



OPCW

Executive Council

Eighty-Fifth Session

11 – 14 July 2017

EC-85/2

2 May 2017

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NOTE BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

**NOMINATION BY THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA OF A CANDIDATE FOR
APPOINTMENT TO THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

1. At its Eighty-Fourth Session, the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) adopted a decision on the process for the appointment of the Director-General (EC-84/DEC.7, dated 9 March 2017), requesting the Chairperson of the Council to invite, on the Council’s behalf, States Parties to present their nominations of candidates for the position of Director-General of the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) by no later than 23 June 2017, to enable their consideration at the Eighty-Fifth Session of the Council.
2. The Permanent Representation of the Republic of Korea to the OPCW has submitted to the Chairperson of the Council a note verbale informing her of the nomination by the Government of the Republic of Korea of Mr Kim Won-soo, United Nations Under Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, as candidate for the position of Director-General.
3. Pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, the above-mentioned note verbale is herewith circulated to the members of the Council and all other States Parties.

Annex (English only): Note Verbale of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Korea to the OPCW





EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
THE HAGUE

28 April, 2017

MNT-10805

The Permanent Representation of the Republic of Korea to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) presents its compliments to the Chairperson of the Executive Council, H.E. Ambassador Odette Melono and, with reference to the letter L/PMO/208935/17 dated 14 March 2017, has the honour to inform the Chairperson that the Government of the Republic of Korea has decided to nominate Mr. Kim Won-soo, the United Nations Under Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, as candidate for the position of Director-General of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW. The curriculum vitae of Mr. Kim Won-soo is enclosed herewith.

In this regard, it would be highly appreciated if the Chairperson would inform States Parties of the nomination of the Republic of Korea.

The Permanent Representation of the Republic of Korea avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Chairperson of the Executive Council the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosures: Curriculum Vitae of Mr. Kim Won-soo

H.E. Ambassador Odette Melono
Chairperson of the Executive Council
Embassy of the Republic of Cameroon
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2514 JC Den Haag



Kim Won-soo **Under Secretary-General** **and High Representative for** **Disarmament Affairs**



Mr. **Kim Won-soo** has served as the United Nations Under Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs from 2015.

Prior to taking on this post, Mr. Kim served as Assistant-Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General since January 2007. In that capacity, he worked as the Deputy Chef de Cabinet to the Secretary-General from 2007 to 2012, led the Change Implementation team from 2012 to 2013 and concurrently served as the Secretary of the Chief Executives Board for coordination, which is composed of the executive heads of the United Nations (UN) system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, from 2013 to 2014.

As Special Adviser to the Secretary-General and subsequently as High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Kim served as the link between the United Nations and partner international organisations involved in the global disarmament agenda, such as the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO). In particular, following the reemergence of chemical weapons use in Syria in 2013, he was instrumental in putting the Syrian chemical file high on the international agenda and in developing the international response supported by the UN and the OPCW, including successive investigation and dismantlement programmes.

Since taking over as the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, he put an emphasis on ensuring that the joint investigations by the UN and the OPCW be conducted in a manner, most technical, professional, impartial and independent, and the unity of purpose be maintained among Member States, in particular of the Security Council members.

Given the growing risks and threats associated with Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) materials security and terrorism, he also worked closely both within the UN system and with partner international organisations, including the OPCW, to promote partnership in the universalisation of the international norm against Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), including chemical weapons, as well as programmes on prevention and response preparedness of the international community. In this context, he served as Sherpa of the UN to the Nuclear Security Summit process.

For this purpose, he focused on developing a cooperative partnership with other international organisations, including the OPCW, in the implementation of Security Resolution 1540 (2004). This effort led to greater synergies through joint capacity building activities for Member States, drawing from the expertise and experience of OPCW staff, and in cooperation with the industry as well as the scientific and academic communities, e.g. through the so-called Wiesbaden process.

Mr. Kim brings almost four decades of diplomatic and policy experience, both bilateral and multilateral, beginning in 1978 when he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea.

Before joining the UN in 2007, he worked in the Office of the President of the Republic of Korea, serving as Secretary for International Security Affairs from 2000 to 2002 and as Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Trade from 2002 to 2003. He then served as Director-General for Policy Planning and Ambassador for Regional Security Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2004 to 2005, and in 2006 as Special Adviser to the Foreign Minister and Ambassador for UN issues. Mr. Kim also served as Alternative Representative and Coordinator of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations Security Council from 1996 to 1997 and as Political Counsellor to the country's Permanent Mission to the United Nations.

His diplomatic career also included overseas postings at the Republic of Korea embassies in Washington D.C., USA and New Delhi, India as well as Headquarters positions such as Deputy Director of the North America Division, Chief of Human Resources Management and Director of the Treaties Division.

Mr. Kim holds a Bachelor of Law degree from Seoul National University, Republic of Korea, and a Master of Arts degree from the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced Studies at Johns Hopkins University, United States. In addition, he was a Visiting Fellow at Stanford University and did doctoral research in international law.

Mr. Kim is married with two sons.