



104th Session
10 – 13 October 2023

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REPORT OF THE 104TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – OPENING OF THE SESSION

The Chairperson of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”), Ambassador Lucian Fătu of Romania, opened its 104th Session in The Hague at 10:03 on 10 October 2023.

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 Latin America and the Caribbean 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 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) Verification Implementation Report for 2022
 - (f) Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use
 - (g) Status of implementation of Article VII
 - (h) Status of implementation of Article X



- (i) Status of implementation of Article XI
 - (j) Status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons
 - (k) Progress made in the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention
 - (l) Status of implementation of the Verification Information System
8. Scientific Advisory Board
9. Countering chemical terrorism
10. Education and outreach
11. Administrative and financial matters:
- (a) Nominations for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
 - (b) Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
 - (c) Report of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
 - (d) Financial Statements of the OPCW and the External Auditor's report for the year ending 31 December 2022
 - (e) Status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor
 - (f) Call for nominations for External Auditor of the OPCW
 - (g) Recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and losses of assets
 - (h) Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise resource planning system
 - (i) Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2024–2025, and all items pertaining to this Budget, including relevant special funds and the cash surplus for 2021
 - (j) Extension of the special fund for OPCW special missions
 - (k) Multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment by some States Parties of their outstanding annual contributions
 - (l) Implementation of the amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward classification of posts during the period 14 August 2022 to 13 August 2023
 - (m) Participation of the OPCW in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

12. The OPCW Programme for Africa
13. Draft report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities
14. Follow-up to the Review Conferences¹
15. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
16. Any other business
17. Adoption of the report
18. Closure

3. AGENDA ITEM THREE – Replacement of the Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Council from the Latin America and the Caribbean Group

Further to the end of mission of Ambassador Paulo Roberto Caminha de Castilhos França of Brazil, prior to the expiry of his term of office as Vice-Chairperson of the Council from the Latin America and the Caribbean region, the Council, in accordance with Rules 6 and 8 of its Rules of Procedure, **elected** Ambassador Fernando Simas Magalhães of Brazil as Vice-Chairperson for the unexpired term of office until 11 May 2024.

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

The Council **noted** the opening statement by the Director-General (EC-104/DG.29, dated 10 October 2023).

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

- 5.1 The Vice-Chairpersons and coordinators for clusters of issues reported to the Council on the activities conducted during the intersessional period: Ambassador Hiroshi Minami of Japan on chemical weapons issues; Ambassador Eniola Olaitan Ajayi of Nigeria on chemical industry and other Article VI issues; Ambassador Fernando Simas Magalhães of Brazil on administrative and financial issues; and Ambassador Giorgio Novello of Italy on legal, organisational, and other issues.
- 5.2 The co-facilitator on tenure policy, Ambassador Susannah Gordon of New Zealand, also on behalf of Ambassador Elizabeth Ward Neiman of Panama, reported to the Council on activities and consultations they held during the intersessional period since the 103rd Session of the Council.
- 5.3 The Council **welcomed** the appointments of Mr Nikolaus Jaroslaw Korczynski of Germany as the new facilitator for chemical industry and other Article VI issues, Ambassador Susannah Gordon of New Zealand and Ambassador Elizabeth Ward Neiman of Panama as the new co-facilitators on tenure policy, and Ms Rebecca Kimbrell of the United States of America as the new facilitator for the reports of the External Auditor and the Office of Internal Oversight.

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

6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – General debate

6.1 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: Azerbaijan (observer) (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China), Ghana (on behalf of the African Group), Spain (observer) (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, and Ukraine), Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia (observer), Brazil, Burkina Faso (observer), Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba (observer), El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia (observer), Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand (observer), Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway (observer), Pakistan, Poland (observer), the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia (observer), South Africa, the State of Palestine (observer), Sweden (observer), Switzerland (observer), the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), Türkiye, Ukraine (observer), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (observer).

6.2 The delegation of the Russian Federation exercised its right of reply.

7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Status of implementation of the Chemical Weapons 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-104/DG.24, dated 5 October 2023).

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-104/DG.21, dated 26 September 2023).

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”) provided an update to the Council on its destruction-related verification activities and on Article III-related submissions made during the intersessional period (the presentations were posted on the external server of the OPCW).

7.4 The delegation of the United States of America provided an update to the Council on its destruction-related activities, including on the completion of the destruction of all of its declared chemical weapons stockpiles (the presentation was posted on the external server of the OPCW).

- 7.5 The delegations of Japan and China provided updates to the Council on their destruction-related activities (a presentation by Japan was posted on the external server of the OPCW).
- 7.6 The following delegations made statements: Japan and the Syrian Arab Republic (observer).
- 7.7 The delegation of Japan exercised its right of reply.
- 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 achieved towards the complete destruction of its chemical weapons stockpile (EC-104/NAT.5, dated 20 September 2023).
- 7.9 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the completion by the United States of America of the destruction of its chemical weapons stockpiles (EC-104/DG.25, dated 6 October 2023).
- 7.10 The Council **considered** and **noted** the final report of the visit by the Chairperson of the Council, the Director-General, and representatives of the Council to the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, Kentucky, the United States of America, from 12 to 14 June 2023 (EC-104/2, dated 5 October 2023).
- 7.11 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6) and the destruction plan beyond the year 2022 for the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China (EC-101/DEC.2, dated 4 October 2022) attached as annex 3 to the Council's decision EC-67/DEC.6, a national paper by China (EC-104/NAT.4, dated 19 September 2023) and a national paper by Japan (EC-104/NAT.3, dated 19 September 2023) on the overall progress of the destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China have been circulated to the members of the Council.
- 7.12 The Council **reaffirmed** the obligation to complete the destruction of all abandoned chemical weapons (ACW) in accordance with the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter "the Convention") and the relevant decisions of the Council by recalling that the Abandoning State Party shall provide all necessary financial, technical, expert, facility as well as other resources and that the Territorial State Party shall provide appropriate cooperation, and **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 3 in a faithful manner, and to address challenges including ensuring the safety of people and protecting the environment.
- 7.13 The Council **recalled** that the Destruction Plan Beyond the Year 2022 for the Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People's Republic of China (EC-101/DEC.2) stipulated the common recognition regarding the destruction of ACW with the Mobile Destruction Facility, the destruction of ACW in Haerbaling (Jilin Province), the destruction of other ACW, including consultation in making a medium- to long-term plan for the excavation of ACW, and the consolidation of ACW storehouses, continuing to use its best efforts to collect and provide information on traces of ACW by the

Abandoning State Party and continuing to hold consultations, and that the relevant States Parties jointly affirmed that they would accelerate in all aspects the destruction process and that their best efforts will be used towards the completion of the destruction of ACW as early as possible.

- 7.14 The Council **recalled** that the review of the destruction of ACW 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 ACW 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 and **noted** the constructive discussion related to this issue at the Fifth Review Conference.
- 7.15 The Council **welcomed** the ongoing on-site inspection of the ACW facilities in the year 2023, and up to nine inspections have been successfully conducted, which had been suspended due to COVID-19 until 2022.

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 As stated in Note by the Director-General 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 have been destroyed. The Secretariat has also verified the destruction of all 27 chemical weapons production facilities declared by the Syrian Arab Republic (EC-89/DG.1, dated 24 July 2018).
- 7.18 The Secretariat circulated a Note entitled "Accession of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Chemical Weapons Convention: Ten Years on" (S/2213/2023, dated 27 September 2023).
- 7.19 The Secretariat provided a briefing to the States Parties on 28 September 2023 on its activities related to the Syrian Arab Republic, including on the activities of the Declaration Assessment Team, the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria, and the Investigation and Identification Team.
- 7.20 The Council **noted** three reports by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme (EC-104/DG.1, dated 20 July 2023 and Corr.1, dated 24 July 2023; EC-104/DG.4, dated 24 August 2023; and EC-104/DG.19, dated 25 September 2023).
- 7.21 The Council **noted** three national papers by the Syrian Arab Republic on the activities related to the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and their production facilities (EC-104/P/NAT.1, dated 17 July 2023; EC-104/P/NAT.2, dated 15 August 2023; and EC-104/P/NAT.3, dated 15 September 2023).
- 7.22 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General entitled "Report on the Work of the Declaration Assessment Team" (EC-104/HP/DG.2, dated 25 September 2023).

Subitem 7(d): Other verification-related issues

- 7.23 The Secretariat provided an update to the Council on its other verification-related activities (the presentation was posted on the external server of the OPCW).

Subitem 7(e): Verification Implementation Report for 2022

- 7.24 The Council **considered** and **noted** the Verification Implementation Report for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2022 (EC-104/HP/DG.1, dated 25 July 2023 and Add.1, dated 27 September 2023).
- 7.25 The delegation of the Russian Federation made a statement.

Subitem 7(f): Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use

- 7.26 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-104/DG.20, dated 25 September 2023).
- 7.27 The following delegations made statements: Spain (observer) (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, and Ukraine), the Russian Federation, India, Türkiye, North Macedonia (on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America), Romania, Italy, the United States of America, Ireland, France, Germany, the Islamic Republic of Iran, China, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Netherlands, Chile, the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), Cuba (observer), Australia (observer), and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (observer).
- 7.28 The following delegations exercised their right of reply: the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), and France.
- 7.29 The Director-General made a statement.
- 7.30 The following delegations made statements on other issues under this agenda item: Germany, Spain (observer) (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, and Ukraine), Romania, the United States of America, Italy, Ireland, France, Finland, the Russian Federation, China, the Netherlands, Ukraine (observer), the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), the State of Palestine (observer), Australia (observer), and Spain (observer).

- 7.31 The delegation of the Russian Federation exercised its right of reply.
- 7.32 The Director-General made a statement.

Subitem 7(g): Status of implementation of Article VII

- 7.33 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 **noted** a report by the Director-General on the “Overview of the Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2023” (EC-104/DG.8 C-28/DG.7, dated 6 September 2023); a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2023: Initial Measures” (EC-104/DG.9 C-28/DG.8, dated 6 September 2023); and a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2023: Additional Measures for States Parties That Possess Industrial Facilities Which Are Declarable Under the Convention” (EC-104/DG.10 C-28/DG.9, dated 6 September 2023). The Council **submitted** the documents to the Conference at its Twenty-Eighth Session, along with its recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration.

Subitem 7(h): Status of implementation of Article X

- 7.34 The Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 December 2022” (EC-104/DG.6, dated 4 September 2023).
- 7.35 The facilitator for this issue, Ms Martina Filippiová of the Czech Republic, reported on the consultations carried out during the intersessional period (the report was posted on the external server of the OPCW).

Subitem 7(i): Status of implementation of Article XI

- 7.36 The Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the “Progress Made and Review of the Status of the Implementation of Article XI of the Chemical Weapons Convention” (EC-104/DG.14 C-28/DG.11, dated 13 September 2023).

Subitem 7(j): Status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons

- 7.37 The Conference at its Sixteenth Session endorsed a proposal for the establishment of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons and the establishment of a voluntary trust fund for this purpose (C-16/DEC.13, dated 2 December 2011). It requested the Director-General to report every two years, through the Council, to the Conference at its regular session on the status of implementation of this decision (paragraph 5 of C-16/DEC.13). The Council **noted** the report by the Director-General on the status of implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons (EC-104/DG.15 C-28/DG.12, dated 14 September 2023).

Subitem 7(k): Progress made in the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention

- 7.38 The Council at its Twenty-Third Meeting adopted an action plan for the universality of the Convention (EC-M-23/DEC.3, dated 24 October 2003). The plan requested the Director-General, inter alia, to submit to the Conference at its regular sessions an annual report on the implementation of the action plan, and to keep the Council regularly informed, so that the Conference and the Council may review progress and monitor its implementation effectively.
- 7.39 The Council **considered** and **noted** the annual report on the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention during the period 16 August 2022 to 15 August 2023, which was submitted to both the Council and the Conference (EC-104/DG.23 C-28/DG.14, dated 28 September 2023).

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

- 7.40 The Council **noted** a status report on the Verification Information System (EC-104/S/2, dated 13 September 2023).

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Scientific Advisory Board

- 8.1 The report of the Thirty-Seventh Session of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) (SAB-37/1, dated 1 September 2023) was circulated to the members of the Council.
- 8.2 The Council **noted** the response by the Director-General to the report of the Thirty-Seventh Session of the SAB (EC-104/DG.22, dated 27 September 2023).

9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Countering chemical terrorism

The Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Terrorism, Ambassador Vusimuzi Philemon Madonsela of South Africa, briefed the Council on the work of the OEWG during the intersessional period.

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Education and outreach

The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the activities of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach covering the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 (EC-104/DG.18 C-28/DG.13, dated 22 September 2023).

11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Administrative and financial matters

Subitem 11(a): Nominations for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

- 11.1 The Council **noted** a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF) (EC-104/S/4, dated 26 September 2023), and **appointed** Ms Yoko Sakurai of Japan for a second term with the ABAF, as of 11 October 2023.
- 11.2 The Council **noted** a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-104/S/6, dated 10 October 2023), and **appointed** Ms Xiaodong Lyu of China to replace Ms Qian Wang, as of 11 October 2023.

Subitem 11(b): Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

- 11.3 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), co-sponsored by 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, was submitted to the Council for consideration and adoption.
- 11.4 The latest revision to the above-mentioned draft decision was submitted by the sponsoring delegations and issued under the symbol EC-92/DEC/CRP.1/Rev.5 (dated 13 March 2023).
- 11.5 The following delegations made statements: the United States of America, the Russian Federation, China, Germany, and Guatemala.
- 11.6 The Council **decided** to defer the matter until its next regular session.

Subitem 11(c): Report of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

- 11.7 The Council **considered** and **noted** the report of the Fifty-Fifth Session of the ABAF, which took place from 25 to 27 July 2023 (ABAF-55/1, dated 27 July 2023), and a Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-104/DG.16, dated 14 September 2023).

Subitem 11(d): Financial Statements of the OPCW and the External Auditor’s report for the year ending 31 December 2022

- 11.8 Ms Devika Nayar, on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, made a statement on the Financial Statements of the OPCW and the report of the External Auditor for the year ending 31 December 2022 (EC-104/DG.3 C-28/DG.5, dated 9 August 2023 and Corr.1, dated 30 August 2023).
- 11.9 The delegation of Mexico made a statement.
- 11.10 The Council **noted** the Financial Statements of the OPCW and the report of the External Auditor for the year ending 31 December 2022 and **forwarded** them to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Eighth Session.

Subitem 11(e): Status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor

- 11.11 The Council **considered** and **noted** a report on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor (EC-104/S/3, dated 14 September 2023).
- 11.12 The facilitator for this issue, Ms Rebecca Kimbrell of the United States of America, reported to the Council on the consultations carried out during the intersessional period (the report was posted on the external server of the OPCW).

Subitem 11(f): Call for nominations for External Auditor of the OPCW

11.13 The Director-General issued a Note on the call for nominations for External Auditor of the OPCW (S/2208/2023, dated 15 September 2023).

Subitem 11(g): Recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and losses of assets

11.14 The Council **considered** a Note by the Director-General on the recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and losses of assets, and **recommended** that the Conference at its Twenty-Eighth Session approve these write-offs, totalling EUR 2,632.53 (EC-104/DG.2 C-28/DG.4, dated 21 July 2023).

Subitem 11(h): Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise resource planning system

11.15 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-104/DG.17, dated 22 September 2023).

Subitem 11(i): Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2024–2025, and all items pertaining to this Budget, including relevant special funds and the cash surplus for 2021

11.16 The Council **noted** two Notes by the Director-General entitled “Financial Status of the Special Fund for Cybersecurity, Business Continuity, and Physical Infrastructure Security” (EC-104/DG.12, dated 13 September 2023) and “Financial Status of the Special Fund for IT Infrastructure to Support Implementation of Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3” (EC-104/DG.28, dated 9 October 2023).

11.17 The Secretariat circulated the Medium-Term Plan of the OPCW for the period 2024 to 2028 (EC-104/S/1* C-28/S/1, dated 14 August 2023).

11.18 Mr Frank Groome of Ireland, the co-facilitator for the Budget, reported to the Council on consultations carried out with his co-facilitator, Mr Jerzy Gierasimiuk of Poland, during the intersessional period.

11.19 The following delegations made statements: Brazil, India, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, China, Canada (on behalf of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand), the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), France, and the Netherlands.

11.20 In accordance with subparagraph 32(a) of Article VIII of the Convention, the Council **considered** the Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2024–2025 (EC-104/CRP.1/Rev.1, dated 9 October 2023). The decision containing the recommendations of the Council (EC-104/DEC.2, dated 12 October 2023) was voted on by the Council pursuant to Rule 36 and Rule 42(b) of its Rules of Procedure. The vote led to the following results: 34 in favour (Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, the United Kingdom of Great Britain

and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America); four against (Brazil, China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), and the Russian Federation); and three abstentions (El Salvador, India, and Nigeria). In light of that result, the Council **adopted** the decision and submitted the Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2024–2025, together with its recommendation, to the Conference at its Twenty-Eighth Session.

- 11.21 Pursuant to Rule 44 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, the delegations of China, Guatemala, Pakistan, Argentina, El Salvador, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ghana, Saudi Arabia, and Algeria made statements explaining their votes.

Subitem 11(j): Extension of the special fund for OPCW special missions

- 11.22 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General entitled “Financial Status of the Special Fund for OPCW Special Missions” (EC-104/DG.26, dated 6 October 2023).

Subitem 11(k): Multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment by some States Parties of their outstanding annual contributions

- 11.23 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Eleventh Session (C-11/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2006), the Council **considered** and **forwarded** to the Conference at its Twenty-Eighth Session a Note by the Director-General reporting on the status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans (EC-104/DG.5 C-28/DG.6, dated 30 August 2023).

- 11.24 In light of the above-mentioned decision, the Council **considered** a proposal from Suriname for a payment plan to regularise the payment of its outstanding annual contributions (EC-104/DG.11, dated 11 September 2023), **adopted** it (EC-104/DEC.1, dated 10 October 2023), and **transmitted** it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Eighth Session.

Subitem 11(l): Implementation of the amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward classification of posts during the period 14 August 2022 to 13 August 2023

- 11.25 The Council **noted** a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward classification of posts during the period 14 August 2022 to 13 August 2023 (EC-104/DG.7, dated 4 September 2023).

Subitem 11(m): Participation of the OPCW in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

- 11.26 The Secretariat circulated a Note entitled “Participation of the OPCW in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund” (EC-104/S/5, dated 7 October 2023).

- 11.27 The Council **considered** a draft decision entitled “Participation of the OPCW in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund” (EC-104/DEC/CRP.2, dated 7 October 2023).

- 11.28 In accordance with Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, the Secretariat circulated a report by the Director-General on the financial, administrative, and Programme and Budget implications of the proposal (EC-104/DG.27, dated 7 October 2023).

- 11.29 The Secretariat made a statement.
- 11.30 The following delegations made statements: Brazil, India, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Bangladesh (observer), and Cuba (observer).
- 11.31 The Council **adopted** the decision (EC-104/DEC.3, dated 12 October 2023) and **transmitted** it to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Eighth Session.

12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – The OPCW Programme for Africa

The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (EC-104/DG.13 C-28/DG.10, dated 13 September 2023).

13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Draft report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities

The Council **considered** and **approved** a report on the performance of its activities in the period from 9 July 2022 to 14 July 2023 (EC-104/4 C-28/2, dated 10 October 2023), and **submitted** it to the Conference for consideration at its Twenty-Eighth Session.

14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Follow-up to the Review Conferences

- 14.1 A working paper entitled “Reflections by H.E. Ambassador Henk Cor van der Kwast, Chairperson of the Fifth Review Conference on the Outcome of the Fifth Review Conference” was circulated to the Council at its 103rd Session under the symbol EC-103/WP.1 (dated 26 June 2023).

Geographical representation

- 14.2 At its 103rd Session, the Council established a Working Group on Geographical Representation (EC-103/DEC.1, dated 12 July 2023).
- 14.3 The Council **welcomed** the appointment of Ambassador Jaime Moscoso Valenzuela of Chile as Chairperson of the Working Group, who provided an update on its activities to the Council.

Engagement with civil society

- 14.4 At the 103rd Session of the Council, Germany submitted a working paper entitled “Follow-up to the Fifth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention – Engagement with Civil Society” (EC-103/WP.2, dated 4 July 2023).
- 14.5 The delegation of Germany updated the Council on the ongoing consultations on engagement with civil society.
- 14.6 The Council **took note** of the continuing consultations regarding engagement with civil society.

14.7 The following delegations made statements: Ireland, Ecuador (observer), the Netherlands, Japan, the Russian Federation, Italy, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Chile, India, China, Türkiye, Australia (observer), and Germany.

15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The Chairperson reported to the Council on the status of the work of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Any other business

The delegation of the Russian Federation made a statement and requested circulation of Note Verbale no. 38, dated 12 October 2023 (EC-104/NAT.7, dated 12 October 2023).

17. AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Adoption of the report

The Council **considered** and **adopted** the report of its 104th Session.

18. AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Closure

The Chairperson closed the session at 12:52 on 13 October 2023.

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