



### REPORT OF THE NINETY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

#### 1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

The Chairperson of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador, opened its Ninety-Fourth Session in The Hague at 10:15 on 7 July 2020. The Council **observed** a minute’s silence in memory and out of respect for all those around the world who had lost their lives due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### 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. Opening statement by the Director-General
4. Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on the activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues
5. General debate
6. Status of implementation of the Chemical Weapons 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) Destruction-related plans and facility agreements
  - (f) Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use



- (g) Verification Implementation Report for 2019
  - (h) Technical Secretariat's activities: update on the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria
  - (i) Timely submission of declarations under Article VI
  - (j) Article VII: briefings by the facilitator and by the Technical Secretariat
  - (k) The content of the assistance and protection data bank and its use
  - (l) Article X: briefings by the facilitator and by the Technical Secretariat
  - (m) Article XI: briefings by the facilitator and by the Technical Secretariat
  - (n) Report by the Director-General on the Technical Secretariat's readiness to conduct a challenge inspection or an investigation of alleged use
7. Countering chemical terrorism
8. Draft annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2019
9. Reports of the Office of Internal Oversight:
- (a) Implementation in 2019 of the recommendations contained in the 2018 annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight
  - (b) Annual Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2019
10. Administrative and financial matters:
- (a) Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
  - (b) Report of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
  - (c) Nominations for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
  - (d) Transfers of funds during 2019
  - (e) Amendments to the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules
  - (f) Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise resource planning system
  - (g) Composition of the Technical Secretariat
  - (h) Report by the Director-General on the implementation of the tenure policy in 2019

11. Nomination of the External Auditor of the OPCW
12. Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference<sup>1</sup>
13. Credentials of representatives of the members of the Executive Council
14. Provisional agenda for the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties
15. Dates for the regular sessions of the Executive Council in 2021
16. Any other business
17. Adoption of the report
18. Closure

**3. AGENDA ITEM THREE – Opening statement by the Director-General**

The Council **noted** the opening statement by the Director-General (EC-94/DG.23, dated 7 July 2020).

**4. AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on the activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues**

- 4.1 The Vice-Chairpersons and coordinators for clusters of issues reported to the Council on informal consultations held during the intersessional period: Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki of Morocco on chemical weapons issues; Ambassador Marcin Czepelak of Poland on chemical industry and other Article VI issues; Ambassador Matthew Neuhaus of Australia on administrative and financial issues; and Ambassador Alireza Kazemi Abadi of the Islamic Republic of Iran on legal, organisational, and other issues. The Chairperson also reported to the Council on his own activities during the intersessional period.
- 4.2 The Council **expressed appreciation** for the work done by the outgoing facilitators, Mr Daniel Baptista of Portugal and Ms Gudrun Lingner of Germany, and **welcomed** the appointment of Mr Matteo Fachinotti of Switzerland as the new co-facilitator for the OPCW Programme and Budget, and Ms Bianca Müller of Germany as the new facilitator for chemical industry and other Article VI issues.
- 4.3 The Council **decided** to extend to Ambassador Matthew Neuhaus of Australia and Ambassador Laura Dupuy of Uruguay the mandate of the facilitation on “Organisational Issues” for the next intersessional period and **requested** the co-facilitators to report back on the status of their consultations at its next regular session.

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

## 5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – General debate

- 5.1 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: Azerbaijan (observer) (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China), the Dominican Republic (on behalf of Latin America and the Caribbean Group), Germany (on behalf of the European Union), Nigeria (on behalf of the African Group), Algeria, Argentina, Armenia (observer), Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (observer), Brazil, Canada (observer), Chile, China, Cuba (observer), Denmark (observer), El Salvador, Finland (observer), France, Germany, Guatemala, India, Indonesia (observer), Iran (the Islamic Republic of), Ireland (observer), Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar (observer), the Netherlands (observer), New Zealand (observer), Nicaragua (observer), Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, the State of Palestine (observer), Sweden (observer), Switzerland (observer), the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), Turkey (observer), the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Uruguay (observer).
- 5.2 The Russian Federation presented a joint statement on the first report by the Investigation and Identification Team (EC-94/S/5, dated 8 April 2020), on behalf of Belarus (observer), Burundi (observer), Cambodia (observer), the Central African Republic (observer), China, the Comoros (observer), Cuba (observer), Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan (observer), Kyrgyzstan (observer), the Lao People's Democratic Republic (observer), Myanmar (observer), Nicaragua (observer), the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), Tajikistan (observer), Uzbekistan (observer), Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (observer), and Zimbabwe (observer).

## 6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – Status of implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention

### Subitem 6(a): Reports by the Director-General on destruction-related issues

- 6.1 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-94/DG.18, dated 1 July 2020).
- 6.2 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 in the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons (EC-94/DG.19, dated 1 July 2020).

### Subitem 6(b): Implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues

- 6.3 The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) provided an update to the Council on its destruction-related verification activities (presentations were posted on the external server of the OPCW).

- 6.4 The United States of America, Japan, and China provided an update to the Council on their destruction-related activities (presentations/statements were posted on the external server of the OPCW).
- 6.5 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, and with the application of the measures contained in decision C-16/DEC.11.
- 6.6 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 achieved towards complete destruction of its chemical weapons stockpile, including information on measures to accelerate such progress, and identifying progress made since the last briefing in order to meet the planned completion date (EC-94/NAT.11, dated 17 June 2020), 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 decision C-16/DEC.11.
- 6.7 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 Council 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-94/NAT.12, dated 18 June 2020) and a national paper by Japan (EC-94/NAT.13, dated 18 June 2020) on the overall progress of the destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China were circulated to the members of the Council.
- 6.8 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 the 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.

- 6.9 The Council also **reaffirmed** the obligation of the Abandoning State Party to provide all available information including, to the extent possible, the location, type, and quantity as well as information on the abandonment in accordance with relevant provisions of the Convention, so as to facilitate the expedited destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China.
- 6.10 The Council **recalled** that the review of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons was welcomed 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 issues related to the abandoned chemical weapons destruction as defined in the provisions of the Convention and in the Council's decision (EC-67/DEC.6), and **welcomed** the review of this issue by the Fourth Review Conference.
- 6.11 The Council **took note** of the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak on the overall progress of the destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China.

**Subitem 6(c): Elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme**

- 6.12 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.
- 6.13 As stated in the report of the Secretariat (EC-81/DG.5, dated 25 January 2016), all of the chemicals declared by the Syrian Arab Republic that had been removed from its territory in 2014 had now been destroyed. The Secretariat has also verified the destruction of all twenty-seven chemical weapons production facilities declared by the Syrian Arab Republic (EC-89/DG.1, dated 24 July 2018).
- 6.14 The Council **noted** four Notes by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme (EC-94/DG.1, dated 24 March 2020; EC-94/DG.3, dated 24 April 2020; and EC-94/DG.5, dated 25 May 2020; and EC-94/DG.12, dated 24 June 2020).
- 6.15 The Council **noted** four national papers by the Syrian Arab Republic on the activities related to the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and their production facilities (EC-94/P/NAT.1, dated 18 March 2020; EC-94/P/NAT.2, dated 16 April 2020; EC-94/P/NAT.3, dated 20 May 2020; and EC-94/P/NAT.4, dated 16 June 2020).
- 6.16 Pursuant to subparagraph 12(a) of its decision EC-83/DEC.5, the Council decided that the Director-General shall regularly inform the Council on the implementation of this decision. The Council **noted** a report by the Director-General on the matter (EC-94/DG.20, dated 3 July 2020).
- 6.17 The following delegations made statements: the Syrian Arab Republic (observer) and the United States of America.

6.18 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General entitled “Report on the Work of the Declaration Assessment Team” (EC-94/HP/DG.2, dated 29 June 2020).

6.19 The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic (observer) made a statement.

**Subitem 6(d): Other verification-related issues**

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

6.21 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 **noted** a report by the Director-General on the results of the eighth year of implementation of these policy guidelines (EC-94/DG.2, dated 7 April 2020).

**Subitem 6(e): Destruction-related plans and facility agreements**

6.22 The Secretariat had submitted to the Council a Note on 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-94/S/1, dated 6 April 2020).

6.23 The Secretariat had submitted to the Council a Note on modifications to the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility, Pueblo, Colorado, the United States of America (EC-94/S/2, dated 6 April 2020).

6.24 The Secretariat had submitted to the Council a Note on modifications to the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility, Richmond, Kentucky, the United States of America (EC-94/S/3, dated 6 April 2020).

6.25 The Secretariat had submitted to the Council a Note on modifications to the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Static Detonation Chamber Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility, Richmond, Kentucky, the United States of America (EC-94/S/4, dated 6 April 2020).

**Subitem 6(f): Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use**

6.26 The Council **noted** the regular report by the Director-General to the Council on progress made in the implementation of the decision of the Conference entitled “Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use” (C-SS-4/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2018) (EC-94/DG.17, dated 1 July 2020).

6.27 The Secretariat circulated a Note entitled “First Report of the Technical Secretariat Pursuant to Paragraph 10 of Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 (dated 27 June 2018)” (EC-94/S/5, dated 8 April 2020). The report (S/1867/2020, dated 8 April 2020) was provided to the Council and the United Nations Secretary-General for their consideration.

- 6.28 The Secretariat circulated a national paper by France (EC-94/NAT.18, dated 2 July 2020) and a draft decision submitted on behalf of 40 delegations, entitled “Addressing the Possession and Use of Chemical Weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic” (EC-94/DEC/CRP.2/Rev.1, dated 7 July 2020).
- 6.29 Further to the request of the co-sponsors of the draft decision, a report by the Director-General on the financial, administrative, and programme and budget implications of the draft decision (EC-94/DG.21, dated 2 July 2020) was issued pursuant to Rule 34 of the Council’s Rules of Procedure.
- 6.30 The following delegations made statements: Armenia (observer), Australia, Belgium, Canada (observer), China, Costa Rica (observer), the Czech Republic (observer), Ecuador (observer), France, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland (observer), Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands (observer), New Zealand (observer), Norway, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Slovakia (observer), Slovenia (observer), Sweden (observer), Switzerland (observer), the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), Turkey (observer), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.
- 6.31 The proposed draft decision was considered and voted on by the Council, pursuant to Rule 42(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Council. The vote led to the following results: 29 in favour (Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Chile, El Salvador, France, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America); three against (China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), and the Russian Federation); and nine abstentions (Algeria, Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, the Sudan, and the United Arab Emirates). In light of that result, the decision was adopted (EC-94/DEC.2, dated 9 July 2020).
- 6.32 The following delegations made statements explaining their vote: the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation, China, Brazil, Algeria, India, Argentina, Pakistan, Peru, and South Africa.
- 6.33 The following delegations made a statement on the decision that was adopted: the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), Australia (on behalf of Australia, Canada (observer), and New Zealand (observer)), France, and Germany (on behalf of the European Union).

**Subitem 6(g): Verification Implementation Report for 2019**

- 6.34 The Council **decided** to defer until its next regular session consideration of the Verification Implementation Report (VIR) for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2019 (EC-94/HP/DG.1, dated 11 May 2020 and Add.1, dated 29 June 2020) and the Note by the Secretariat on comments and views received on the 2019 VIR (EC-94/S/9, dated 25 June 2020), as well as the Chairperson’s summary of the informal consultations on it (EC-94/2, dated 25 June 2020).
- 6.35 The following delegation made a statement on this matter: the Islamic Republic of Iran.



**Subitem 6(h): Technical Secretariat's activities: update on the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria**

- 6.36 The Secretariat provided an update in regard to the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria.
- 6.37 The following delegations made statements: the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the United States of America.
- 6.38 The Director-General provided a statement on the incident of alleged use of chemical weapons that took place in Aleppo on 24 November 2018. The following delegations made a statement on this matter: the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Australia, and Belgium.

**Subitem 6(i): Timely submission of declarations under Article VI**

- 6.39 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 May 2020 (EC-94/DG.13, dated 24 June 2020).

**Subitem 6(j): Article VII: briefings by the facilitator and by the Technical Secretariat**

- 6.40 The Secretariat circulated a presentation on the status of implementation of Article VII.
- 6.41 The following delegations provided comments to the Secretariat under this subitem: Germany, Japan, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

**Subitem 6(k): The content of the protection and assistance databank and its use**

- 6.42 The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Secretariat on the content of the protection and assistance databank and its use (EC-94/S/8, dated 25 June 2020).

**Subitem 6(l): Article X: briefings by the facilitator and by the Technical Secretariat**

- 6.43 The Secretariat circulated a presentation on the status of implementation of Article X.
- 6.44 The following delegations provided comments to the Secretariat under this subitem: Cuba, Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

**Subitem 6(m): Article XI: briefings by the facilitator and by the Technical Secretariat**

6.45 The Secretariat circulated a presentation on the programme of activities for 2020 in relation to Article XI.

6.46 The following delegations provided comments to the Secretariat under this subitem: Chile, Cuba (observer), Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

**Subitem 6(n): Report by the Director-General on the Technical Secretariat's readiness to conduct a challenge inspection or an investigation of alleged use**

6.47 The Council **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-94/DG.14, dated 25 June 2020).

**7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Countering chemical terrorism**

The Council was informed that in light of the restrictions imposed by the Host Country due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism had been cancelled.

**8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Draft annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2019**

The Council **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 2019” (EC-94/3 C-25/CRP.1, dated 7 July 2020), and **submitted** it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Fifth 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.

**9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Reports of the Office of Internal Oversight**

**Subitem 9(a): Implementation in 2019 of the recommendations contained in the 2018 annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight**

9.1 The Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the implementation in 2019 of the recommendations contained in the 2018 annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight (OIO) (EC-94/DG.6, dated 29 May 2020).

9.2 The facilitator for the implementation of the recommendations of the OIO and of the External Auditor, Mr Arata Mizukami of Japan, provided written concluding remarks on this matter.

**Subitem 9(b): Annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2019**

- 9.3 The Council **considered** and **noted** the annual report of the OIO for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2019 (EC-94/DG.4 C-25/DG.2, dated 24 April 2020), which the Director-General had submitted to it, along with his comments. In accordance with Financial Regulation 12.5, the Director-General transmitted the report, along with his own comments and any other comments made by the Council, to the Conference at its Twenty-Fifth Session.
- 9.4 The following delegations provided comments to the Secretariat under this subitem: Germany, Japan, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- 9.5 The Russian Federation made a statement under this agenda item.

**10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Administrative and financial matters**

**Subitem 10(a): Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters**

- 10.1 The delegations of Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America submitted a draft decision entitled “OPCW Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters – Rules of Procedure” (EC-92/DEC/CRP.1/Rev.1, dated 4 October 2019).
- 10.2 In accordance with Rule 31 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, the delegation of the Russian Federation submitted amendments to the above-mentioned draft decision (EC-92/DEC/CRP.6, dated 4 October 2019).
- 10.3 Subsequently, the sponsoring delegations submitted a revision to the above-mentioned draft decision (EC-92/DEC/CRP.1/Rev.2, dated 10 October 2019).
- 10.4 The Council at its previous session decided to defer the matter until its next regular session.
- 10.5 The delegation of the Russian Federation withdrew its proposal through a note verbale dated 25 February 2020 and submitted new amendments on the matter (EC-93/DEC/CRP.2, dated 21 February 2020), together with an explanatory note to it (EC-93/NAT.3, dated 20 February 2020).
- 10.6 The Council **decided** to defer the matter until its next regular session.
- 10.7 The Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America made statements on the matter.

**Subitem 10(b): Report of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters**

- 10.8 The Council **decided** to defer to its next regular session consideration of the report of the Forty-Fifth Session of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF), which took place from 31 July to 3 August 2018 (ABAF-45/1, dated 3 August 2018), and a Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-89/DG.11, dated 28 August 2018).

- 10.9 The Council **decided** to defer to its next regular session consideration of the report of the Forty-Sixth Session of the ABAF, which took place from 4 to 7 June 2019 (ABAF-46/1, dated 7 June 2019), and a Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-91/DG.19\*, dated 1 July 2019).
- 10.10 The Council **decided** to defer to its next regular session consideration of the report of the Forty-Seventh Session of the ABAF, which took place from 30 July to 2 August 2019 (ABAF-47/1, dated 2 August 2019), and a Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-92/DG.11, dated 9 September 2019).
- 10.11 The Council **decided** to defer to its next regular session consideration of the report of the Forty-Eighth Session of the ABAF, which took place from 2 to 5 June 2020 (ABAF-48/1, dated 5 June 2020), and a Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-94/DG.22, dated 6 July 2020).
- 10.12 The United States of America and the Russian Federation made statements on this matter.

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

- 10.13 The Council **deferred** consideration of a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-94/S/6, dated 15 June 2020) of Ms Hollie Marie Mance of the United States of America, to replace Ms Leslie Hyland, retroactive to the date of the letter of nomination for Ms Mance (29 May 2020).
- 10.14 The following delegations made statements under this subitem: the Russian Federation and the United States of America.

**Subitem 10(d): Transfers of funds during 2019**

- 10.15 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General on transfers of funds during 2019 (EC-94/DG.10 C-25/DG.3, dated 19 June 2020).
- 10.16 The following delegation provided comments to the Secretariat under this subitem: the Islamic Republic of Iran.

**Subitem 10(e): Amendments to the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules**

- 10.17 The Secretariat circulated a Note on proposed amendments to the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules (S/1869/2020/Rev.1, dated 24 June 2020).
- 10.18 The Council **considered** and **adopted** a decision entitled “Amendments to the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules” (EC-94/DEC.1, dated 8 July 2020).

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

- 10.19 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-94/DG.15, dated 25 June 2020).

**Subitem 10(g): Composition of the Technical Secretariat**

- 10.20 The Council **noted** the Director-General's annual report on the composition of the Secretariat (EC-94/DG.7, dated 3 June 2020).

**Subitem 10(h): Report by the Director-General on the implementation of the tenure policy in 2019**

- 10.21 The Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the tenure policy in 2019 (EC-94/DG.11, dated 19 June 2020).

**11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Nomination of the External Auditor of the OPCW**

- 11.1 According to Article 13.1 of the OPCW Financial Regulations, the Conference shall appoint the External Auditor, who shall be the Auditor-General (or an officer holding an equivalent title) of a State Party, and such appointment shall be in the manner and for the period determined by the Conference and for a single period of not less than two years, but not exceeding six years. The Conference will appoint the next External Auditor of the OPCW at its Twenty-Fifth Session in November/December 2020.

- 11.2 The Director-General issued a Note requesting nominations for the post of External Auditor of the OPCW (S/1824/2020, dated 17 January 2020). The Council **considered** a Note by the Director-General containing a summary of nominations for this post (EC-94/DG.9, dated 15 June 2020). In the light of these nominations, the Council **deferred** the matter to its next regular session.

**12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – 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". The Council **considered** and **noted** the updated Matrix (EC-94/S/7, dated 15 June 2020).

**13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Credentials of representatives of the members of the Executive Council**

The Council **considered** and **approved** a report by the Director-General on the credentials of representatives of members of the Council, which covers the credentials of the newly elected members of the Council (EC-94/DG.16, dated 25 June 2020).

**14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Provisional agenda for the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties**

The Council **drew up** the provisional agenda for the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference (EC-94/DG.8, dated 8 June 2020).

**15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – Dates for the regular sessions of the Executive Council in 2021**

The Council **decided** that the Ninety-Sixth Session of the Council shall be held from 9 to 12 March 2021, that the Ninety-Seventh Session of the Council shall be held from 6 to 9 July 2021, and that the Ninety-Eighth Session of the Council shall be held from 5 to 8 October 2021.

**16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Any other business**

16.1 The draft decision entitled “Understanding Regarding the Aerosolized Use of Central Nervous System-Acting Chemicals for Law Enforcement Purposes”, co-sponsored by Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United States of America, was issued under the symbol of EC-92/DEC/CRP.9/Rev.2 (dated 9 March 2020). The Russian Federation submitted a national paper on the matter (EC-93/NAT.6, dated 6 March 2020).

16.2 The following delegations made statements: Australia, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

16.3 Further to its consideration of this issue at its previous session, the Council **decided** to defer the matter until its next regular session.

16.4 The delegation of Germany informed the Council about the initiative taken together with other States Parties on how to support the Secretariat in its endeavour to guarantee the continuation of day-to-day business of the Organisation under any possible conditions or emergency circumstances and encouraged more countries to join the initiative.

**17. AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Adoption of the report**

The Council **considered** and **adopted** the report of its Ninety-Fourth Session.

**18. AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Closure**

The Chairperson closed the session at 16:09 on 9 July 2020.