



REPORT OF THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

The Chairperson of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”), Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal of Bangladesh, opened its Eighty-Seventh Session in The Hague at 10:12 on 13 March 2018.

2. AGENDA ITEM TWO – Adoption of the agenda

The Council **considered** and **adopted** the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Replacement of the Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Council from the African Group
4. Opening statement by the Director-General
5. Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on the activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues
6. General debate
7. Status of implementation of the Convention:
 - (a) Reports by the Director-General on destruction-related issues
 - (b) Implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues
 - (c) Elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme
 - (d) Other verification-related issues
 - (e) Facility agreements
 - (f) Technical Secretariat’s activities: update on the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria



- (g) Timely submission of declarations under Article VI of the Convention
 - (h) Implementation by the Technical Secretariat in 2017 of the regime governing the handling of confidential information
 - (i) Status of implementation of the Verification Information System
8. Report of the Scientific Advisory Board
 9. Countering chemical terrorism
 10. Administrative and financial matters:
 - (a) Nominations for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
 - (b) Status of implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations
 - (c) Transfers of funds during 2017
 - (d) Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise resource planning system
 - (e) Adjustment to the Director-General's gross salary
 11. Election of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council
 12. Report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
 13. Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference¹
 14. Briefing by the Co-Chairpersons of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities of the OPCW
 15. Briefing by the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference²
 16. Any other business
 17. Adoption of the report
 18. Closure

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

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

3. AGENDA ITEM THREE – Replacement of the Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Council from the African Group

In accordance with Rule 8 of its Rules of Procedure, the Council **elected** Ambassador Hassan Ali Hassan of the Sudan as a Vice-Chairperson of the Council, to replace Ambassador Rahma Salih Elobied of the Sudan for the unexpired term of office ending on 11 May 2018.

4. AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Opening statement by the Director-General

The Council **noted** the opening statement by the Director-General (EC-87/DG.21 and EC-87/DG.22, both dated 13 March 2018).

5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on the activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues

The Vice-Chairpersons and coordinators for clusters of issues reported to the Council on informal consultations held during the intersessional period: Ambassador Roman Bužek of Slovakia on chemical weapons issues, Mr Wolfgang Rechenhofer of Germany on behalf of Ambassador Fernando Arias González of Spain on chemical industry and other Article VI issues, Ambassador María Teresa Infante of Chile on administrative and financial issues, and Ambassador Hassan Ali Hassan of the Sudan on legal, organisational, and other issues.

6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – General debate

6.1 The following delegations made statements during the general debate: Bulgaria (on behalf of the European Union), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China), Morocco (on behalf of the African Group), Iraq (observer), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Russian Federation, China, Italy, Spain, Peru, Canada (observer), Bangladesh, New Zealand (observer), Indonesia (observer), Pakistan, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, France, Panama, India, Finland (observer), Cuba (observer), Chile, Japan, Mexico, Argentina, Germany, Brazil, Turkey (observer), the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), Morocco, Guatemala, Colombia, Sweden, Malaysia (observer), the Netherlands (observer), Belgium, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Algeria, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United States of America, the Russian Federation, Latvia (observer), Estonia, Viet Nam, and Denmark (observer). Bulgaria also delivered a statement on behalf of the European Union on the Salisbury incident.

6.2 The Council was informed by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that a chemical weapon was used in an incident in Salisbury on 4 March 2018. The Council **expressed grave concern** about the use of any chemical weapon, anywhere. The Council **decided** to remain seized of the matter.

7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Status of implementation of the Convention

Subitem 7(a): Reports by the Director-General on destruction-related issues

7.1 Further to a decision by the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011), the

Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the overall progress with respect to the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles (EC-87/DG.19, dated 28 February 2018).

- 7.2 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-87/DG.20, dated 2 March 2018).

Subitem 7(b): Implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues

- 7.3 The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) briefed the Council on its destruction-related verification activities.
- 7.4 The United States of America, Japan, and China briefed the Council on their destruction-related activities.
- 7.5 The Council **noted** a voluntary presentation by Italy on the destruction of its old chemical weapons pursuant to Council decision EC-67/DEC.8 (dated 17 February 2012).
- 7.6 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the completion by the Russian Federation of the destruction of its chemical weapons stockpiles (EC-87/DG.3, dated 26 October 2017).
- 7.7 The Council **noted** the statements and comments made by States Parties on the destruction of the only remaining declared chemical weapons by the sole possessor State Party, recalling the relevant obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), and relevant decisions by the Conference and the Council. The Council **recalled** that the destruction of the only remaining declared chemical weapons by the sole possessor State Party should continue in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and its Annex on Implementation and Verification (hereinafter “the Verification Annex”) and with the application of the measures contained in decision C-16/DEC.11.
- 7.8 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the Council **considered** and **noted** a national paper by the United States of America on the progress made on the completion of the destruction of its chemical weapons, including information on measures to accelerate such progress, as well as appropriate measures in order to meet the planned completion date (EC-87/NAT.1, dated 26 February 2018), along with comments on the issue as mentioned above. The Council **noted** the confirmation provided by the delegation of the United States of America that the necessary measures continue 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.
- 7.9 Further to the decision at its Fifty-Third Meeting on the “Plan for the Destruction of Libya’s Remaining Category 2 Chemical Weapons Outside the Territory of Libya” (EC-M-53/DEC.1, dated 26 August 2016), the Council **considered** and **noted** the

monthly reports by the Director-General on the implementation of the plan, including any problems relating to its implementation (EC-87/DG.1, dated 23 October 2017; EC-87/DG.5, dated 24 November 2017; and EC-87/DG.6, dated 22 December 2017).

- 7.10 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the completion by Libya of the destruction of its chemical weapons stockpiles (EC-87/DG.9, dated 24 January 2018).
- 7.11 Further to its decision at its Eighty-Fourth Session (EC-84/DEC.2, dated 8 March 2017), the Council **considered** and **noted** a national paper by Iraq entitled “Report to the Eighty-Seventh Session of the Executive Council on Progress Achieved Towards Destruction of Bunkers 13 and 41, Falluja (1, 2, 3) and Al Muthana Sites” (EC-87/P/NAT.6, dated 27 February 2018).
- 7.12 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the completion by Iraq of the destruction of its chemical weapons remnants (EC-87/DG.18, dated 28 February 2018).
- 7.13 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6) and the destruction plan beyond the year 2016 for the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China (EC-84/NAT.6, dated 2 March 2017) attached as Annex 2 to the Council’s decision EC-67/DEC.6, and adopted by the Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session (paragraph 6.14 of EC-84/2, dated 9 March 2017), a national paper by China (EC-87/NAT.3, dated 22 February 2018) and a national paper by Japan on the overall progress of the destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China (EC-87/NAT.2*, dated 20 February 2018) were circulated to the members of the Council. 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) and its Annex 2 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.
- 7.14 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.
- 7.15 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).

Subitem 7(c): Elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme

- 7.16 Further to its decision at its Eighty-Third Session (EC-83/DEC.5, dated 11 November 2016), the Council decided 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.
- 7.17 The Council **noted** five Notes by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme (EC-87/DG.2, dated 23 October 2017; EC-87/DG.4, dated 24 November 2017; EC-87/DG.7, dated 22 December 2017; EC-87/DG.10, dated 22 January 2018; and EC-87/DG.16, dated 23 February 2018).
- 7.18 The Council **noted** five national papers by the Syrian Arab Republic on the activities related to the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and their production facilities (EC-87/P/NAT.1, dated 20 October 2017 and Corr.1, dated 27 October 2017; EC-87/P/NAT.2, dated 20 November 2017; EC-87/P/NAT.3, dated 19 December 2017; EC-87/P/NAT.4, dated 19 January 2018; and EC-87/P/NAT.5, dated 16 February 2018).
- 7.19 Pursuant to decision EC-83/DEC.5, the Director-General shall report to the Council at all future sessions. The Council **noted** a report by the Director-General entitled “Status of Implementation of Executive Council Decision EC-83/DEC.5 (dated 11 November 2016)” (EC-87/DG.15, dated 23 February 2018 and Add.1, dated 28 February 2018).
- 7.20 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General entitled “Report on the Work of the Declaration Assessment Team” (EC-87/HP/DG.1, dated 2 March 2018).

Subitem 7(d): Other verification-related issues

- 7.21 The Secretariat briefed the Council on its other verification-related activities.

Subitem 7(e): Facility agreements

- 7.22 The Secretariat submitted to the Council a Note on amendments and modifications to the facility agreement with the United States of America regarding on-site inspections at the Chemical Transfer Facility, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland (EC-87/S/1, dated 10 November 2017).
- 7.23 Proposed amendments to the aforementioned facility agreement had been submitted separately to the Council, which **considered** and **approved** them (EC-87/DEC.2, dated 15 March 2018).

Subitem 7(f): Technical Secretariat’s activities: update on the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria

- 7.24 The Director-General provided an update in regard to the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria. He answered questions raised by the delegations of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Russian Federation.

- 7.25 The following delegations made a statement under this agenda item: the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Subitem 7(g): Timely submission of declarations under Article VI of the Convention

- 7.26 Further to a decision by the Council at its Fifty-First Session (EC-51/DEC.1, dated 27 November 2007), the Council **noted** a status report by the Director-General on the timely submission by States Parties of declarations under Article VI of the Convention for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017 (EC-87/DG.8, dated 12 January 2018).

Subitem 7(h): Implementation by the Technical Secretariat in 2017 of the regime governing the handling of confidential information

- 7.27 The Council **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 2017 (EC-87/DG.12 C-23/DG.1, dated 12 February 2018).

Subitem 7(i): Status of implementation of the Verification Information System

- 7.28 The Council **took note** of a status report on the Verification Information System (EC-87/S/3, dated 24 January 2018).

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Report of the Scientific Advisory Board

- 8.1 The report of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) (SAB-26/1, dated 20 October 2017 and Corr.1, dated 18 December 2017) was circulated to the members of the Council.

- 8.2 The Council **noted** the response by the Director-General to the report of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the SAB (EC-87/DG.11, dated 25 January 2018).

9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Countering chemical terrorism

- 9.1 The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the status of the OPCW's contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts (EC-87/DG.17, dated 23 February 2018).

- 9.2 On behalf of the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Terrorism, Ambassador Momar Diop of Senegal, Ambassador Vusi Bruce Koloane of South Africa briefed the Council on the work of the OEWG during the intersessional period.

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Administrative and financial matters

Subitem 10(a): Nominations for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

- 10.1 The Council **noted** a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF) (EC-87/S/2, dated 10 January 2018), and **approved** the nomination of Mr Hans-Christian Mangelsdorf of Germany, to replace Mr Wolfgang Rechenhofer, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Mr Mangelsdorf (11 December 2017).
- 10.2 The Council **noted** a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-87/S/5, dated 9 February 2018), and **approved** the nomination of Mr Vladimir V. Kuznetsov of the Russian Federation, to replace Mr Nikolay V. Lozinskiy, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Mr Kuznetsov (23 January 2018).

Subitem 10(b): Status of implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations

- 10.3 The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Secretariat on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor (EC-87/S/4, dated 5 February 2018).
- 10.4 The facilitator for this issue, Ms Bettina Gorczynski of the United States of America, reported on the consultations held during the intersessional period.

Subitem 10(c): Transfers of funds during 2017

- 10.5 The Council **considered** a Note by the Director-General on a request for transfers of funds between chapters and transfers of funds during 2017 (EC-87/DG.13 C-23/DG.2, dated 15 February 2018) and **decided** to defer the matter until its next regular session.

Subitem 10(d): Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise resource planning system

- 10.6 Further to the 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 **noted** a Note by the Director-General reporting on the status of implementation of the ERP system (EC-87/DG.14, dated 19 February 2018).

Subitem 10(e): Adjustment to the Director-General's gross salary

- 10.7 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 **adopted** a decision adjusting the Director-General's gross salary (EC-87/DEC.1, dated 15 March 2018).

11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Election of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council

In accordance with Rule 6 of its Rules of Procedure, and with effect from 12 May 2018, the Council **elected** Ambassador Jana Reinišová of the Czech Republic as its new Chairperson for a term of office ending on 11 May 2019, and its new Vice-Chairpersons for the same period: Ambassador Marithza Ruíz de Vielman of Guatemala, Ambassador Paul van den IJssel of the Netherlands, Ambassador Oji Nyimenuate Ngofa of Nigeria, and Ambassador Yun Young Lee of the Republic of Korea.

12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country on the performance of its activities in the intersessional period (EC-87/HCC/1 C-23/HCC/1, dated 5 March 2018).

13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference

At its Seventy-Third Session (paragraph 13.1 of EC-73/6, dated 19 July 2013), the Council requested the Director-General to submit to each regular session of the Council the updated version of the “Matrix of Actionable Items Identified at the Third Review Conference”, which the Council **considered** and **noted** (EC-86/S/6/Add.1, dated 23 February 2018).

14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Briefing by the Co-Chairpersons of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities of the OPCW

14.1 Pursuant to the decision of the Council on the establishment of an OEWG on the Future Priorities of the OPCW (EC-82/DEC.2, dated 14 July 2016), the Co-Chairpersons of the OEWG, Ambassador Sabine Nölke of Canada and Ambassador Vusi Bruce Koloane of South Africa, had been requested to keep the policy-making organs informed of their work.

14.2 Ambassador Vusi Bruce Koloane of South Africa reported on behalf of the Co-Chairpersons to the Council on the progress achieved.

15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – Briefing by the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference

15.1 The Conference at its Twenty-Second Session established an open-ended working group to begin preparations, in cooperation with the Secretariat, for the Fourth Review Conference, which will be convened in accordance with paragraph 22 of Article VIII of the Convention (paragraph 25.2 of C-22/5*, dated 1 December 2017).

15.2 The Chairperson of the OEWG for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, Ambassador Mr I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja of Indonesia, briefed the Council on the activities of the Working Group.

16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Any other business

A statement was made by the delegation of Canada (observer).

17. AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Adoption of the report

The Council **considered** and **adopted** the report of its Eighty-Seventh Session.

18. AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Closure

The Chairperson closed the session at 18:11 on 15 March 2018.

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