



**REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE WORKING GROUP FOR
THE PREPARATION OF THE FIFTH REVIEW CONFERENCE**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In accordance with paragraph 22 of Article VIII of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), the Fifth Review Conference¹ will take place from 15 to 19 May 2023 (paragraph 25.1 of C-26/5, dated 2 December 2021). In order to undertake the necessary preparations for the Fifth Review Conference, the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) at its Twenty-Sixth Session, in 2021:

“... recommended that the Council at its next session establish an open-ended working group to begin preparations, in cooperation with the Secretariat, for the Fifth Review Conference, which will be convened in accordance with paragraph 22 of Article VIII of the Convention” (paragraph 25.2 of C-26/5).

- 1.2 Further to the recommendation above, the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) at its Ninety-Ninth Session, in 2022:

“... decided to establish the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference. The Council also established the Bureau of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, and, in accordance with the practice of rotation (paragraph 9.4 of EC-68/3, dated 4 May 2012), appointed: Ambassador Lauri Kuusing of Estonia (Eastern European Group) as Chairperson; and Ambassador Salima Abdelhak of Algeria (African Group), Ambassador Hidehisa Horinouchi of Japan (Asian Group),² Ambassador José Antonio Zabalgoitia Trejo of Mexico (Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), and Ambassador Henk Cor van der Kwast of the Netherlands (Western European and Other States Group) as Vice-Chairpersons of the Bureau of the Open-Ended Working Group” (paragraph 16.2 of EC-99/2, dated 10 March 2022).

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

² Further to the end of mission of Ambassador Hidehisa Horinouchi of Japan, prior to the expiry of his term of office as Vice-Chairperson (Asian Group) of the Bureau of the Open-Ended Working Group, the Council, at its 102nd Session, welcomed the appointment of Ambassador Hiroshi Minami of Japan as the new Vice-Chairperson from the Asian Group for the unexpired term of office of the Bureau (paragraph 14.3 of EC-102/2, dated 17 March 2023).



2. ORGANISATION OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP

- 2.1 The Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference (OEWG-RC) held its first meeting, which was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Lauri Kuusing of Estonia, on 7 June 2022.
- 2.2 Between June 2022 and April 2023, the Working Group held 22 meetings. The Chairperson reported on the progress of the Group's work to the Council at each of its regular sessions, beginning with its 101st Session,³ as well as to the Conference at its Twenty-Seventh Session.⁴
- 2.3 The Chairperson invited States Parties to submit papers for the consideration of the Working Group. The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") subsequently made such submissions available to delegations via the OPCW external server.
- 2.4 To further inform the preparatory process for the Review Conference, a survey was conducted by the Chairperson of the OEWG-RC. The survey collected views on, inter alia, key achievements of the Organisation since the Fourth Review Conference and on States Parties' priorities for the Fifth Review Conference and for the Organisation in the next five years. Its results were presented to States Parties during the fourteenth meeting of the OEWG-RC, on 31 January 2023.

3. TASKS UNDERTAKEN BY THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP

Procedural issues

- 3.1 At its Twenty-Sixth Session, the Conference decided to hold the Fifth Review Conference from 15 to 19 May 2023 (paragraph 25.1 of C-26/5).
- 3.2 At its 102nd Session, the Council drew up the draft provisional agenda for the Fifth Review Conference (EC-102/DG.9, dated 9 February 2023).

Discussions and result

- 3.3 As with the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Review Conferences, the Working Group held informal discussions from June 2022 to April 2023 on the full range of issues on the operation of the Convention since the Fourth Review Conference, adopting a thematic approach to these discussions. A brief indication of the issues discussed at each meeting of the Working Group is attached as Annex 1.
- 3.4 The Working Group was briefed by the Secretariat on specific subjects during the meetings. Its proceedings were also informed by documents and presentations submitted by the Chairperson of the Scientific Advisory Board, the Chairperson of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach, representatives of the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), the International Chemical Trade Association (ICTA), and non-governmental organisations.

³ EC-102/WP.1, dated 14 March 2023.

⁴ C-27/WP.1, dated 30 November 2022.

- 3.5 The list of documents and statements submitted in the framework of the preparatory process for the Fifth Review Conference is provided in Annex 2. In addition, the Working Group had the opportunity to hear the perspectives of chemical industry and civil society representatives invited to attend its eighth meeting on 8 November 2022. The Chairperson's informal summaries of selected meetings have been drafted and made available to States Parties via email and posted on the external server. They were drafted in order to capture, for future reference, the main points raised at each meeting that involved presentations by the Secretariat.
- 3.6 On 14 February 2023, the Working Group started the discussion of the Informal Chairperson's Provisional Text (circulated to the Group through the OPCW external server and via email on 1 February 2023). The suggestions of States Parties for inclusion in the text were recorded in a bracketed document that was distributed to States Parties on 24 February 2023.
- 3.7 On 17 April 2023, the Chairperson distributed the Draft Provisional Text based on the discussions that had been taking place in the Working Group and submitted it to the Fifth Review Conference.

Annexes:

- Annex 1: List of Meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference and Main Issues Discussed
- Annex 2: Documents Submitted by the Technical Secretariat, the Scientific Advisory Board, the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach, the Chemical Industry, States Parties, and Civil Society

Annex 1

LIST OF MEETINGS OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE FIFTH REVIEW CONFERENCE AND MAIN ISSUES DISCUSSED

First meeting, 7 June 2022: Presentation by the Chairperson of the OEWG-RC: Organisational Aspects and Programme of Work. Discussion.

Second meeting, 21 June 2022: Scene-setting session on verification-related issues: industry verification; destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles; old and abandoned chemical weapons; other verification activities; addressing the use and threat of use of chemical weapons; maintaining readiness to investigate allegations; and non-routine missions. Presentations by the Secretariat, followed by Q&A. Discussion.

Third meeting, 6 September 2022: Scene-setting session on enhancing international cooperation and assistance: national implementation; peaceful uses of chemistry; assistance and protection, including assistance to victims of chemical weapons; and capacity development, including laboratory enhancement. Presentations by the Secretariat, followed by Q&A. Discussion.

Fourth meeting, 13 September 2022: Verification-related issues: discussion on national positions and working papers.

Fifth meeting, 22 September 2022: Enhancing international cooperation and assistance: discussion on national positions and working papers.

Sixth meeting, 18 October 2022: Ensuring the universality of the Convention: engagement with external partners; and education and outreach. Presentation by the Secretariat and the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach, followed by Q&A. Presentation of national positions and working papers. Discussion.

Seventh meeting, 2 November 2022: Developments in science and technology: their impact on the Convention. Presentations by the Scientific Advisory Board and the Secretariat, followed by Q&A. Presentation of national positions and working papers. Discussion.

Eighth meeting, 8 November 2022: Interaction with representatives of the chemical industry and civil society, followed by Q&A. Discussion.

Ninth meeting, 15 November 2022: The Convention's contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts. Presentation by the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism and the Secretariat, followed by Q&A. Presentation of national positions and working papers. Discussion.

Tenth meeting, 22 November 2022: Scene-setting session on organisational governance: ensuring the OPCW remains fit for purpose (including knowledge management and sustaining a competent and diverse workforce). Presentations by the Secretariat, followed by Q&A. Discussion.

Eleventh meeting, 14 December 2022: Organisational governance: ensuring the OPCW remains fit for purpose. Discussion on national positions and working papers.

Presentation of national positions/working papers. Discussion

Twelfth Meeting, 17 January 2023

Thirteenth Meeting, 24 January 2023

Fourteenth Meeting, 31 January 2023

Discussion of Chairperson's Provisional Text

Fifteenth Meeting, 14 February 2023

Sixteenth Meeting, 16 February 2023

Seventeenth Meeting, 20 February 2023

Eighteenth Meeting, 22 February 2023

Nineteenth Meeting, 23 March 2023

Twentieth Meeting, 28 March 2023

Twenty-First Meeting, 30 March 2023

Twenty-Second Meeting, 12 April 2023

Annex 2

DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT, THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD, THE ADVISORY BOARD ON EDUCATION AND OUTREACH, THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY, STATES PARTIES, AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Technical Secretariat

Note by the Technical Secretariat: Review of the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention Since the Fourth Review Conference (WGRC-5/S/1 RC-5/S/1, dated 28 February 2023)

Report by the Director-General: Response to the Report of the Scientific Advisory Board on Developments in Science and Technology to the Fifth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (RC-5/DG.2, dated 22 February 2023)

Scientific Advisory Board

Report by the Director-General: Report of the Scientific Advisory Board on Developments in Science and Technology to the Fifth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (RC-5/DG.1, dated 22 February 2023)

Advisory Board on Education and Outreach

Presentation by the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach: Activities and Future Areas of Work, 18 October 2022

Chemical industry

Statement by the International Council of Chemical Associations to the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, 8 November 2022

Presentation to the Eighth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, William Garcia (ICCA) and Dr Detlef Mannig (Mannig Consulting), 8 November 2022

Presentation to the Eighth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, International Chemical Trade Association (ICTA), 8 November 2022

States Parties⁵

African Group of States Parties

Ghana (on behalf of the African Group): Statement by the African Group on the first draft of the Chairperson's Provisional Text, 10 February 2023

Algeria

National Paper on Different Aspects Related to the Implementation of the CWC within the Framework of the Work of OEWG-RC5, 9 December 2022

Australia

Australia's Experience with Sequential Inspections, 7 December 2022

Bangladesh

Strengthening International Cooperation and Assistance for Equitable and Participatory Chemical Technology and Knowledge Development, 30 March 2023

Canada

Gender Equality, Diversity and the Chemical Weapons Convention, 6 January 2023

China

Promoting International Cooperation on Peaceful Uses Under the Framework of the Chemical Weapons Convention, 22 March 2023

Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in China, 27 March 2023

Position Paper on Industry Verification, 10 April 2023

Cuba

Fostering of International Cooperation for Peaceful Purposes in the Field of Chemical Activities, 21 March 2023

Czech Republic

Inputs by the Czech Republic to OEWG-RC Discussion on Verification-Related Matters, 13 September 2022

Inputs to OEWG-RC Discussion on Governance-Related Matters, 14 December 2022

International Cooperation and Assistance, 12 January 2023

⁵ The papers are listed in alphabetical order by author.

El Salvador

National Position/Working Paper to RC-5, 10 February 2023

European Union

Council of the European Union: Remarks at the Fourth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, 13 September 2022

Council of the European Union: Remarks at the Fifth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, 22 September 2022

Council of the European Union: Remarks at the Sixth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, 18 October 2022

Council of the European Union: Remarks at the Seventh Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, 2 November 2022

Council of the European Union: Remarks at the Eighth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, 8 November 2022

Council of the European Union: Remarks at the Ninth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, 15 November 2022

Council of the European Union: Remarks at the Tenth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, 22 November 2022

Council of the European Union: Remarks at the Twelfth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, 17 January 2023

Council of the European Union: Remarks at the Thirteenth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, 24 January 2023

Council of the European Union: Remarks at the Fourteenth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, 31 January 2023

Council of the European Union: Remarks at the Fifteenth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, 14 February 2023

Council of the European Union: Remarks at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, 20 February 2023

Council of the European Union: Conclusions on Chemical Disarmament and Non-Proliferation with a View Towards the Fifth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, The Hague, 15 – 19 May 2023, 21 February 2023

Council of the European Union: Remarks at the Nineteenth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, 23 March 2023

Council of the European Union: Remarks at the Twentieth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, 28 March 2023

Council of the European Union: Remarks at the Twenty-First Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, 30 March 2023

Council of the European Union: Remarks at the Twenty-Second Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, 12 April 2023

France

The Use of Chemical Weapons and Measures Taken by States Parties to Address it Since 2018, 7 December 2022

Outreach to Academia and to the Chemical Industry: Why is it so Important in the Context of the Re-emergence of Use of Chemical Weapons and What Could States Parties and the TS Do in This Regard? 7 December 2022

Improving Article VI Verification Regime: Proposals to Enhance the Methodology for the Selection of Other Chemical Production Facilities for Inspection, 7 December 2022

Ghana

Inputs to the OEWG-RC Discussion on the Proposal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on Science Convergence – the Impact on the Relationship Between the CWC and Other International Treaties and Agreements, 20 December 2022

Position Paper on the Fifth Review Conference, 23 January 2023

Group of Latin America and Caribbean States Parties

Chile, on behalf of GRULAC: GRULAC's Position Paper for RC-5, 13 February 2023

Guatemala

National Contribution to the Preparatory Work for the OPCW's RC-5, 31 January 2023

Japan

Core Elements of the RC-5 Outcome, 5 December 2022

Core Elements of the RC-5 Outcome – Supplement, 25 January 2023

India

Adapting the Verification Regime Under the Chemical Weapons Convention to Address Emerging Challenges, 15 December 2022

Inputs to OEWG-RC Discussion on Governance-Related Matters, 15 December 2022

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Working Paper for the Fifth Review Conference: Chemical Weapons Victims, 24 January 2023

Italy

Working Paper to RC-5, 10 February 2023

Mexico

National Paper on the Fifth Review Conference, 8 December 2022

Morocco

Non-Paper by the Kingdom of Morocco to the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, 30 December 2022

Nigeria

Position on the Fifth Review Conference – Revised Version, 21 February 2023

Pakistan

Paper for the Fifth Review Conference, 30 January 2023

Poland

Poland: Remarks at the Fourth Meeting of the OEWG-RC5, dated 13 September 2022

Republic of Korea

National Paper for the Fifth Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention, 9 January 2023

Russian Federation

Working Paper to RC-5, 5 February 2023: An Effective CWC, 6 February 2023

Switzerland

A Strengthened Chemical Weapons Convention, 8 September 2022

Syrian Arab Republic

Syrian National Paper for RC-5, 14 February 2023

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Science Convergence: the Impact on the Relationship Between the CWC and Other International Treaties and Agreements, 23 November 2022

Preventing the Use of Chemical Weapons by Non-State Actors, 21 December 2022

Joint papers

Malaysia and Australia: National Verification Inspections and Visits Relevant to the Implementation of the CWC, 7 December 2022

Poland, on behalf of Bulgaria, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechia, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mexico, Romania, and Ukraine: Broadening International Cooperation on Sea-Dumped Chemical Weapons and Promoting the OPCW as a Forum for Voluntary Cooperation on the Issue, 13 December 2022

Finland, on behalf of Canada, Colombia, Ireland, Mexico, Sweden, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on Gender at the OEWG-RC Meeting on Organisational Governance, 14 December 2022

Finland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Strengthening Verification Through the Promotion of Chemical Forensics at the OPCW, 20 December 2022

Germany, on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Participation of Civil Society Through NGOs, 22 December 2022

Germany, on behalf of Canada, France, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Chemical Industry Verification and Other Issues, 22 December 2022

Germany, on behalf of Canada, Ireland, Norway, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Non-Paper for Preparing the Fifth CWC Review: Compliance and the CWC, 10 January 2023

Civil society⁶

Written submission: Statement on Improving National Implementation and Annual Declarations, as delivered by Thomas Brown, VERTIC, at the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention, 8 November 2022

Written submission: Statement on Preparing for Future Challenges – Compliance Issues, Responding to State and Non-State Use of Toxic Chemicals, Inspections, and Accountability, as delivered by Hubert K. Foy, AFRICSIS, at the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention, 8 November 2022

Statement: Recognizing and Supporting the Immediate and Long-Term Needs of Chemical Victims: Ms Homeyra Karimivahed, University of Bradford, 8 November 2022

Statement to the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, 8 November 2022, Dr Alexander Ghionis, – The Harvard Sussex Program

Statement: Identifying and Addressing Future Stockpile and Non-stockpile Clean-up and Remediation Challenges, Dr Maria Espona, ArgIQ, 8 November 2022

Statement: Expanding OPCW Public Outreach, Awareness, Education, and NGO Involvement, Paul F Walker, Ph. D, International Coordinator, Chemical Weapons Convention Coalition (CWCC), Vice-Chair, Arms Control Association, 8 November 2022

Written submission: To Inform Preparations for 5th CWC Review Conference, 15 – 19 May 2023, Dr Michael Crowley & Professor Malcolm Dando, University of Bradford, UK, Toxin and Bioregulator Weapons: Preventing the Misuse of the Chemical and Life Sciences, 7 December 2022

Written submission: Importance of Engaging Public Health Organisations in Outreach and Education Activities in Member Countries, Deborah Klein Walker, Ed.D, Past President, American Public Health Association, the United States of America, 12 December 2022

Written submission by Sven-Eric Jordt, Ph.D, Executive Committee, Terrorism and Inhalation Disaster Section (TID), American Thoracic Society, 13 December 2022

Written submission: Partnerships in Proliferation Prevention Program at The Henry L. Stimson Center, 31 December 2022

Written submission: Mohammadreza Hajipour, President of the SCWVSF Association, 31 December 2022

Written submission: Sathish Kokkula Managing Trustee Srivaranam Organization for the Environmental Education (SOEE) Bangalore, India, 31 December 2022

⁶ The list contains documents received in response to a request for written submissions.

Written submission: Re-examining the Chemical Weapons Convention Schedules, Dr Stefano Costanzi (Department of Chemistry, American University, Washington, DC), 31 December 2022

Written submission: Statement Regarding the Late Approval of the General Committee of the CSP OPCW and Visa Rejection by the Embassy Authorities of the Host Community to the Non-Governmental Organization, Salako N. Olatunji, Center for Countermeasure against Chemical and Biological Warfare Agents, CCCACBWA

Written submission: Addressing Non-Compliance and Ensuring Accountability for CW, Dr Oliver Meier and Dr Alexander Kelle, CBWNet.org, 31 December 2022

Written submission: Policy Actions on the Rights of Chemical Weapons Victims and Ensuring Access to Adequate and Appropriate Assistance, Kathryn Millett, Biosecu.re Ltd, 31 December 2022

Written submission: What Should the Fifth Review Conference Seek to Address as a Matter of Priority, Dr Maria Espona, ArgIQ, 31 December 2022

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