



OPCW

Executive Council

Eighty-Fourth Session
7 – 9 March 2017

EC-84/WP.3
7 March 2017
ENGLISH only

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OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND
COORDINATOR ON LEGAL, ORGANISATIONAL AND OTHER ISSUES**

Thank you Madam Chairperson,

During the intersessional period, an Article VII facilitation meeting, chaired by Mr Sébastien Braha of France in his capacity as facilitator for Article VII, was held on Friday 3 March 2017. During this meeting, the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) presented the work plan of activities to be held during the first half of 2017. Activities such as a legal workshop for States Parties, a basic course for personnel of National Authorities, an international conference on chemical disarmament and security, an Influential Visitors Programme, the 17th internship for legal drafters and National Authority representatives, a training course for customs training institutions and a series of mentorship/partnership programmes will be organised by the Secretariat in all regions of the world and in The Hague. Also, regional meetings of National Authorities will take place in the Gambia, Georgia, Jamaica and the United Arab Emirates.

The Secretariat also informed States Parties on plans related to the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the OPCW. Beyond the official event that will take place in The Hague on 26 April, the Secretariat invited States Parties to consider organising events at the margins of conferences and workshops dedicated to OPCW related issues. The Secretariat proposed its support to States Parties, through its External Relations Division.

The Secretariat briefed States Parties on the preparation of the 2017 Annual Report on Article VII. The Secretariat reminded States Parties on the note verbale sent on 7 February to all States Parties. Paragraph 5 of Article VII, requires each State Party to inform the Secretariat of the legislative and administrative measures taken to implement the Convention and requested for updates on the status of implementation of the Convention to be sent back to the Secretariat by 31 May 2017.

Finally, Mr Sébastien Braha announced he is stepping down as facilitator of Article VII. He announced that the WEOG Group has proposed Mr Stefano Dell’Aquila of Italy as the new facilitator, to be confirmed by the Executive Council at this session.

On Article XI, Mr Sarwar of Pakistan, facilitator of Article XI, organised one informal consultation on 3 March 2017, where the Secretariat gave a briefing on its activities with regard to Article XI, and participating States Parties discussed relevant proposals for the full implementation of Article XI.



In the informal consultations, discussions on Article XI focused on the follow-up to the ideas emerged from the 2016 workshop and planning for the 2017 workshop.

I would like to thank most sincerely the Secretariat and the facilitators for their work during the intersessional period and request that this report be considered as an official document of this session.

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