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**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
ON THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS ACTIVITIES
IN THE PERIOD FROM 28 JULY 2016 TO 14 JULY 2017**



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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 2016 to 11 May 2017, and from 12 May 2017 to 11 May 2018.

TABLE 1: COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL FROM 12 MAY 2016 TO 11 MAY 2017

Regional Group	States Parties
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

TABLE 2: COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL FROM 12 MAY 2017 TO 11 MAY 2018

Regional Group	States Parties
Africa	Algeria, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, and Sudan
Asia	Bangladesh, China, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Viet Nam
Eastern Europe	Azerbaijan, Estonia, Poland, Russian Federation, and Slovakia
Latin America and the Caribbean	Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, 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 Twenty-First Session, the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) adopted decisions on five matters the Council had referred to it.

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

- 1.4 At its Eighty-Fourth Session, the Council elected Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal of Bangladesh as its Chairperson, with effect from 12 May 2017 and for a term of office ending on 11 May 2018. Ambassador María Teresa Infante of Chile, Ambassador Roman Bužek of Slovakia, Ambassador Fernando Arias González of Spain, and Ambassador Rahma Salih Elobied of the Sudan 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

Session	Dates
Eighty-Third	11 – 14 October and 11 November 2016
Eighty-Fourth	7 – 9 March 2017
Eighty-Fifth	11 – 14 July 2017

- 1.6 The Council held three meetings during the reporting period:
- (a) its Fifty-Third Meeting, on 26 August 2016;
 - (b) its Fifty-Fourth Meeting, on 13, 19 and 20 April 2017; and
 - (c) its Fifty-Fifth Meeting, on 5 July 2017.

Accreditation of representatives to the Executive Council

- 1.7 The Council at its Eighty-Fifth Session considered and approved a report by the Director-General on the credentials of representatives of members of the Council (EC-85/DG.19, dated 22 June 2017).

Application of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council

- 1.8 During the period under review, observer States Parties attended sessions of the Council, with an average of 52 present at each session. Each request by observers to present their views was granted under Rule 22 of the aforementioned Rules of Procedure.

Working methods of the Executive Council

- 1.9 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-83/INF.1, dated 5 September 2016; EC-84/INF.3, dated 6 March 2016; and EC-85/INF.1, dated 10 April 2017).
- 1.10 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.

- 1.11 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

- 1.12 The Vice-Chairpersons reported to the Council at its regular sessions on informal consultations held during the intersessional periods.
- 1.13 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 2016

- 2.2 The Council at its Eighty-Fifth 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 2016” (EC-85/17 C-22/CRP.1, dated 12 July 2017), and forwarded it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Second 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 Eighty-Third 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 2015 to 15 August 2016, which was being submitted to both the Council and the Conference (EC-83/DG.5 C-21/DG.7, dated 18 August 2016).

Verification implementation reports

- 2.4 The Council at its Eighty-Third Session considered and noted a supplement to the Verification Implementation Report (VIR) for 2015 (EC-83/HP/DG.1, dated 24 August 2016 and Corr.1, dated 7 October 2016).
- 2.5 The Council at its Eighty-Fifth Session considered and noted the VIR for 2016 (EC-85/HP/DG.1, dated 15 May 2017 and Corr.1, dated 4 July 2017). The Council also noted the comments and views received on the VIR for 2016 (EC-85/DG.27, dated 6 July 2017), as well as the Chairperson's summary of the informal consultations on it (EC-85/13, dated 6 July 2017).

Issues related to meeting the final extended deadline and other destruction-related issues

- 2.6 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 Eighty-Third, Eighty-Fourth, and Eighty-Fifth Sessions:
- (a) Libya (EC-83/NAT.1, dated 19 September 2016; EC-84/NAT.3, dated 15 February 2017; and EC-85/NAT.4, dated 15 June 2017).
 - (b) the United States of America (EC-83/NAT.2, dated 16 September 2016; EC-84/NAT.2, dated 13 February 2017 and Corr.1, dated 22 February 2017; and EC-85/NAT.3, dated 22 June 2017). 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, dated 1 December 2011; and
 - (c) the Russian Federation (EC-83/P/NAT.4/Rev.1, dated 30 September 2016; EC-84/P/NAT.6, dated 13 February 2017; and EC-85/P/NAT.5, dated 16 June 2017). 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.
- 2.7 The Council at its Fifty-Third Meeting considered and noted a Note by the Director-General entitled "Plan for the Destruction of Libya's Remaining Category 2 Chemical Weapons Outside the Territory of Libya" (EC-M-53/DG.1, dated 19 August 2016 and Corr.1, dated 24 August 2016) and adopted a decision on the above-mentioned plan (EC-M-53/DEC.1, dated 26 August 2016).

- 2.8 The Council at the same meeting considered and adopted a decision entitled “Arrangement Between the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Government of Germany Governing On-site Inspections at the Gesellschaft zur Entsorgung von chemischen Kampfstoffen und Rüstungsaltslasten mbH (GEKA mbH) Munster, and at the Port of Disembarkation in Germany” (EC-M-53/DEC.2, dated 26 August 2016).
- 2.9 Further to Council decision EC-M-53/DEC.1 on the plan for the destruction of Libya’s remaining Category 2 chemical weapons outside the territory of Libya, the Council at its Eighty-Third Session considered and noted the report of the Director-General on the issue (EC-M-53/DG.1), including any problems relating to its implementation (EC-83/DG.19, dated 26 September 2016).
- 2.10 At the same session, the Council considered and noted a Note by the Secretariat entitled “Technical Secretariat’s Evaluation of the Amended Declaration Submitted by Libya with Regard to the Category 2 Chemical Weapons Stored at the Ruwagha Chemical Weapons Storage Facility” (EC-83/S/2, dated 12 August 2016), related to the decrease of a part of Libya’s Category 2 chemical weapons stockpile. The Secretariat was requested to undertake a visit to the facility in question, as soon as security conditions permit, in connection with the verification of the Note’s assessments in accordance with the requirements of the Convention and to report to the Council as appropriate.
- 2.11 Further to EC-M-53/DEC.1, the Council at its Eighty-Fourth and Eighty-Fifth Sessions considered and noted the monthly reports by the Director-General on the implementation of the plan, including any problems relating to its implementation (EC-84/DG.2, dated 26 October 2016; EC-84/DG.3, dated 21 November 2016; EC-84/DG.5, dated 21 December 2016; EC-84/DG.10, dated 23 January 2017; EC-84/DG.23, dated 24 February 2017; EC-85/DG.1, dated 23 March 2017; EC-85/DG.4, dated 24 April 2017; EC-85/DG.9, dated 24 May 2017; and EC-85/DG.20, dated 23 June 2017).
- 2.12 A national paper by Iraq entitled “Chemical Weapons Used in the Kirkuk Area of Iraq” was circulated to the members of the Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session (EC-84/P/NAT.3*, dated 14 December 2016).
- 2.13 Further to its decision EC-84/DEC.2 (dated 8 March 2017) the Council at its Eighty-Fifth Session considered and noted two national papers by Iraq entitled “Report to the Eighty-Fifth Session of the Executive Council on Progress Achieved Towards Destruction of Chemical Weapon Remnants Stored at the Al Muthana Site” (EC-85/P/NAT.6, dated 6 July 2017), and “Modifications to the General Plan for Destruction of Chemical Weapons Remnants Stored at the Al Muthana Site” (EC-85/P/NAT.7, dated 13 July 2017).
- 2.14 At the same session the Secretariat submitted a Note on modifications to the arrangement between the OPCW and the Government of Iraq (EC-85/P/S/1, dated 13 July 2017), which the Council considered and noted.
- 2.15 Further to Conference decision C-16/DEC.11, the Council at its Eighty-Third, Eighty-Fourth, and Eighty-Fifth Sessions considered and noted reports by the

Director-General on the overall progress of destruction activities by possessor States (EC-83/DG.20, dated 29 September 2016 and Corr.1, dated 5 October 2016; EC-84/DG.20, dated 22 February 2017; and EC-85/DG.23, dated 3 July 2017).

- 2.16 The Council at its Eighty-Third 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-83/DG.12, dated 14 September 2016).
- 2.17 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012), the Council at its Eighty-Third, Eighty-Fourth, and Eighty-Fifth 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-83/DG.21, dated 4 October 2016; EC-84/DG.24, dated 3 March 2017; and EC-85/DG.26, dated 5 July 2017).
- 2.18 Further to the same decision by the Council (EC-67/DEC.6), national papers by China (EC-83/NAT.3, dated 15 September 2016; EC-84/NAT.5, dated 23 February 2017; and EC-85/NAT.6, dated 27 June 2017) and national papers by Japan (EC-83/NAT.4, dated 30 September 2016; EC-84/NAT.1, dated 9 February 2017; and EC-85/NAT.5, dated 22 June 2017) were circulated to the members of the Council at its Eighty-Third, Eighty-Fourth, and Eighty-Fifth Sessions.
- 2.19 The Council at its Eighty-Third, Eighty-Fourth and Eighty-Fifth Sessions welcomed the review of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons conducted by the Third Review Conference¹ 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).
- 2.20 The Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session considered a national paper by Japan and China entitled "Destruction Plan Beyond the Year 2016 for the Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People's Republic of China (as per Decision EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012)" (EC-84/NAT.6, dated 2 March 2017), adopted the destruction plan attached as Annex 2 to the Council's decision on "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), and amended the decision accordingly.
- 2.21 The Council at its Eighty-Fourth 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).

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

Visits by representatives of the Executive Council

- 2.22 The Council at its Eighty-Fifth Session considered and noted the report of the visit by the Chairperson of the Council and representatives of the Council to the Blue Grass Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant and Static Detonation Chamber, Kentucky, the United States of America, from 2 to 6 April 2017 (EC-85/5, dated 24 May 2017 and Corr.1, dated 8 June 2017).
- 2.23 The Council at the same session considered and noted the report of the visit by the Chairperson of the Council and representatives of the Council to the Haerbaling abandoned chemical weapons destruction site, Jilin Province, China, from 12 to 16 June 2017, jointly invited by China and Japan (EC-85/14, dated 10 July 2017) and expressed its appreciation for the first-hand information on the destruction progress and the bilateral cooperation of the relevant States Parties obtained through the visit.

Detailed plans for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons

- 2.24 The Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session considered and noted two national papers by Iraq entitled “General Plan for Destruction and Request for the Establishment of the Deadlines for the Destruction of Chemical Weapon Remnants Stored in Bunker 13” (EC-84/NAT.4, dated 24 February 2017 and Corr.1, dated 7 March 2017), and “Detailed Information for the Arrangement between the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Government of Iraq and the General Plan for the Destruction and Request for the Establishment of the Deadlines for the Destruction of Chemical Weapon Remnants Stored in Bunker 13” (EC-84/HP/NAT.8, dated 24 February 2017).
- 2.25 At the same session the Council considered and adopted a decision entitled “General Plan for Destruction and Establishment of the Deadlines for the Destruction of Chemical Weapon Remnants Stored at the Al Muthana Site” (EC-84/DEC.2).
- 2.26 The Council at its Eighty-Fifth Session considered and approved amendments to the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of the Category 1 chemical weapons at the chemical weapons destruction facility (CWDF) located at Kizner, Udmurt Republic, the Russian Federation (EC-85/DEC.2 and EC-85/P/DEC.2, both dated 12 July 2017).
- 2.27 The Council at the same session noted a national paper by Panama entitled “Concept Plan for the Destruction of Eight Old Chemical Weapons” (EC-85/NAT.2, dated 16 June 2017), and considered and adopted a decision on the arrangement between the OPCW and Panama governing inspections at San José Island, Panama (EC-85/DEC.3, dated 12 July 2017).
- 2.28 At the same session, the Council considered a Note on amendments and modifications to the agreed detailed plan for verification regarding on-site inspections at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility, Pueblo, Colorado, the United States of America (EC-85/S/4, dated 4 July 2017), and approved the amendments (EC-85/DEC.5, dated 12 July 2017).

Facility agreements

- 2.29 The Secretariat submitted to the Council at its Eighty-Third Session a Note on amendments to the facility arrangement with Australia regarding on-site inspections at a Schedule 1 facility for protective purposes at the Defence Science and Technology Group, Melbourne, Australia (EC-83/S/4, dated 1 September 2016). Proposed amendments to the aforementioned facility arrangement were submitted separately to the Council, which considered and approved them (EC-83/DEC.1 and EC-83/R/DEC.1, both dated 13 October 2016).
- 2.30 The Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session considered and adopted a decision entitled “Arrangement Between the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Government of Iraq” (EC-84/DEC.1, dated 8 March 2017). Proposed amendments to the aforementioned facility arrangement were submitted to the Council at its Eighty-Fifth Session (EC-85/P/S/1), which considered and noted them.
- 2.31 The Secretariat submitted to the Council at its Eighty-Fifth Session a Note on amendments, modifications, and updates to the facility agreement with Serbia for a Schedule 1 protective purposes facility (EC-85/S/1, dated 19 May 2017). Proposed amendments to the aforementioned facility agreement were submitted separately to the Council, which considered and approved them (EC-85/DEC.1, and EC-85/HP/DEC.1, both dated 12 July 2017).
- 2.32 The Secretariat submitted to the Council at the same session a Note on modifications to the facility agreement between the OPCW and the Russian Federation regarding on-site inspections CWDF located at Kizner, Udmurt Republic, the Russian Federation (EC-85/S/2, dated 16 June 2017).
- 2.33 The Secretariat also submitted a Note on amendments and modifications to the facility agreement with the United States of America regarding on-site inspections at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility, Pueblo, Colorado, the United States of America (EC-85/S/4). The Council considered and approved the proposed amendments (EC-85/DEC.4, dated 12 July 2017).

Progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme

- 2.34 Further to its decision at its Eighty-Third Session (EC-83/DEC.5, dated 11 November 2016), the Council decided at its Eighty-Fourth Session to place “Elimination of the Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme” on the agenda of all future Council sessions until the Council determines that all elements of the Syrian chemical weapons programme have been eliminated.

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

- 2.35 The Council noted Notes by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme at its Eighty-Third, Eighty-Fourth, and Eighty-Fifth Sessions (EC-83/DG.2, dated 22 July 2016; EC-83/DG.6, dated 22 August 2016; EC-83/DG.18, dated 26 September 2016; EC-84/DG.1, dated 25 October 2016; EC-84/DG.4, dated 23 November 2016;

EC-84/DG.6, dated 22 December 2016; EC-84/DG.11, dated 24 January 2017; EC-84/DG.22, dated 2 February 2017; EC-85/DG.2, dated 23 March 2017; EC-85/DG.5, dated 24 April 2017; EC-85/DG.11, dated 24 May 2017; and EC-85/DG.21, dated 23 June 2017).

- 2.36 The Council at its Eighty-Third, Eighty-Fourth, and Eighty-Fifth 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-83/P/NAT.1, dated 14 July 2016; EC-83/P/NAT.2, dated 15 August 2016; EC-83/P/NAT.3, dated 14 September 2016; EC-84/P/NAT.1, dated 19 October 2016; EC-84/P/NAT.2, dated 16 November 2016; EC-84/P/NAT.4, dated 19 December 2016; EC-84/P/NAT.5, dated 13 January 2017; EC-84/P/NAT.7, dated 15 February 2017; EC-85/P/NAT.1, dated 13 March 2017; EC-85/P/NAT.2, dated 15 April 2017; EC-85/P/NAT.3, dated 16 May 2017; and EC-85/P/NAT.4, dated 19 June 2017).
- 2.37 The Council at its Eighty-Third Session decided to defer a draft decision on the retention of samples of Syrian chemical weapons (EC-77/DEC/CRP.2/Rev.1, dated 23 March 2016) to a future regular session.
- 2.38 At its Eighty-Third Session the Council considered the following draft decisions submitted by the Russian Federation entitled “Addressing the Situation Around the Alleged Use of Chemicals as Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic and this State Party’s Initial Declaration Under Article III of the Chemical Weapons Convention” (EC-83/DEC/CRP.6/Rev.1, dated 4 November 2016), and Spain entitled “OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism Reports on Chemical Weapons Use in the Syrian Arab Republic” (EC-83/DEC/CRP.7/Rev.1, dated 10 November 2016).
- 2.39 At the same session, in accordance with Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, the Director-General submitted to the Council a report on the financial, administrative, and programme and budget implications of draft decision EC-83/DEC/CRP.7 (dated 3 November 2016) regarding the follow-up activities related to the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism reports on chemical weapons use in the Syrian Arab Republic (EC-83/DG.23, dated 9 November 2016). The Council considered and adopted by voting, under Rule 42(b) of its Rules of Procedure, the aforementioned decision.
- 2.40 The Council, at its Eighty-Third Session, adopted a decision entitled “OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism Reports on Chemical Weapons Use in the Syrian Arab Republic” (EC-83/DEC.5). Pursuant to its subparagraph 12(a) the Director-General shall regularly inform the Council on the implementation of this decision. In paragraph 11 of the same decision, the Council decided that the Secretariat shall conduct inspections twice a year at the Barzah facilities of the Syrian Scientific Studies and Research Centre (SSRC) and twice a year at the Jamrayah SSRC facilities.
- 2.41 The Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session noted a report by the Director-General entitled “Status of Implementation of Executive Council Decision EC-83/DEC.5 (dated 11 November 2016)” (EC-84/DG.25, dated 6 March 2017).

- 2.42 The Council at its Eighty-Fifth Session noted a report by the Director-General entitled “First Inspections at the Barzah and Jamrayah Syrian Scientific Studies and Research Centre Facilities in the Syrian Arab Republic in Accordance with Decision EC-83/DEC.5 (dated 11 November 2016)” (EC-85/DG.16, dated 2 June 2017).
- 2.43 The Council at its Fifty-Fourth Meeting considered a draft decision submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation entitled “Addressing the Situation around the Alleged Use of Chemical Weapons in the Khan Shaykhun Area of Southern Idlib in the Syrian Arab Republic” (EC-M-54/DEC/CRP.1, dated 13 April 2017). Subsequently, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation revised the draft decision, which was circulated as EC-M-54/DEC/CRP.1/Rev.1 (dated 19 April 2017). Under Rule 42(b) of the Rules of Procedure, the aforementioned draft decision was considered and voted on. In the light of the result of the voting, the draft decision was not adopted.

Activities of the Declaration Assessment Team

- 2.44 The Council at its Eighty-Fourth and Eighty-Fifth Sessions noted two Notes by the Director-General reporting on the work of the Declaration Assessment Team (EC-84/HP/DG.1, dated 2 March 2017, and EC-85/DG.25, dated 4 July 2017).

Reports of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria

- 2.45 The Director-General provided an update in regard to the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria during the Eighty-Third, Eighty-Fourth and Eighty-Fifth Sessions of the Council.
- 2.46 The Russian Federation informed the Council at its Eighty-Third Session about the discovery recently made by the Russian military in Aleppo pointing to the use of the chemical weapons by terrorists (EC-83/NAT.19, dated 11 November 2016). The Russian Federation noted that, if the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission experts were unable to visit the site to investigate this case, the Russian military personnel were available to bring the collected samples to The Hague for the OPCW certified laboratory.
- 2.47 The Secretariat briefed the Council at its Fifty-Fifth Meeting on two reports of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria (S/1491/2017, dated 1 May 2017, and S/1510/2017, dated 29 June 2017).
- 2.48 The Director-General at that same meeting delivered a statement to the Council on the two aforementioned reports of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria.

Article VI-related issues

- 2.49 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-Fourth and Eighty-Fifth 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-84/DG.8, dated 17 January 2017, and EC-85/DG.17, dated 16 June 2017).

- 2.50 Further to the decision of the Council at its Sixty-Sixth Session on the policy guidelines for determining the number of Article VI inspections (EC-66/DEC.10, dated 7 October 2011), the Council at its Eighty-Fifth Session noted a report by the Director-General on the results of the fifth year of implementation of these policy guidelines (EC-85/DG.3, dated 10 April 2017).

Progress made in the implementation of Article VII obligations

- 2.51 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 Eighty-Third Session noted three reports by the Director-General on the “Overview of the Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2016” (EC-83/DG.11 C-21/DG.11, dated 16 September 2016); on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2016: Article VII – Initial Measures” (EC-83/DG.8 C-21/DG.9, dated 16 September 2016); and on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2016: Additional Measures for States Parties that Possess Industrial Facilities Which Are Declarable Under the Convention” (EC-83/DG.9 C-21/DG.10, dated 16 September 2017).

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

- 2.52 The Council at its Eighty-Fifth 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-85/DG.13, dated 31 May 2017).

OPCW Central Analytical Database

- 2.53 The Council at its Eighty-Fifth Session deferred until its next regular session consideration of a Note by the Director-General on the lists of new validated data of non-scheduled chemicals for approval by the Council for inclusion in the OPCW Central Analytical Database (EC-84/DG.13/Rev.1, dated 19 May 2017), and a draft decision on the matter (EC-84/DEC/CRP.3/Rev.1, dated 19 May 2017).
- 2.54 The Council at the same 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-85/DG.14, dated 31 May 2017) and adopted a decision on the matter (EC-85/DEC.9, dated 14 July 2017).

Status of implementation of Article X

- 2.55 The Council at its Eighty-Third 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 2016 (EC-83/DG.4/Rev.1, dated 5 September 2016).

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

- 2.56 The Council at its Eighty-Fifth Session considered and noted a Note by the Secretariat on the content of the assistance and protection data bank and its use (EC-85/S/3, dated 16 June 2017).

Status of implementation of Article XI

- 2.57 The Council at its Eighty-Third 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-83/DG.17 C-21/DG.14, dated 21 September 2016).
- 2.58 The Council at the same session expressed appreciation for the Secretariat's work on the implementation of Article XI and its efforts to organise the "Review and Evaluation Workshop on the Components of an Agreed Framework for the Full Implementation of Article XI" (C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011) on 22 November 2016, and encouraged active participation of all States Parties in the workshop, with a view to providing consensus recommendations to the policy-making organs of the OPCW to promote further the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI.

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

- 2.59 The Council at its Eighty-Third and Eighty-Fourth Sessions considered and noted two Notes by the Director-General on the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (EC-83/DG.15 C-21/DG.13, dated 15 September 2016, and EC-84/DG.18, dated 17 February 2017).

The OPCW's contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts

- 2.60 The Council at its Eighty-Third and Eighty-Fourth Sessions 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 reports were circulated to the Council (EC-83/WP.1, dated 7 October 2016, and EC-84/WP.1, dated 28 February 2017). The Council encouraged her to continue facilitating discussions on legal, prevention, and response aspects of chemical terrorism.
- 2.61 The Chairperson of the OEWG on Terrorism, Ambassador Joe Tony Aidoo of Ghana, briefed the Council at its Eighty-Third Session on the work of the OEWG during the intersessional period. The Council expressed appreciation for his report (EC-83/WP.2, dated 13 October 2016), which was circulated to the Council at that same session.
- 2.62 The Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session noted a Note by the Director-General on the status of the OPCW's contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts (EC-84/DG.14, dated 8 February 2017).
- 2.63 The Council at its Eighty-Fifth 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.2, dated 28 June 2017).

Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference

- 2.64 The Council at its Eighty-Third, Eighty-Fourth, and Eighty-Fifth Sessions considered and noted Notes by the Secretariat entitled “Updated Matrix of Actionable Items Identified at the Third Review Conference” (EC-83/S/5, dated 21 September 2015, Add.1, dated 24 February 2017, and Add.2, dated 5 July 2017).

Education and outreach

- 2.65 Further to Conference decision C-20/DEC.9 (dated 3 December 2015), the Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session noted a Note by the Director-General reporting on the activities of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach in 2016 (EC-84/DG.7 C-22/DG.1, dated 5 January 2017).

Implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Technical Secretariat in 2016

- 2.66 The Council at its Eighty-Fourth 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 2016 (EC-84/DG.16 C-22/DG.2, dated 14 February 2017).
- 2.67 The Council at its Eighty-Fifth Session noted a report by the Director-General on the OPCW confidentiality regime (EC-85/DG.22 C-22/DG.6, dated 23 June 2017) and considered and adopted a decision on amendments to the OPCW Policy on Confidentiality (EC-85/DEC.6, dated 12 July 2017). The Council also considered and adopted a decision on amendments to the OPCW Media and Public Affairs Policy (EC-85/DEC.7, dated 12 July 2017).

Report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities

- 2.68 The Council at its Eighty-Third Session considered and approved a report on the performance of its activities in the period from 10 July 2015 to 27 July 2016, and submitted it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-First Session (EC-83/4 C-21/2, dated 11 November 2016). 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 2017, and all items pertaining to this budget

- 2.69 The Council at its Eighty-Third Session considered the Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2017, which the Director-General had submitted to the Council in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.4 (EC-83/CRP.1, dated 8 July 2016), and transmitted it to the Conference at its Twenty-First Session, together with its comments and recommendations (EC-83/DEC.2, dated 13 October 2016).

- 2.70 The Medium-Term Plan of the OPCW for the period 2017 to 2021 (EC-83/S/1 C-21/S/1, dated 8 April 2016) was circulated to the members of the Council at the same session.
- 2.71 A Note by the Secretariat on the programme performance for the year 2015 (S/1377/2016, dated 22 April 2016) was also circulated to the members of the Council at its Eighty-Third Session.

Financial situation of the OPCW

- 2.72 At its Eighty-Third Session, the Council considered and forwarded to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-First 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 2016 (EC-83/DG.13 C-21/DG.12, dated 14 September 2016).
- 2.73 The Council at the same session noted the Financial Statements of the OPCW and the report of the External Auditor for the year ending 31 December 2015 (EC-83/DG.1 C-21/DG.5, dated 8 August 2016) and forwarded them to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-First Session.
- 2.74 The Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session noted that the final cash deficit for 2014 amounted to EUR 680,232, as stated in the report by the Director-General entitled “Financial Statements of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and Report of the External Auditor for the Year Ending 31 December 2015” (EC-83/DG.1 C-21/DG.5), and reported to the ABAF at its Fortieth Session (ABAF-40/1, dated 9 June 2016 and Corr.1, dated 24 June 2016).
- 2.75 The Council at the same session noted a Note by the Director-General on the limit of investments of funds of the OPCW (EC-84/DG.12, dated 31 January 2017).
- 2.76 The Council at its Eighty-Fifth Session deferred to its next regular session consideration of a draft decision to suspend, on an exceptional basis, the application of Financial Regulation 6.3 in respect of the allocation among States Parties of cash surpluses in light of the cash deficit for the year 2014 and to review the treatment of future cash surpluses as and when such surpluses are determined (EC-83/DEC/CRP.2/Rev.1, dated 23 February 2017).

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

- 2.77 Further to a decision of the Conference at its Eleventh Session (C-11/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2006), the Council at its Eighty-Third Session considered and forwarded to the Conference at its Twenty-First Session a Note by the Director-General on the status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans (EC-83/DG.7 C-21/DG.8, dated 1 September 2016).

Transfer of funds

- 2.78 The Council at its Eighty-Third Session noted 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).
- 2.79 The Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session noted a Note by the Director-General on transfers of funds between chapters and transfers of funds during 2016 (EC-84/DG.17 C-22/DG.3, dated 16 February 2017).

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

- 2.80 The Council at its Eighty-Third 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 Twenty-First Session approve these write-offs, totalling EUR 1,694.46 (EC-83/DG.3 C-21/DG.6, dated 2 August 2016).

Implementation of the enterprise resource planning system

- 2.81 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 Eighty-Third, Eighty-Fourth and Eighty-Fifth Sessions noted Notes by the Director-General reporting on the status of implementation of the ERP system (EC-83/DG.10, dated 7 September 2016; EC-84/DG.15, dated 10 February 2017; and EC-85/DG.18, dated 16 June 2017).

Extension of the OPCW Headquarters Tenancy Agreement

- 2.82 At its Twenty-First Session, the Conference delegated to the Council the authority to take action on any matters relating to the Tenancy Agreement of the OPCW Headquarters building at its next regular session (paragraph 24.1 of C-21/5, dated 2 December 2016). Accordingly, the Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session considered and noted a Note by the Director-General on the extension of the OPCW Headquarters Tenancy Agreement (EC-84/DG.21, dated 23 February 2017 and Add.1, dated 8 March 2017), and considered and adopted a decision on the extension of the Tenancy Agreement for the OPCW Headquarters building (EC-84/DEC.3, dated 9 March 2017).
- 2.83 At the same session a Note by the Director-General on the intended sale of the OPCW Headquarters building (EC-84/DG.19, dated 22 February 2017) was circulated to the members of the Council.

Extension of the Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions

- 2.84 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Twentieth Session (C-20/DEC.11, dated 3 December 2015), the Council at its Eighty-Third Session considered and adopted a decision to extend the Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions for a period of one further year (EC-83/DEC.4, dated 14 October 2016).

Personnel matters

Composition of the Technical Secretariat

- 2.85 The Council at its Eighty-Fifth Session noted the Director-General's annual report on the composition of the Secretariat (EC-85/DG.7, dated 18 May 2017).

Implementation of the tenure policy

- 2.86 The Council at its Eighty-Fifth Session considered and noted a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the tenure policy in 2016 (EC-85/DG.6, dated 5 May 2017 and Corr.1, dated 10 May 2017).

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

- 2.87 The Council at its Eighty-Third Session noted a report by the Director-General on the implementation in 2016 of the amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward classification of posts during the period from 14 August 2015 to 13 August 2016 (EC-83/DG.14, dated 14 September 2016).

Adjustment to the Director-General's gross salary

- 2.88 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-Fourth Session adopted a decision adjusting the Director-General's gross salary (EC-84/DEC.4, dated 9 March 2017).

3. OTHER DECISIONS AND ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the World Custom Organization

- 3.1 The Council at its Eighty-Third Session noted a Note by the Director-General on a memorandum of understanding on cooperation between the OPCW and the World Customs Organization (EC-82/DG.15, dated 14 June 2016) and considered and adopted, as amended, a decision on the matter (EC-83/DEC.3, dated 13 October 2016).

Reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight and of the External Auditor

- 3.2 The Council at its Eighty-Third and Eighty-Fourth Sessions considered and noted Notes by the Secretariat on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor (EC-83/S/3, dated 29 August 2016, and EC-84/S/3, dated 18 January 2017).
- 3.3 The Council at its Eighty-Fifth Session considered and noted a report by the Director-General on the implementation in 2016 of the recommendations contained in

the 2015 annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight (OIO) (EC-85/DG.12, dated 26 May 2017).

Status report on the Verification Information System

- 3.4 The Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session took note of a status report on the Verification Information System (EC-84/S/2, dated 13 January 2017).

Reports by the open-ended working group on the future priorities of the OPCW

- 3.5 Pursuant to the decision of the Council on the establishment of an OEWG on the Future Priorities of the OPCW (OEWG-FP) (EC-82/DEC.2, dated 14 July 2016), the Co-Chairpersons of the OEWG-FP, Ambassador Sabine Nölke of Canada and Ambassador Vusi Bruce Koloane of South Africa, were requested to keep the policy-making organs informed of their work. The Co-Chairpersons reported to the Council at its Eighty-Third, Eighty-Fourth and Eighty-Fifth Sessions on the progress achieved.

Agreements on the privileges and immunities of the OPCW

- 3.6 The Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session considered and concluded an agreement between the OPCW and the Kingdom of Bahrain on the privileges and immunities of the OPCW (EC-84/DEC.5, dated 9 March 2017).
- 3.7 The Council at the same session also considered and concluded an agreement between the OPCW and the Kingdom of Cambodia on the privileges and immunities of the OPCW (EC-84/DEC.6, dated 9 March 2017).
- 3.8 The Council at its Eighty-Fifth Session considered and concluded an agreement between the OPCW and Romania on the privileges and immunities of the OPCW (EC-85/DEC.8, dated 13 July 2017).

4. REPORTS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Reports of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

- 4.1 The Council at its Eighty-Third Session considered and noted the report of the Forty-First Session of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF), which took place from 30 August to 1 September 2016 (ABAF-41/1, dated 1 September 2016), and a Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-83/DG.16, dated 19 September 2016).
- 4.2 The Council at its Eighty-Fifth Session considered and noted the report of the Forty-Second Session of the ABAF, which took place from 6 to 9 June 2017 (ABAF-42/1, dated 9 June 2017), and a Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-85/DG.24, dated 4 July 2017).

Appointments to the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

- 4.3 The Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session noted a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-84/S/1, dated 6 December 2016), and approved the nomination of Mr Aramane Giridhar of India to the ABAF, to replace Mr Alok Vardhan Chaturvedi, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Mr Giridhar (26 October 2016).
- 4.4 At its Eighty-Fifth Session, the Council noted a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-85/S/5, dated 10 July 2017) and appointed Mr Wolfgang Rechenhofer of Germany, to replace Ms Claudia Spahl, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Mr Rechenhofer (4 July 2017).
- 4.5 At the same session, the Council further noted a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-85/S/6, dated 11 July 2017) and appointed Mr Aizaz Khan of Pakistan, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Mr Khan (7 July 2017).

Reports of the Scientific Advisory Board

- 4.6 The report of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) (SAB-24/1, dated 28 October 2016) was circulated to the members of the Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session. As that same session, the Council noted the response by the Director-General to the report (EC-84/DG.9, dated 18 January 2017).
- 4.7 The report of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the SAB (SAB-25/1*, dated 31 March 2017) was circulated to the members of the Council at its Eighty-Fifth 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-85/DG.8, dated 19 May 2017 and Corr.1, dated 31 May 2017) and including comments on SAB-25/1* was also circulated to the members of the Council.

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2016

- 4.8 The Council at its Eighty-Fifth Session considered and noted the annual report of the OIO for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2016, which the Director-General had submitted to it, along with his comments (EC-85/DG.10 C-22/DG.4, dated 24 May 2017), 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-Second Session.

Report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

- 4.9 The Chairperson of the Council reported to the Council at its Eighty-Third and Eighty-Fourth Sessions on the status of the work of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

5. APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

- 5.1 At its Eighty-Fourth Session, the Council adopted a decision on the process for the appointment of the Director-General (EC-84/DEC.7, dated 9 March 2017). The decision requested the Chairperson of the Council to invite, on the Council's behalf, States Parties to present their nominations of candidates, and to undertake, as soon as possible, consultations on issues related to the appointment of the Director-General and other appropriate actions.
- 5.2 During its Eighty-Fifth Session, the Council considered a Note of the Chairperson on consultations on issues related to the appointment of the Director-General (EC-85/12, dated 28 June 2017).
- 5.3 On 13 July 2017, in the margins of the Council's Eight-Fifth Session, candidates nominated by the governments of Spain, Iraq, Hungary, Denmark, Burkina Faso, the Republic of Korea, and Lithuania made presentations to consecutive informal sittings of the Council attended by interested States Parties.
- 5.4 On the same day, the Council noted a statement made by the Chairperson on a road map for the appointment to the position of Director-General (EC-85/16, dated 13 July 2017).

6. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION OR ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES AT ITS TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

Draft annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2016

- 6.1 The Council at its Eighty-Fifth 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 2016" (EC-85/17 C-22/CRP.1), and forwarded it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Second Session.

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2016

- 6.2 The Council at its Eighty-Fifth Session considered and noted the annual report of the OIO for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2016, which the Director-General had submitted to it, along with his comments (EC-85/DG.10 C-22/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-Second 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 Twenty-First Session in Response to Recommendations Made by the Executive Council

Attachment

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**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 as per EC-85/DG.26.

To date, over 56,000 items of 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 items buried at Haerbaling, Jilin Province, which are estimated to number over 330,000 and have yet to be recovered, nor does it include items at other locations that also have yet to be recovered and declared.

As at the end of the reporting period on 31 May 2017, the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) had verified the destruction of 46,517 of the over 56,000 items of declared ACWs abandoned by Japan on the territory of China. This destruction figure accounts for all items destroyed at the mobile destruction facilities (MDFs) in Nanjing, 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. During the reporting period, two storage inspections were conducted in February 2017, and one destruction inspection was conducted in May 2017 at the Haerbaling Test Destruction Facility.

The national papers submitted by Japan (EC-85/NAT.5, dated 22 June 2017) and China (EC-85/NAT.6, dated 27 June 2017) note that the destruction operations in the MDF in Nanjing were concluded on 11 June 2012, with the destruction of a total of 35,681 ACW items. The operations in the MDF in Wuhan were concluded in May 2015, with the destruction of 264 ACW items. China and Japan held a wrap-up meeting on 17 January 2017 at the Shijiazhuang MDF site, confirming the completion of the destruction in Shijiazhuang, with the destruction of a total of 2,576 ACW items. As at the cut-off date of the report, bilateral consultations are ongoing regarding site restoration work of the Shijiazhuang MDF site.

Regarding the Harbin site, preparation work is ongoing. Ground levelling work at the MDF site in Harbin was completed at the end of September 2016, and the

construction of the buildings began on 15 April 2017. The facility is expected to be ready by the end of 2018. As at the cut-off date of the report, detailed arrangements were ongoing. China and Japan had completed the site selection for the MDF in Taiyuan in March 2017, and on 19 May 2017 finalised the decision on the site of the destruction. Approximately 320 ACW items stored in the storehouses in Guangzhou and Nanning are expected to be destroyed at the MDF site in Guangzhou in the future.

As at 31 May 2017, the Haerbaling Test Destruction Facility had destroyed a total of 7,996 items of ACWs using two destruction technologies: a controlled detonation chamber and a static detonation chamber. During the reporting period, the controlled detonation chamber destroyed 296 items and the static detonation chamber destroyed 588 items. The Secretariat confirmed the destruction of these items during a destruction inspection conducted in May 2017. 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 of the destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China.

During the reporting period, bilateral investigations were conducted in Mudanjiang City, Dunhua City, and Changsha. An emergency bilateral investigation was carried out in Qiqihaer in April 2017. As a result of the visual and X-ray identification in these four locations, 54 items were confirmed as ACWs.

The twenty-sixth trilateral meeting was held in Tokyo in May 2017. These meetings between China, Japan, and the Secretariat are held on a biannual basis and are important occasions for ensuring transparency, discussing technical and practical issues, implementing the projects in accordance with the appropriate verification measures, and planning for future activities. In June 2017, the Chairperson of the Council, together with the Director-General and a Council delegation, visited the Haerbaling destruction site in China. The Council delegation was very appreciative of the spirit of cooperation, openness, and transparency that marked the visit and confirmed the relevance of visits to ACW destruction sites by delegations representing the Council.

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.

3. Activities of the Council

The Council considered and approved a report on the performance of its activities in the period from 10 July 2015 to 27 July 2016 (EC-83/4 C-21/2, dated 11 November 2016), and submitted it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-First Session. (Quoted from EC-83/5)

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-83/5)

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-83/5)

The Council noted with concern that according to the information provided by the delegation of Japan, although more than 37,000 ACWs have been destroyed in accordance with the provisions of the destruction plan for the destruction of JACWs with the mobile destruction facilities annexed to the decision of the Council (EC-67/DEC.6), the destruction will not be fully completed in the proposed timeframe, which is preferably within the year 2016. The Council requested the relevant States Parties to address this issue as soon as practical, preferably within the year 2016, through consultation in accordance with the relevant provisions of the abovementioned decision and to inform the Twenty-First Session of the Conference about activities relating to this issue. (Quoted from EC-83/5)

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-83/5)

The Council recalled 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 chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China as early 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-84/2)

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 chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China. (Quoted from EC-84/2)

The Council considered a national paper by Japan and China entitled "Destruction Plan Beyond the Year 2016 for the Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People's Republic of China (as per Decision EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012)" (EC-84/NAT.6, dated 2 March 2017), adopted the destruction plan attached as Annex 2 to the Council's decision on "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), and amended the decision accordingly. (Quoted from EC-84/2)

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). (Quoted from EC-84/2)

The Council welcomed the planned visit by a delegation of the Council to the Haerbaling abandoned chemical weapons site, jointly invited by China and Japan, in June 2017. (Quoted from EC-84/2)

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-83/DG.21, dated 4 October 2016). (Quoted from EC-83/5)

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-84/DG.24, dated 3 March 2017). (Quoted from EC-84/2)

4. Reference documents
 - (a) National papers

- (i) China (EC-83/NAT.3, dated 15 September 2016; EC-84/NAT.5, dated 23 February 2017, EC-85/NAT.6, dated 27 June 2017); and
 - (ii) Japan (EC-83/NAT.4, dated 30 September 2016; EC-84/NAT.1, dated 9 February 2017; EC-85/NAT.5, dated 22 June 2017).
- (b) Reports by the Director-General (EC-83/DG.21, dated 4 October 2016; EC-84/DG.24, dated 3 March 2017; EC-85/DG.26, dated 5 July 2017).
- (c) Report of the Executive Council on the Performance of its Activities in the Period from 10 July 2015 to 27 July 2016 (EC-83/4 C-21/2, dated 11 November 2016).

Annex

**ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES
AT ITS TWENTY-FIRST SESSION IN RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS
MADE BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

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 2016” (EC-83/DG.11 C-21/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 2016: Article VII – Initial Measures” (EC-83/DG.8 C-21/DG.9); and a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2016: Additional Measures for States Parties that Possess Industrial Facilities Which Are Declarable Under the Convention” (EC-83/DG.9 C-21/DG.10).

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

2. 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 26 August 2015 to 25 August 2016 (EC-83/DG.17 C-21/DG.14).
3. The Conference received an oral report by the facilitator, Mr Shoaib Sarwar of Pakistan, on activities held during the intersessional period. Further to the request of the Conference at its Twentieth Session, the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Odette Melono of Cameroon, provided an update on the developments with regard to the status of implementation of Article XI.
4. The Conference took note of the report by the facilitator in regard to the first “Review and Evaluation Workshop of the Components of an Agreed Framework for the Full Implementation of Article XI”. The Conference agreed that such a workshop was important for the promotion of the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of the provisions of Article XI. Consistent with decision EC-83/DEC.2, the Conference encouraged the widest participation of States Parties at the workshop on Article XI to take place in 2017. States Parties, in coordination with the Secretariat, will agree on the content of the workshop to promote implementation of Article XI, including consensus recommendations on concrete measures. The Conference requested the facilitator to report on developments in this regard to the Conference at its next session.
5. The States Parties of the Non-Aligned Movement and China submitted a position paper “On the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention: Article XI Compliance”.

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 2015 to 15 August 2016 (EC-83/DG.5 C-21/DG.7).

Review of the implementation of decision C-16/DEC.11

7. At its Eighty-Second Session, the Council adopted a decision entitled “Review of the Implementation of Decision C-16/DEC.11 (dated 1 December 2011) by the Conference of the States Parties in 2017” (EC-82/DEC.3, dated 14 July 2016) and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-First Session. The Conference considered and adopted a decision on the matter (C-21/DEC.5, dated 30 November 2016).

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

8. 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 2015 (EC-81/DG.10 C-21/DG.3, dated 19 February 2016).

Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2015

9. The Conference considered and approved the report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2015 (C-21/4, dated 30 November 2016).

Report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities

10. The Conference noted the report of the Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 10 July 2015 to 27 July 2016, 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 Twentieth Session in Response to Recommendations Made by the Executive Council” (EC-83/4 C-21/2). The report was introduced by the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Odette Melono of Cameroon, who also briefed the Conference on any developments that had taken place since the cut-off date for the report.

Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2017, and all items pertaining to it

11. 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 2017, which the Council at its Eighty-Third Session had submitted to it (C-21/DEC.6, dated 1 December 2016).
12. The Conference at its Twenty-First Session noted the Medium-Term Plan for the period from 2017 to 2021 (EC-83/S/1 C-21/S/1).

External Auditor's report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2015

13. The Conference noted the Financial Statements of the OPCW and the report of the External Auditor for the year ending 31 December 2015 (EC-83/DG.1 C-21/DG.5).

Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions

14. In accordance with a decision by the Conference at its Twentieth Session (C-20/DEC.11), the Council at its Eighty-Third Session considered and adopted a decision to extend the Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions for a period of one further year (EC-83/DEC.4), and transmitted it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-First Session. The Conference considered and adopted a decision on the matter (C-21/DEC.9, dated 1 December 2016).

Cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2016

15. At its Eighty-Third Session, the Council considered and forwarded to the Conference at its Twenty-First 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 2016 (EC-83/DG.13 C-21/DG.12). The Conference noted this Note.

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

16. 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-83/DG.7 C-21/DG.8).

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

17. Pursuant to a recommendation of the Council at its Eighty-Third Session regarding write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable (EC-83/DG.3 C-21/DG.6) the Conference at its Twenty-First Session approved these write-offs, totalling EUR 1,694.46 (C-21/DEC.8, dated 1 December 2016).

Transfers of funds between programmes during 2015

18. The Conference noted 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).

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2015

19. The Conference noted the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2015, and the accompanying Note by the Director-General (EC-82/DG.3 C-21/DG.4, dated 15 April 2016).

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

20. The Conference noted a Note by the Director-General on the Africa Programme (EC-83/DG.15 C-21/DG.13).
21. The Conference underlined the necessity to strengthen the Africa Programme in order to enhance the national capabilities of African States Parties to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the Convention.

Committee on Relations with the Host Country

22. The Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Odette Melono of Cameroon, reported to the Conference on the status of the work by the Host Country Committee.

Advisory Board on Education and Outreach

23. The Chairperson of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach, Dr Jean-Pascal Zanders, addressed the Conference on the work of the Board since it was established in accordance with a decision of the Conference at its Twentieth Session (C-20/DEC.9).

Scientific Advisory Board

24. The Chairperson of the Scientific Advisory Board, Dr Christopher Timperley, addressed the Conference on the ongoing work of the Board and on its preparation of the report on developments in science and technology, initiated in 2016, to the Fourth Special Session to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

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