016; and EC-82/INF.1, dated 31 May 2016).
- 1.12 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.
- 1.13 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**

- 1.14 The Vice-Chairpersons reported to the Council at its regular sessions on informal consultations held during the intersessional periods.
- 1.15 Facilitators for issues under regular consideration 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 statements 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 2015**

- 2.2 The Council at its Eighty-Second 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 2015” (EC-82/4 C-21/CRP.1, dated 14 July 2016), and forwarded it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-First 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 Eightieth 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 August 2014 to 15 August 2015, which was being submitted to both the Council and the Conference (EC-80/DG.11 C-20/DG.9, dated 9 September 2015).
- 2.4 The Council welcomed the accession of Angola to the Convention on 16 September 2015, bringing the membership of the OPCW to 192 States Parties.

### **Verification implementation reports**

- 2.5 The Council at its Eightieth Session considered and noted a supplement to the Verification Implementation Report (VIR) for 2014 (EC-80/HP/DG.1, dated 31 August 2015).
- 2.6 The Council at its Eighty-Second Session considered and noted the VIR for 2015 (EC-82/HP/DG.1, dated 13 May 2016 and Corr.1, dated 7 July 2016). The Council also noted the comments and views received on the VIR for 2015 (EC-82/DG.19, dated 6 July 2016), as well as the Chairperson's summary of the informal consultations on it (EC-82/3, dated 7 July 2016).

### **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 Eightieth, Eighty-First, and Eighty-Second Sessions:
- (a) Libya (EC-80/NAT.2, dated 21 September 2015; EC-81/NAT.1\*, dated 18 February 2016; and EC-82/NAT.4, dated 30 June 2016). The Council at its Eightieth Session noted 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 decision C-16/DEC.11 (dated 1 December 2011) taken by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session;
- (b) the Russian Federation (EC-80/P/NAT.4, dated 15 September 2015; EC-81/P/NAT.6, dated 16 February 2016; and EC-82/P/NAT.5, dated 23 June 2016). The Council at all three of the aforementioned 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-80/NAT.1, dated 16 September 2015; EC-81/NAT.2, dated 19 February 2016; and EC-82/NAT.1, dated 20 June 2016). The Council at all three of the aforementioned sessions noted 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 Fifty-First Meeting considered and adopted a decision on the destruction of Libya's remaining chemical weapons stockpile (EC-M-51/DEC.1, dated 24 February 2016). Pursuant to the statements made during the meeting, the Council requested the Director-General to keep the United Nations and the African Union informed of its decisions. Further to Council decision EC-M-51/DEC.1, the Council at its Eighty-First Session took note of the Director-General's oral report, as well as his intention to continue consultations with the Libyan authorities and all relevant States Parties, including the regional group coordinators, with a view to reaching an urgent and practical solution. The Council at that same session expressed the need to urgently address the destruction of the remaining stockpiles of chemical weapons in Libya and decided to remain seized of the matter. The Council at its Fifty-Second Meeting adopted a decision on the destruction of Libya's remaining chemical weapons (EC-M-52/DEC.1, dated 20 July 2016). Also at its Fifty-Second Meeting, the Council noted a national paper by Libya entitled "Modified Concept Plan for Destruction of the Remaining Category 2 Chemical Weapons in Libya" (EC-M-52/NAT.1, dated 25 July 2016), and adopted a decision on the detailed requirements for the destruction of Libya's remaining Category 2 chemical weapons (EC-M-52/DEC.2, dated 27 July 2016).
- 2.9 The Council at its Eightieth 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-80/DG.17, dated 14 September 2015).
- 2.10 Further to Conference decision C-16/DEC.11, the Council at its Eightieth, Eighty-First, and Eighty-Second Sessions considered and noted reports by the Director-General on the overall progress of destruction activities by possessor States (EC-80/DG.22, dated 28 September 2015; EC-81/DG.12, dated 29 February 2016 and Corr.1\*, dated 3 March 2016; and EC-82/DG.21, dated 11 July 2016).
- 2.11 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012), the Council at its Eightieth, Eighty-First, and Eighty-Second 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-80/DG.21, dated 28 September 2015; EC-81/DG.13, dated 4 March 2016; and EC-82/DG.22, dated 11 July 2016).
- 2.12 Further to the same decision by the Council (EC-67/DEC.6), national papers by China (EC-80/NAT.4, dated 21 September 2015; EC-81/NAT.4, dated 26 February 2016; and EC-82/NAT.3, dated 29 June 2016) and national papers by Japan (EC-80/NAT.3,

dated 17 September 2015; EC-81/NAT.3, dated 25 February 2016; and EC-82/NAT.2, dated 29 June 2016) were circulated to the members of the Council at its Eightieth, Eighty-First, and Eighty-Second Sessions. Bearing in mind that the destruction progress was less than expected in the destruction plan attached to the relevant decision (EC-67/DEC.6), the Council at its Eighty-First Session, while recalling the provisions of the Convention that the Abandoning State Party undertakes to destroy all chemical weapons it abandoned on the territory of another State Party and shall provide all necessary financial, technical, expert, facility as well as other resources, expressed its determination to remain seized of the matter, and urged the Abandoning State Party to continue to make the fullest possible effort to complete destruction of abandoned chemical weapons as soon as possible in accordance with the Council's decision (EC-67/DEC.6) in a faithful manner and to address challenges including ensuring the safety of people and protecting the environment. The Council reaffirmed that the Territorial State Party shall provide appropriate cooperation.

- 2.13 The Council at its Eighty-First Session also reaffirmed the obligation of the Abandoning State Party to provide all available information including, to the extent possible, the location, type, quantity as well as information on the abandonment in accordance with relevant provisions of the Convention, so as to facilitate the expedite destruction of JACWs.
- 2.14 The Council at its Eightieth and Eighty-First Sessions welcomed the review of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons conducted by the Third Review Conference<sup>1</sup> 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 at its Eighty-First Session welcomed the visit by a delegation of the Council to the Haerbaling abandoned chemical weapons site, jointly invited by China and Japan, from 8 to 11 June 2015, during which the Council delegation was impressed by the progress made since its last visit, while concerns were expressed by members of Council delegation that according to the current destruction pace, the completion of ACW destruction in Haerbaling will significantly fall behind schedule. The Council at its Eightieth and Eighty-First Sessions expressed its appreciation for the first-hand information on the destruction-related progress and the bilateral cooperation of the relevant States Parties obtained through the visit.
- 2.15 The Council at its Eighty-First 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 Eighty-Second Session considered and noted the report of the visit by the Chairperson of the Council and representatives of the Council to the Kizner

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

Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility, the Russian Federation, from 25 to 29 April 2016 (EC-82/1, dated 30 May 2016).

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

- 2.17 The Council at its Eightieth Session 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).
- 2.18 The Council at its Eighty-First Session noted a Note on modifications to the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP), Pueblo, Colorado, the United States of America (EC-81/S/5, dated 12 February 2016).
- 2.19 The Council at the same 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-81/DEC.2, dated 16 March 2016).

### **Facility agreements**

- 2.20 The Secretariat submitted to the Council at its Eightieth Session a Note on modifications to the facility agreement with the United States of America regarding on-site inspections at the PCAPP Explosive Destruction System, Pueblo, Colorado, the United States of America (EC-80/S/3\*, dated 9 September 2015).
- 2.21 The Secretariat submitted to the Council at the same session 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). 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).
- 2.22 The Secretariat submitted to the Council at its Eighty-First Session a Note on amendments, modifications, and updates to the facility agreement regarding inspections at the Rabta Toxic Chemicals Destruction Facility, Libya, and amendments to the agreed detailed plan for verification for that facility (EC-81/S/3, dated 22 January 2016). Proposed amendments to the aforementioned facility agreement with Libya had been submitted separately to the Council, which considered and approved them (EC-81/DEC.1, dated 16 March 2016).

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

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

- 2.23 The Council noted Notes by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme at its Eightieth, Eighty-First, and Eighty-Second Sessions (EC-80/DG.2, dated 23 July 2015;

EC-80/DG.4, dated 24 August 2015; EC-80/DG.20, dated 23 September 2015; EC-81/DG.1, dated 22 October 2015; EC-81/DG.2, dated 24 November 2015; EC-81/DG.3, dated 22 December 2015; EC-81/DG.5, dated 25 January 2016; EC-81/DG.11, dated 24 February 2016; EC-82/DG.1, dated 24 March 2016; EC-82/DG.5, dated 22 April 2016; EC-82/DG.9, dated 25 May 2016; and EC-82/DG.17, dated 24 June 2016).

- 2.24 The Council at its Eightieth, Eighty-First, and Eighty-Second Sessions noted national papers by the Syrian Arab Republic on activities relating to the destruction of chemical weapons and chemical weapons production facilities on its territory (EC-80/P/NAT.1, dated 15 July 2015; EC-80/P/NAT.2, dated 18 August 2015; EC-80/P/NAT.3, dated 17 September 2015; EC-81/P/NAT.1, dated 13 October 2015; EC-81/P/NAT.2, dated 12 November 2015; EC-81/P/NAT.3, dated 18 December 2015; EC-81/P/NAT.4, dated 15 January 2016; EC-81/P/NAT.5, dated 15 February 2016; EC-82/P/NAT.1, dated 17 March 2016; EC-82/P/NAT.2, dated 15 April 2016; EC-82/P/NAT.3, dated 19 May 2016; and EC-82/P/NAT.4, dated 17 June 2016).
- 2.25 The Council at its Eightieth and Eighty-First Sessions decided to defer a draft decision on the retention of samples of Syrian chemical weapons (EC-77/DEC/CRP.2, dated 12 September 2014). At its Eighty-Second Session, the Council decided to defer a revised draft decision on this matter (EC-77/DEC/CRP.2/Rev.1, dated 23 March 2016) to its next regular session.

#### Activities of the Declaration Assessment Team

- 2.26 The Council at its Eightieth Session 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 25 September 2015).
- 2.27 The Council at the same session 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 were accurate and complete, as required by the Convention and the decision by the Council at its Thirty-Third Meeting (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 detailed all unresolved issues, in particular specifying those for which no further progress had been possible.
- 2.28 The Council at its Eighty-First Session noted a Note by the Director-General entitled "Report on the Work of the Declaration Assessment Team Regarding the Declaration and Related Submissions by the Syrian Arab Republic" (EC-81/HP/DG.1, dated 22 February 2016).
- 2.29 The Council at that same session also considered and adopted a decision on the above-mentioned Note by the Director-General (EC-81/DEC.4, dated 23 March 2016).

- 2.30 In line with the Council's decision at its Eighty-First Session (EC-81/DEC.4), the Director-General issued a detailed report entitled "Outcome of Consultations with the Syrian Arab Republic Regarding its Chemical Weapons Declaration" (EC-82/HP/DG.2\*, dated 30 June 2016).
- 2.31 The Director-General also issued an unclassified version of the conclusions of report EC-82/HP/DG.2\* entitled "Conclusions on the Outcome of Consultations with the Syrian Arab Republic Regarding its Chemical Weapons Declaration" (EC-82/DG.18, dated 6 July 2016).
- 2.32 Prior to the Council's deliberations at its Eighty-Second Session, held from 12 to 15 and on 20 July 2016, a Note by the Director-General entitled "Report on the Work of the Declaration Assessment Team Regarding the Declaration and Related Submissions by the Syrian Arab Republic" (EC-82/HP/DG.3, dated 4 July 2016) was circulated to States Parties. The Secretariat also provided a comprehensive technical briefing to States Parties on 7 July 2016 regarding this report as well as a follow-up briefing on the activities of the DAT during the Eighty-Second Session of the Council. The Director-General also delivered a statement on the activities of the Secretariat with regard to the declaration of the Syrian Arab Republic (EC-82/DG.24, dated 13 July 2016).
- 2.33 A draft decision entitled "Report by the Director-General on the Outcome of Consultations with the Syrian Arab Republic Regarding its Chemical Weapons Declaration" (EC-82/DEC/CRP.5, dated 7 July 2016) was also circulated by the United States of America and discussed by the Council at its Eighty-Second Session.

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

- 2.34 The Secretariat briefed the Council at its Fiftieth Meeting on three reports of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria (S/1318/2015, S/1319/2015, and S/1320/2015, all dated 29 October 2015).
- 2.35 The Council at that same meeting considered and adopted a decision on further reports of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria (EC-M-50/DEC.1, dated 23 November 2015).
- 2.36 The Secretariat subsequently issued an update to the "Report of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria regarding the incidents described in the communications from the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates and Head of the National Authority of the Syrian Arab Republic" (S/1318/2015/Rev.1, dated 17 December 2015), and circulated to the Council at its Eighty-First Session an addendum to that report (S/1318/2015/Rev.1/Add.1, dated 29 February 2016).
- 2.37 At the Eighty-Second Session of the Council, the Secretariat provided an update on the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria.

#### **Article VI-related issues**

- 2.38 Further to a decision by the Council at its Fifty-First Session (EC-51/DEC.1, dated 27 November 2007), the Council at its Eighty-First and Eighty-Second 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-81/DG.4, dated 14 January 2016 and EC-82/DG.14, dated 13 June 2016).

- 2.39 The Council at its Eighty-Second Session noted a Note by the Director-General on the results of the implementation of policy guidelines for determining the number of Article VI inspections (EC-82/DG.2, dated 5 April 2016).

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

- 2.40 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 Eightieth 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 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).

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

- 2.41 The Council at its Eighty-Second 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-82/DG.12, dated 7 June 2016).

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

- 2.42 The Council at its Eighty-Second Session 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 OPCW Central Analytical Database (EC-82/DG.10, dated 30 May 2016), and adopted a decision on their inclusion (EC-82/DEC.1, dated 14 July 2016).

#### **Status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons**

- 2.43 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 that decision.



- 2.44 The Council at its Eightieth Session 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).

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

- 2.45 The Council at its Eightieth 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 2015 (EC-80/DG.8, dated 31 August 2015 and Corr.1, dated 2 October 2015).

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

- 2.46 The Council at its Eighty-Second Session considered and noted a Note by the Secretariat on the content of the assistance and protection data bank and its use (EC-82/S/2, dated 7 June 2016).

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

- 2.47 The Council at its Eightieth 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 the Convention (EC-80/DG.10 C-20/DG.8, dated 8 September 2015).

- 2.48 The Council at its Eighty-First Session expressed appreciation for the Secretariat's work on the implementation of Article XI and its efforts in putting forward a consolidated text that consisted of proposals by the States Parties and the Secretariat.

- 2.49 The Council at that same session requested the Secretariat and the facilitator, Mr Shoaib Sarwar of Pakistan, to continue consultations with States Parties to develop a concept plan for a review workshop of the "Components of an Agreed Framework for the Full Implementation of Article XI" (C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011), with a view to holding this workshop in advance of the Eighty-Second Session of the Council.

- 2.50 The Council at its Eighty-First Session further requested the Vice-Chairperson of the Council for the cluster of legal, organisational, and other issues, as well as the facilitator for Article XI, to report on the results and further developments at the next session of the Council. Such reports were presented at the Eighty-Second Session of the Council.

#### **Designation of laboratories**

- 2.51 The Council at its Eightieth Session 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).
- 2.52 The Council at that same session 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).

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

- 2.53 The Council at its Eightieth Session considered and noted a Note on the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Africa Programme”) (EC-80/DG.5 C-20/DG.6, dated 25 August 2015).

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

- 2.54 The Council at its Eighty-First Session noted a Note by the Director-General on the status of the OPCW’s contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts (EC-81/DG.7, dated 9 February 2016).
- 2.55 The Council at the same session expressed appreciation for and noted the work done by Ambassador María Teresa Infante of Chile as the facilitator of the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Terrorism, whose report was circulated to the Council (EC-81/WP.1, dated 22 February 2016 and Corr.1, dated 17 March 2016). The Council encouraged her to continue facilitating discussions on legal, prevention, and response aspects of chemical terrorism.
- 2.56 The Chairperson of the OEWG on Terrorism, Ambassador Joe Tony Aidoo of Ghana, briefed the Council at its Eighty-Second Session on the work of the OEWG during the intersessional period. His report (EC-82/WP.2, dated 14 July 2016) was circulated to the Council at that same session.
- 2.57 The report by the facilitator of the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors of the OEWG on Terrorism was circulated to the Council at its Eighty-Second Session (EC-82/WP.1, dated 7 July 2016).
- 2.58 The Council at its Eighty-Second Session deferred until its next regular session consideration of a draft decision entitled “Addressing the Threat Posed by the Use of Chemical Weapons by Non-State Actors” (EC-82/DEC/CRP.4/Rev.1, dated 14 July 2016).

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

- 2.59 The Council at its Eightieth, Eighty-First, and Eighty-Second Sessions considered and noted Notes 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; EC-81/S/1, dated 11 November 2015 and Add.1 dated 17 February 2016 and Add.2, dated 27 May 2016).

### **Education and outreach**

- 2.60 Further to its consideration of this issue at its Seventy-Ninth Session, the Council at its Eightieth Session considered and adopted a decision on the establishment of an Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO) (EC-80/DEC.5, dated

8 October 2015), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twentieth Session.

- 2.61 Further to the decision of the Conference at its Twentieth Session (C-20/DEC.9, dated 3 December 2015) approving the establishment of the ABEO, the Secretariat circulated to the Council at its Eighty-First Session a Note by the Director-General on the membership of the ABEO (EC-81/DG.9 C-21/DG.2, dated 18 February 2016).
- 2.62 Further to Conference decision C-20/DEC.9, the Council at its Eighty-First Session also noted a Note by the Director-General entitled “Rules of Procedure for the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach and its Temporary Working Groups” (EC-81/DG.14, dated 4 March 2016).
- 2.63 At the Eighty-Second Session of the Council, the Secretariat provided a briefing on ongoing and planned awareness-raising, education, and outreach activities, as well as on the proceedings of the first session of the ABEO. The Council also noted a Note by the Secretariat on ongoing and planned awareness-raising, education, and outreach activities (EC-82/S/1, dated 2 June 2016).

#### **Implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Technical Secretariat in 2015**

- 2.64 The Council at its Eighty-First 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 2015 (EC-81/DG.10 C-21/DG.3, dated 19 February 2016).

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

- 2.65 The Council at its Eightieth Session considered and approved a report on the performance of its activities in the period from 12 July 2014 to 9 July 2015, and submitted it to the Conference for consideration at its Twentieth Session (EC-80/3 C-20/2, dated 8 October 2015). 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 2016, and all items pertaining to this budget

- 2.66 The Council at its Eightieth Session considered the Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW 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).
- 2.67 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 at its Eightieth Session.

Financial situation of the OPCW

- 2.68 The Council at its Eightieth Session 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 (EC-80/DG.18 C-20/DG.14, dated 15 September 2015).
- 2.69 At its Twentieth Session, the Conference requested the Council to monitor the financial situation of the OPCW in 2016. In this regard, the Conference requested further that the Director-General provide detailed monthly updates about the overall financial situation, and particularly cash flow, to States Parties (subparagraphs 5(t) and 5(u) of C-20/DEC.6, dated 3 December 2015).
- 2.70 Accordingly, the Secretariat circulated to the Council at its Eighty-First Session a report on the financial situation of the OPCW as at 31 January 2016 (S/1354/2016, dated 18 February 2016) and another report on the financial situation as at 29 February 2016 (S/1364/2016, dated 8 March 2016).
- 2.71 The Council at its Eighty-First Session expressed concern over the overall difficult financial situation of the OPCW. The Council welcomed the Director-General's monthly financial situation reports and called on all States Parties to pay their outstanding financial obligations to the OPCW in full and without delay. The Council requested the Director-General to manage the cash flow and financial situation of the Organisation and to keep the Council informed about the measures it had taken, or was considering, to mitigate as much as possible the situation.
- 2.72 The Secretariat circulated the monthly financial situation reports as at 31 March 2016 (S/1370/2016, dated 8 April 2016); 30 April 2016 (S/1388/2016, dated 20 May 2016); and 31 May 2016 (S/1391/2016, dated 6 June 2016 and Corr.1, dated 9 June 2016), and provided a briefing to the Council at its Eighty-Second Session on the financial situation of the OPCW, referenced in the latest monthly financial situation report by the Director-General as at 30 June 2016 (S/1396/2016, dated 8 July 2016).

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

- 2.73 Further to a decision of the Conference at its Eleventh Session (C-11/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2006), the Council at its Eightieth Session 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).

Transfer of funds

- 2.74 A Note by the Director-General on a request for transfers of funds between chapters and transfers of funds during 2015 (EC-81/DG.8 C-21/DG.1, dated 16 February 2016) was circulated to the Council at its Eighty-First Session. The Council, at its Eighty-First and Eighty-Second Sessions, deferred consideration of this item.

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

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

Implementation of the enterprise resource planning system

- 2.76 Further to a 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 at its Eightieth Session 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).
- 2.77 Further to the above-mentioned decision, a Note by the Director-General reporting on the status of implementation of the ERP system (EC-81/DG.6, dated 8 February 2016) was circulated to the Council at its Eighty-First Session. The Council deferred consideration of this item to its next regular session.
- 2.78 At its Eighty-Second Session the Council noted two status reports on the implementation of the ERP system (EC-81/DG.6 and EC-82/DG.11, dated 6 June 2016).

Establishment of a special fund for OPCW special missions and withholding of the distribution of the cash surplus for 2013

- 2.79 The Council at its Eightieth Session 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). The Council 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.

**Personnel matters**

Composition of the Technical Secretariat

- 2.80 The Council at its Eighty-Second Session noted a report by the Director-General on the composition of the Secretariat (EC-82/DG.7, dated 23 May 2016).

Implementation of the tenure policy

- 2.81 The Council at its Eighty-Second Session considered and noted a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the tenure policy in 2015 (EC-82/DG.6, dated 29 April 2016).

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

- 2.82 The Council at its Eightieth Session noted a 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).

Adjustment to the Director-General's gross salary

- 2.83 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 Eighty-First Session adopted a decision adjusting the Director-General's gross salary (EC-81/DEC.3, dated 17 March 2016).

**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 Eightieth Session 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 at that same session received a presentation of the External Auditor's report from 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.
- 3.2 Further to its consideration of this issue at its previous sessions, the Council at its Eightieth Session also 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).
- 3.3 The Council at that same session further 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).
- 3.4 A Note by the Secretariat on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor (EC-81/S/4, dated 22 January 2016) was circulated to the Council at its Eighty-First Session. The Council deferred consideration of this item to its next regular session.
- 3.5 The Council at its Eighty-Second Session considered and noted a report by the Director-General on the implementation in 2015 of the recommendations contained in the 2014 annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight (OIO) (EC-82/DG.4, dated 18 April 2016).

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

- 3.6 The Council at its Eighty-First Session noted a status report on the Verification Information System (EC-81/S/2, dated 12 January 2016).

### **Establishment of an open-ended working group on the future priorities of the OPCW**

- 3.7 At its Twentieth Session, the Conference requested the Council to establish 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<sup>2</sup> in 2018.
- 3.8 The Council at its Eighty-Second Session considered and adopted a decision on the establishment of an Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities of the OPCW (EC-82/DEC.2, dated 14 July 2016).

### **Dates and duration of the Fourth Review Conference and of the regular session of the Conference of the States Parties in 2018**

- 3.9 In the context of identifying possibilities for combining the Fourth Review Conference with the regular session of the Conference at the end of 2018, the Council at its Eightieth Session requested the Secretariat to explore possible dates with the World Forum.
- 3.10 Further to that request, the Secretariat looked into the options and identified a two-week period from 19 to 30 November 2018. The proposal was communicated to all regional groups, which unanimously expressed their agreement.

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

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

- 4.1 The Council at its Eightieth Session 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).
- 4.2 The Council at its Eighty-Second Session considered and noted the report of the Fortieth Session of the ABAF, which took place from 6 to 9 June 2016 (ABAF-40/1, dated 9 June 2016 and Corr.1, dated 24 June 2016), and a Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-82/DG.16, dated 24 June 2016).

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

- 4.3 The Council at its Eightieth Session noted a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-80/S/1, dated 13 August 2015), and appointed

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

Mr Shoaib Sarwar of Pakistan, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Mr Sarwar (3 August 2015).

- 4.4 At that same session, 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).
- 4.5 The Council further noted at its Eightieth Session 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).
- 4.6 At that same session, 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).
- 4.7 The Council at its Eighty-First Session noted a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-81/S/6, dated 2 March 2016) and appointed Mr John Fox of the United States of America to the ABAF, to replace Mr Max McClellan, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Mr Fox (26 February 2016).
- 4.8 The Council at its Eighty-Second Session noted a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-82/S/3, dated 7 July 2016) and appointed Mr John Foggo of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Mr Foggo (28 June 2016).

#### **Reports of the Scientific Advisory Board**

- 4.9 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 at its Eightieth Session. As that same session, 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.
- 4.10 The report of the Twenty-Third Session of the SAB (SAB-23/1, dated 22 April 2016) was circulated to the members of the Council at its Eighty-Second Session. A Note by the Director-General entitled “The Impact of Developments in Science and Technology in the Context of the Chemical Weapons Convention” (EC-82/DG.13, dated 7 June 2016) was also circulated to the members of the Council.

#### **Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2015**

- 4.11 The Council at its Eighty-Second Session considered and noted the annual report of the OIO for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2015, which the Director-General had submitted to it, along with his comments



(EC-82/DG.3 C-21/DG.4, dated 15 April 2016), 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 Twenty-First Session.

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

- 4.12 The Chairperson reported to the Council at its Eightieth and Eighty-First Sessions on the status of the work of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (hereinafter "the Host Country Committee").

#### **5. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION OR ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES AT ITS TWENTY-FIRST SESSION**

##### **Draft annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2015**

- 5.1 The Council at its Eighty-Second 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 2015" (EC-82/4 C-21/CRP.1), and forwarded it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-First Session.

##### **Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2015**

- 5.2 The Council at its Eighty-Second Session considered and noted the annual report of the OIO for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2015, which the Director-General had submitted to it, along with his comments (EC-82/DG.3 C-21/DG.4), 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 Twenty-First 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 Twentieth Session in Response to Recommendations Made by the Executive Council

**Attachment**

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT<sup>3</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-82/DG.22)

As at the end of the reporting period on 31 May 2016, the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) had verified the destruction of 39,855 of the over 42,000 items of declared ACWs 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, along with destruction trials at Haerbaling, and includes all of the items transferred from surrounding locations to the MDFs for destruction as at the date mentioned above. (Quoted from EC-82/DG.22)

The MDF that was located at Wuhan is undergoing overhaul and modification for cold weather. The MDF will be redeployed to Harbin to facilitate the destruction of ACW items in Northern China. According to information provided in their national papers and to the destruction plan jointly submitted to the Council by China and Japan, site preparation work is under way at Harbin. (Quoted from EC-82/DG.22)

Regarding the Shijiazhuang MDF site, the national papers submitted by Japan and China report the destruction of over 2,300 items of ACWs at Shijiazhuang. Four barrels of bulk yellow agent remain in the Shijiazhuang Japanese ACW Trust

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<sup>3</sup> Attached pursuant to paragraph 12.2 of the report of the Eighty-Third Session of the Executive Council (EC-83/5, dated 11 November 2016).

Warehouse and are awaiting destruction. China and Japan have transported 222 non-fused shells stored in Taiyuan to Shijiazhuang for destruction, while consultations continue on an additional 313 fused items. Destruction operations were anticipated to begin in June 2016 and completed by the end of 2016. The Secretariat is planning to conduct a destruction inspection in Shijiazhuang in the near future. (Quoted from EC-82/DG.22)

During the reporting period, the controlled detonation chamber destroyed 273 items and the static detonation chamber destroyed 749 items. 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-82/DG.22)

During the intersessional period, China and Japan carried out bilateral investigations and excavation and recovery operations at Haerbaling. Following these activities, 847 out of 1,122 items excavated were confirmed as ACWs. Moreover, excavation and recovery operations commenced at Maoershan Town, Shangzhi City, Heilongjiang Province. Amended declarations reflecting the results of these operations will be submitted to the Secretariat in due course. (Quoted from EC-82/DG.22)

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. 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 Council decision EC-67/DEC.6. (Quoted from EC-82/DG.22)

### 3. Activities of the Council

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), and submitted it to the Conference for consideration at its Twentieth 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-80/4\*)

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 above-mentioned decision. (Quoted from EC-80/4\*)

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\*), which reaffirmed the role of the Council, the Conference and the Review Conference with regard to 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) and expressed its appreciation for the first-hand information on the destruction-related progress and the bilateral cooperation of the relevant States Parties obtained through the visit. (Quoted from EC-80/4\*)

Bearing in mind that the destruction progress was less than expected in the destruction plan attached to the relevant decision (EC-67/DEC.6), the Council, while recalling the provisions of the Convention that the Abandoning State Party undertakes to destroy all chemical weapons it abandoned on the territory of another State Party and shall provide all necessary financial, technical, expert, facility as well as other resources, expressed its determination to remain seized of the matter, and urged the Abandoning State Party to continue to make the fullest possible effort to complete destruction of abandoned chemical weapons as soon as possible in accordance with the Council's decision (EC-67/DEC.6) in a faithful manner and to address challenges including ensuring the safety of people and protecting the environment. The Council reaffirmed that the Territorial State Party shall provide appropriate cooperation. (Quoted from EC-81/2)

The Council also reaffirmed the obligation of the Abandoning State Party to provide all available information including, to the extent possible, the location, type, quantity as well as information on the abandonment in accordance with relevant provisions of the Convention, so as to facilitate the expedite destruction of JACWs. (Quoted from EC-81/2)

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\*, 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 welcomed the visit by a delegation of the Council to the Haerbaling abandoned chemical weapons site, jointly invited by China and Japan, from 8 to 11 June 2015, during which the Council delegation was impressed by the progress made since its last visit, while concerns were expressed by members of Council delegation that according to the current destruction pace, the completion of ACW destruction in Haerbaling will significantly fall behind schedule. The Council expressed its appreciation for the first-hand information on the destruction-related progress and the bilateral cooperation of the relevant States Parties obtained through the visit. (Quoted from EC-81/2)

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). (Quoted from EC-80/4\*)

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-81/DG.13, dated 4 March 2016). (Quoted from EC-81/2)

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-82/DG.22).

4. Reference documents

(a) National papers

(i) China (EC-80/NAT.4, dated 21 September 2015; EC-81/NAT.4, dated 26 February 2016, EC-82/NAT.3, dated 29 June 2016); and

(ii) Japan (EC-80/NAT.3, dated 17 September 2015; EC-81/NAT.3, dated 25 February 2016; EC-82/NAT.2, dated 29 June 2016).

(b) Reports by the Director-General (EC-80/DG.21, dated 28 September 2015; EC-81/DG.13, dated 4 March 2016; EC-82/DG.22, dated 11 July 2016)

(c) 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, dated 8 October 2015)

## Annex

### **ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES AT ITS TWENTIETH SESSION IN RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL<sup>4</sup>**

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

1. 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 2015” (EC-80/DG.14 C-20/DG.11); 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); 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).

#### **Status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons**

2. The Conference noted the report by the Director-General on the status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons (EC-80/DG.12 C-20/DG.10).
3. While noting the report by the Director-General on the status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons, and following the reports of the Fact-Finding Mission on the allegations of use of toxic chemicals in the Syrian Arab Republic (S/1191/2014, dated 16 June 2014; S/1212/2014, dated 10 September 2014; S/1230/2014, dated 18 December 2014; S/1318/2015; S/1319/2015; and S/1320/2015), the Conference noted the decision taken by the Council at its Forty-Eighth Meeting on 4 February 2015 (EC-M-48/DEC.1, dated 4 February 2015) and the decision taken by the Council at its Fiftieth Meeting on 23 November 2015 (EC-M-50/DEC.1) on the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic.

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

4. 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 27 August 2014 to 26 August 2015 (EC-80/DG.10 C-20/DG.8).

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<sup>4</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 10 July 2015 to 27 July 2016.

5. The Conference received an oral report by the facilitator, Mr Shoaib Sarwar of Pakistan, on activities held during the intersessional period. He informed the Conference of the proposals presented by the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Convention and China, the United States of America, and the Secretariat that were aimed at further enhancing the full, effective, and non-discriminatory provisions of Article XI. The Conference encouraged delegations to continue discussions and consultations, with a view to achieving concrete outcomes that could also be drawn from other proposals by States Parties and the Secretariat, and requested the Chairperson of the Council to report to the Conference at its next session on developments in this regard.

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

6. 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 August 2014 to 15 August 2015 (EC-80/DG.11 C-20/DG.9).

#### **Implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Technical Secretariat in 2014**

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

#### **Designation of laboratories**

8. The Conference considered and adopted a decision on additional guidelines for the designation of laboratories for the analysis of authentic samples (C-20/DEC.4, dated 2 December 2015).
9. The Conference 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 (C-20/DEC.5, dated 2 December 2015).

#### **Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2014**

10. The Conference considered and approved the report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2014 (C-20/4, dated 2 December 2015).

#### **Report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities in the period from 12 July 2014 to 9 July 2015**

11. The Conference noted the report of the Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 12 July 2014 to 9 July 2015, 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 Nineteenth Session in Response to Recommendations Made by the Executive Council" (EC-80/3 C-20/2). The report was introduced by the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Francesco Azzarello

of Italy, who also briefed the Conference on any developments that had taken place since the cut-off date for the report (C-20/INF.4, dated 2 December 2015).

12. 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-80/3 C-20/2, pursuant to paragraph 11.2 of the report of the Council at its Eightieth Session (EC-80/4\*, dated 8 October 2015).

**Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2016, submitted by the Executive Council, and all items pertaining to this budget**

13. 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 2016, which the Council had submitted to it (C-20/DEC.6).
14. 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 Member States, along with the Draft Programme and Budget for 2016.

**External Auditor’s report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2014**

15. The Conference 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).

**Establishment of a special fund for OPCW special missions and withholding of the distribution of the cash surplus for 2013**

16. At its Eightieth Session, 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), considered and adopted a decision on the matter (EC-80/DEC.7), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twentieth Session. The Conference considered and adopted a decision on the matter (C-20/DEC.11, dated 3 December 2015), as amended.

**Cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2015**

17. At its Eightieth Session, 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 (EC-80/DG.18 C-20/DG.14). The Conference noted this Note.
18. Following the request to the Secretariat by the Council at its Eightieth Session, an update on the cash situation for the financial year to 31 October 2015 was made available (S/1322/2015, dated 4 November 2015 and Corr.1, dated 27 November 2015). The Conference noted the update.



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

19. 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-80/DG.6 C-20/DG.7).

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

20. The Council at its Eightieth Session considered a Note by the Director-General on the recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and losses of assets (EC-80/DG.3 C-20/DG.5) and recommended that the Conference at its Twentieth Session approve these write-offs, totalling EUR 4,633.69 (paragraph 12.17 of EC-80/4\*). The Conference adopted a decision approving the said proposals (C-20/DEC.8, dated 3 December 2015).

**Transfers of funds between programmes during 2014**

21. The Conference noted a Note by the Director-General on a request for transfers of funds between chapters and transfers of funds during 2014 (EC-78/DG.7 C-20/DG.1, dated 12 February 2015).

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

22. The Conference noted the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014, and the accompanying Note by the Director-General (EC-79/DG.3 C-20/DG.3, dated 3 April 2015).

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

23. The Conference noted a Note by the Director-General on the Africa Programme (EC-80/DG.5 C-20/DG.6).

**Committee on Relations with the Host Country**

24. The Conference considered and noted a report by the Host Country Committee on the performance of its activities, for the period from September 2014 to February 2015 (EC-78/HCC/1/Rev.1 C-20/HCC/1/Rev.1, dated 19 March 2015). The Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Francesco Azzarello of Italy, reported to the Conference on the status of the work by the Host Country Committee.

**Establishment of an Advisory Board on Education and Outreach**

25. The Conference adopted a decision on the establishment of the ABEO (C-20/DEC.9).
26. The Conference acknowledged the establishment of “The Hague Ethical Guidelines”, an inclusive text drafted by chemistry practitioners from States Parties in all regions of the world to serve as “Guidelines for the Practice of Chemistry under the Norms of

the Chemical Weapons Convention”. They constitute an important step to advance understanding among chemistry practitioners of the importance of nurturing responsible and ethical norms for scientific research and development. The Conference encouraged States Parties as well as the Secretariat and all relevant stakeholders to promote awareness of these guidelines and their possible application, and asked the ABEO to contribute to this effort.

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

27. The Conference considered and adopted a decision on the establishment of an OPCW Day (C-20/DEC.10, dated 3 December 2015).

#### **Dates and duration of the Fourth Review Conference and of the regular session of the Conference of the States Parties in 2018**

28. The Conference decided to combine the dates for its Fourth Review Conference and for its regular session in 2018. The Conference considered and approved the dates of 19 to 30 November 2018 for the combined sessions.
29. The Conference authorised the Director-General to conclude the appropriate agreements with the World Forum, thus ensuring the availability of conference facilities on these dates, while maintaining the flexibility to make necessary adjustments, if so required.

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