



OPCW

Executive Council

Eighty-Fifth Session

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DECISION

AMENDMENTS TO THE OPCW MEDIA AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS POLICY

The Executive Council,

Recalling the decision of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) adopting the OPCW Media and Public Affairs Policy (C-I/DEC.55, dated 16 May 1997);

Recalling also that the Director-General has informed the Executive Council that, in response to the recommendations from the OPCW’s Office of Confidentiality and Security, he has convened a confidentiality reform task force (CRTF) to provide advice to the OPCW on any necessary modifications to the OPCW confidentiality regime; and

Noting that the report of the Director-General on the OPCW confidentiality regime (EC-85/DG.22 C-22/DG.6, dated 23 June 2017) refers to the CRTF’s recommendation that the OPCW Media and Public Affairs Policy be amended in line with established practices and advances in information technology;

Hereby:

Recommends that the Conference adopt the amended OPCW Media and Public Affairs Policy, including the “Indicative List of Areas in which Information may be Routinely Provided by the OPCW to the News Media and the General Public”, annexed hereto.

Annex: Amendments to the OPCW Media and Public Affairs Policy



Annex

AMENDMENTS TO THE OPCW MEDIA AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS POLICY

	Reference	Existing Text	Justification for Amendment	Proposed Text
1.	OPCW Media and Public Affairs Policy, Paragraph 1	<p>Introduction This document, which sets out the OPCW Media and Public Affairs Policy (hereinafter referred to as “the Media Policy”) for all OPCW organs, OPCW personnel and their activities, will apply to contacts with the news media or with any individual who is not employed or contracted by the Organisation nor authorised by a State Party in relation to implementation of the Convention. It will cover oral, written, electronic or any other communications. The implementation of the Media Policy shall be consistent with the OPCW Policy on Confidentiality.</p>	To clarify that the policy extends for all persons in any employment relationship with the OPCW.	<p>Introduction This document, which sets out the OPCW Media and Public Affairs Policy (hereinafter referred to as “the Media Policy”) for all OPCW organs, OPCW personnel and their activities, will apply to contacts with the news media or with any individual who is not employed or contracted by the Organisation nor authorised by a State Party in relation to implementation of the Convention. It will cover oral, written, electronic or any other communications. The implementation of the Media Policy shall be consistent with the OPCW Policy on Confidentiality. <i>Any references to OPCW personnel or staff herein shall include any consultants and other contracted personnel.</i></p>
2.	OPCW Media and Public Affairs Policy, Paragraph 2	<p>Principles and Objectives To the extent needed to facilitate the achievement of the object and the purpose of the Convention, the implementation of the Media Policy shall assist the news media and the general public in understanding the tasks and the activities of the Organisation. It shall promote the image of the OPCW as an accessible international organisation</p>	To clarify the mandate of the OPCW’s public relations policy.	<p>Principles and Objectives To the extent needed to facilitate the achievement of the object and the purpose of the Convention, the implementation of the Media Policy shall assist the news media and the general public in understanding the tasks and the activities of the Organisation. It shall promote the image of the OPCW as an accessible international organisation</p>

	Reference	Existing Text	Justification for Amendment	Proposed Text
		<p>Organisation. It shall promote the image of the OPCW as an accessible international organisation which provides balanced, timely and objective information. It will not be overly promotional and active, but will avoid being merely reactive.</p>		<p>which provides balanced, timely and objective information.</p>
3.	<p>OPCW Media and Public Affairs Policy, subparagraph 4.2(a)</p>	<p>The Director-General and, under his responsibility and acting in consultation with the relevant units of the OPCW Technical Secretariat (the appropriate unit responsible for administering the OPCW Media and Public Affairs Policy), shall have the authority to handle routinely all dealings of the OPCW Technical Secretariat with the news media and the general public.</p>	<p>Corrected to reflect existing policy.</p>	<p>The Director-General and, under his responsibility and acting in consultation with the relevant units of the OPCW Technical Secretariat, the <i>Public Affairs Branch</i>, shall have the authority to handle routinely all dealings of the OPCW Technical Secretariat with the news media and the general public.</p>
4.	<p>OPCW Media and Public Affairs Policy, subparagraph 4.2(b)</p>	<p>The Director-General may release to the news media or the general public information specifically related to a State Party only at the request of or with the express consent of the State Party to which this information refers.</p>	<p>This brings the Media Policy in line with the Confidentiality Annex and the OPCW Policy of Confidentiality.</p>	<p>The Director-General may release to the news media or the general public information specifically related to a State Party only at the request of or with the express consent of the State Party to which this information refers, <i>unless otherwise authorized by the Executive Council</i>.</p>
5.	<p>OPCW Media and Public Affairs Policy, subparagraph 4.3.1(c)</p>		<p>To clarify that the policy is applicable for non-routine activities.</p>	<p><i>All references to inspections, inspection teams, inspectors, and inspected States Parties in this Policy shall be taken to mean, and shall therefore apply, mutatis mutandis, to any other operational deployments including, but not limited to,</i></p>

	Reference	Existing Text	Justification for Amendment	Proposed Text
6.	OPCW Media and Public Affairs Policy, subparagraph 4.3.3(c)		To clarify that the policy is applicable for non-routine activities.	<i>contingency operations, fact-finding missions and clarification activities.</i> <i>The rights and responsibilities of the inspected State Party referred to throughout this policy shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to any other State Party which is involved in any other operational deployments including, but not limited to, contingency operations, fact-finding missions and clarification activities.</i>
7.	Indicative List of Areas in which Information may be Routinely Provided by the OPCW to the News Media and the General Public, subparagraph 2(b)	non-confidential reports or parts of reports of the Organisation on the implementation of the Convention, as envisaged in Article VIII (subparagraph 38(b)), taking into account possible decisions of the Conference, the Executive Council or the Director-General not to make such reports or certain parts of them public; and	Minor edit.	non-confidential reports or parts of reports of the Organisation on the implementation of the Convention, as envisaged in Article VIII (subparagraph 38(b)), taking into account possible decisions of the Conference, the Executive Council or the Director-General not to make such reports or certain parts of them public; and
8.	Indicative List of Areas in which Information may be Routinely Provided by the OPCW to the News Media and the General Public, subparagraph 2(c)	Note: Old subpara. 2(c) will become new subpara. 2(d)	To bring clarity regarding the treatment of official series documents.	<i>Official-series documents that are not subject to circulation restrictions. These include official statements by States Parties during sessions or meetings of the Conference of the States Parties or of the Executive Council unless decided otherwise by the State Party delivering the statement.</i>