



Twenty-Eighth Session
27 November – 1 December 2023

C-28/5
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REPORT OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES

1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

- 1.1 The Twenty-Eighth Session of the Conference of the States Parties (the Conference) was opened on 27 November 2023 at 10:11 in the King Willem-Alexander Theater in the World Forum by the Chairperson of the Conference for its Twenty-Seventh Session, Ambassador Vusimuzi Philemon Madonsela of South Africa.
- 1.2 The following 143 States Parties participated in the Twenty-Eighth Session: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, the Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, the Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
- 1.3 In accordance with Rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference: the following signatory State participated in this session of the Conference as an observer: Israel.
- 1.4 In accordance with Rule 30 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-28/DEC.1, dated 27 November 2023), the following non-signatory State was accorded observer status: South Sudan.



- 1.5 In accordance with Rules 31 and 32 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-28/DEC.2, dated 27 November 2023), eight international organisations, specialised agencies, and other international bodies attended the Twenty-Eighth Session.
- 1.6 In accordance with the recommendations of the Third Review Conference (RC-3/3*, dated 19 April 2013), and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-28/DEC.3, dated 27 November 2023), the Conference **invited** representatives of the global chemical industry and scientific community to attend the Twenty-Eighth Session.
- 1.7 In accordance with Rule 33 of the Rules of Procedure, and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-28/DEC.4, dated 27 November 2023), 106 non-governmental organisations were invited to attend and participate in the Twenty-Eighth Session.

2. AGENDA ITEM TWO – Election of the Chairperson

In accordance with Rules 34 and 35 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference **elected** as its Chairperson Ambassador Suljuk Mustansar Tarar of Pakistan, who shall hold office until his successor is elected at the next regular session of the Conference.

3. AGENDA ITEM THREE – Election of Vice-Chairpersons and other officers

- 3.1 In accordance with Rules 34 and 35 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference **elected** the following 10 States Parties as Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference, to hold office until their successors are elected at its next regular session: Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cyprus, the Czech Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Morocco, the Netherlands, and Rwanda.
- 3.2 Also in accordance with Rules 34 and 35 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference **elected**, as Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole, Ambassador Salima Abdelhak of Algeria, who shall hold office until her successor is elected at the next regular session of the Conference.

4. AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Adoption of the agenda

- 4.1 The provisional agenda for the Twenty-Eighth Session was circulated under cover of C-28/1 (dated 11 July 2023).
- 4.2 The Conference **approved** the following agenda for its Twenty-Eighth Session:

AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

AGENDA ITEM TWO – Election of the Chairperson

AGENDA ITEM THREE – Election of Vice-Chairpersons and other officers

AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Adoption of the agenda

AGENDA ITEM FIVE – Organisation of work and establishment of subsidiary bodies

AGENDA ITEM SIX – Appointment of the Credentials Committee

AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Opening statement by the Director-General

AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – General debate

AGENDA ITEM NINE – Status of implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention

AGENDA ITEM TEN – Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2022

AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Annual report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 9 July 2022 to 14 July 2023

AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Election of Member States to membership in the Executive Council

AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Biennial Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2024 and 2025, submitted by the Executive Council, and all items pertaining to this Budget

AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Scale of assessments for 2024

AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – External Auditor's report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2022

AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Administrative and financial matters

AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Fostering of international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities

AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Ensuring the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention

AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – The OPCW Programme for Africa

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY – Engagement with the chemical industry and the scientific community

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-ONE – Reports of subsidiary bodies

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-TWO – Follow-up to the Review Conferences¹

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-THREE – Any other business

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FOUR – Adoption of the report of the Conference of the States Parties

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FIVE – Closure

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

5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – Organisation of work and establishment of subsidiary bodies

- 5.1 The Conference **considered** and **adopted** the recommendations of the General Committee that were reported to it in accordance with Rule 43(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference.
- 5.2 The delegations of the Russian Federation, Ghana (on behalf of the African Group), the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Syrian Arab Republic made statements under this agenda item.

6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – Appointment of the Credentials Committee

In accordance with Rule 27 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference, on the recommendation of its Chairperson, **appointed** the following 10 members of the Credentials Committee, to hold office until new members are appointed at the next regular session of the Conference: Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, Iraq, Malaysia, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Tunisia, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Opening statement by the Director-General

The Conference **noted** the opening statement by the Director-General (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations).

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – General debate

- 8.1 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: Ghana (on behalf of the African Group), Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China), Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), and Viet Nam.
- 8.2 The following signatory State made a statement during the general debate: Israel.
- 8.3 In accordance with decision C-28/DEC.1, the following observer State made a statement during the general debate: South Sudan.
- 8.4 The following delegations made statements, exercising their right of reply: the State of Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic, Germany, the Russian Federation, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Jordan.

- 8.5 The following signatory State made a further statement: Israel.

The State of Palestine disassociated itself from this paragraph of the report of the session.

- 8.6 In accordance with decision C-28/DEC.2, the following international body made a statement during the general debate: the European Union (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Liechtenstein, North Macedonia, Monaco, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, and Ukraine).
- 8.7 In accordance with decision C-28/DEC.4, the following non-governmental organisations gave presentations at the plenary meeting: the African Center for Science and International Security (AFRICISIS), the American Public Health Association, the American Thoracic Society, Bradford University, the Colorado Citizens' Advisory Commission for the Demilitarization of Chemical Weapons, the Iranian Greenpeace Chemical Weapons Association, the Rif Memory Association, the Tehran Peace Museum, the Organisation for Defending Sardasht Victims of Chemical Weapons (ODVCW), and the Society for the Study of Peace and Conflict.

9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Status of implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention

Subitem 9(a): Progress report on the implementation of the plan of action regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations

- 9.1 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 Conference **considered** and **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).

Subitem 9(b): Implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Technical Secretariat in 2022

- 9.2 The Conference **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Technical Secretariat (the Secretariat) in 2022 (EC-102/DG.8 C-28/DG.1, dated 9 February 2023).

Subitem 9(c): Implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues

- 9.3 Pursuant to a decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (subparagraph 3(f) of C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011), the Conference **undertook** an annual review of the implementation of this decision.

- 9.4 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the Conference **noted** an annual report (C-28/NAT.2, dated 6 November 2023) and an annual briefing by the United States of America on its destruction-related activities, including on the completion of the destruction of all of its declared chemical weapons stockpiles.
- 9.5 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (subparagraph 3(g) of C-16/DEC.11), the Director-General provided an annual written report to the Conference on the overall progress with respect to the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles, including on the completion of the destruction of all declared chemical weapons stockpiles (C-28/DG.17, dated 23 November 2023).
- 9.6 The Conference **acknowledged** the achievement of the completion of the destruction by the United States of America of its declared chemical weapons stockpiles. In accordance with decision C-16/DEC.11, and based on the independent information received by the Secretariat from the Organisation's verification activities, the destruction of the remaining declared chemical weapons stockpiles in possessor States is now considered completed.
- 9.7 The Conference **welcomed** the decision of the Executive Council (the Council) at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012) 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 its annex 3 and adopted by the Council at its 101st Session, bearing in mind that the destruction progress was less than expected in the previous destruction plan attached to the decision "The Deadline of 29 April 2012 and Future Destruction of the Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People's Republic of China" (EC-67/DEC.6), and **encouraged** continued cooperation between China and Japan in the implementation of EC-67/DEC.6.
- 9.8 The Conference **recalled** the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention (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 3 in a faithful manner and to address challenges including ensuring the safety of people and protecting the environment. The Conference **reaffirmed** that the Territorial State Party shall provide appropriate cooperation.
- 9.9 The Conference **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.
- 9.10 The Conference **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

abandoned chemical weapons (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.

- 9.11 The Conference **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*), 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.
- 9.12 The Conference **welcomed** that a total of 12 on-site inspections of the ACW facilities in 2023 had been successfully conducted.
- 9.13 The delegations of Japan and China provided updates to the Conference on their destruction-related activities.
- 9.14 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: the Russian Federation and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Subitem 9(d): Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use

- 9.15 The Conference at its Fourth Special Session adopted a decision entitled "Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use" (C-SS-4/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2018). Since the previous regular session of the Conference, and pursuant to paragraph 24 of the above-mentioned decision, the following documents had been circulated to the Council: EC-102/DG.15 (dated 27 February 2023); EC-103/DG.13 (dated 26 June 2023); and EC-104/DG.20 (dated 25 September 2023).

Elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme

- 9.16 At its Twenty-Fifth Session, the Conference adopted a decision "Addressing the Possession and Use of Chemical Weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic" (C-25/DEC.9, dated 21 April 2021). Since the previous regular session of the Conference, and pursuant to paragraph 8 of the above-mentioned decision, the following documents had been circulated to the Council: EC-102/DG.3 (dated 23 December 2022); EC-102/DG.4 (dated 24 January 2023); EC-102/DG.14 (dated 24 February 2023); EC-103/DG.2 (dated 24 March 2023); EC-103/DG.3 (dated 25 April 2023); EC-103/DG.6 (dated 24 May 2023); EC-103/DG.11 (dated 23 June 2023); EC-104/DG.1 (dated 20 July 2023) and Corr.1 (dated 24 July 2023); EC-104/DG.4 (dated 24 August 2023); EC-104/DG.19 (dated 25 September 2023); EC-105/DG.1 (dated 25 October 2023); and EC-105/DG.2 (dated 24 November 2023).
- 9.17 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).

- 9.18 The Secretariat circulated a draft decision entitled “Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use and the Threat of Future Use” (C-28/DEC/CRP.12, dated 24 November 2023) co-sponsored by Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.
- 9.19 In accordance with Regulation 4.9 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, the Secretariat circulated a report by the Director-General on the financial, administrative, and programme and budget implications of the above-mentioned proposal (C-28/DG.19, dated 24 November 2023).
- 9.20 The delegation of Norway delivered a joint statement on behalf of the above-mentioned co-sponsors.
- 9.21 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Germany, Canada (on behalf of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand), Switzerland, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, Cuba, China, Ireland, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Belgium, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, the United States of America, the Netherlands, India, and San Marino.
- 9.22 In accordance with decision C-28/DEC.2, the European Union made a statement under this agenda item (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, North Macedonia, Norway, Monaco, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Türkiye, and Ukraine).
- 9.23 The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement, exercising its right of reply.
- 9.24 Under Rules 69 and 72 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the draft decision entitled “Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use and the Threat of Future Use” (C-28/DEC/CRP.12) was voted on. The vote led to the following result: 69 in favour (Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, the Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Zambia); 10 against (Belarus, China, Eritrea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nicaragua, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and the State of Palestine); and 45 abstentions (Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina

Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, the Philippines, Rwanda, the Sudan, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Viet Nam, and Zimbabwe). In light of that result, the decision was **adopted** (C-28/DEC.12, dated 30 November 2023).

9.25 The following delegations explained their votes: Saudi Arabia, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Guatemala, China, Pakistan, Malaysia, the Russian Federation, the State of Palestine, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Bangladesh.

9.26 Subsequently, the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement.

Other related issues

9.27 The delegation of Saudi Arabia delivered a further joint statement on behalf of Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Türkiye, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), and Yemen.

9.28 The following delegations made further statements under this agenda item: Germany, the Russian Federation, Italy, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Türkiye, Ukraine, France, Ireland, New Zealand (on behalf of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand), the Syrian Arab Republic, Canada, the United States of America, and Bangladesh.

9.29 In accordance with C-28/DEC.2, the European Union made a further statement under this agenda item (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, North Macedonia, Norway, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, and Ukraine).

9.30 The Russian Federation made a further statement, exercising its right of reply.

Subitem 9(e): Status of Implementation of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons

9.31 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 sessions on the status of implementation of this decision.

9.32 At its 104th Session, 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). The Conference **noted** this report.

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2022

- 10.1 The Conference **considered** the draft report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2022 (EC-103/3 C-28/CRP.1, dated 12 July 2023, and Corr. 1, dated 23 November 2023), which was considered and submitted to it by the Council at its 103rd Session.
- 10.2 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, China, Cuba, and the United States of America.
- 10.3 The Conference **adopted** the above-mentioned report (C-28/3, dated 27 November 2023).
- 10.4 The delegations of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Russian Federation disassociated themselves from the adoption of the above-mentioned report in its current form.
- 10.5 The delegation of Guatemala made a further statement under this agenda item.

11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Annual report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 9 July 2022 to 14 July 2023

The Conference **noted** the report of the Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 9 July 2022 to 14 July 2023, its Attachment entitled “Note by the Technical Secretariat: The Destruction of Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People’s Republic of China”, and its Annex entitled “Actions Taken by the Conference of the States Parties at its Twenty-Seventh Session in Response to Recommendations Made by the Executive Council” (EC-104/4 C-28/2, dated 10 October 2023). The report was introduced by the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Lucian Fătu of Romania, who also briefed the Conference on developments that had taken place since the cut-off date for the report.

12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Election of Member States to membership in the Executive Council

- 12.1 In accordance with paragraph 23 of Article VIII of the Convention and Rule 83 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Conference **elected**, by acclamation, the following 17 members to serve on the Council for a term of two years, starting on 12 May 2024. To ensure that the Council is constituted in accordance with paragraph 23 of Article VIII of the Convention, the regional distribution of the elective places to be filled is as follows:

Africa:	Algeria, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa
Asia and the Pacific:	Bangladesh, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Pakistan
Latin America and the Caribbean:	Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala
Western Europe and Other States:	Belgium, Denmark, Greece, New Zealand, Spain

- 12.2 The delegations of Lithuania, Poland, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine presented their candidacies for the three elective places pertaining to the Eastern European Group.

- 12.3 In accordance with Rules 79 and 81 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Conference **elected**, by secret ballot, the following three States Parties from the Eastern European Group to serve on the Council for a term of two years, starting on 12 May 2024: Lithuania, Poland, and Ukraine.
13. **AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Biennial Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2024 and 2025, submitted by the Executive Council, and all items pertaining to this Budget**
- 13.1 At the 104th Session of the Council, the Secretariat circulated 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).
- 13.2 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) has been circulated to the Member States.
- 13.3 In accordance with subparagraph 32(a) of Article VIII of the Convention, the Council at its 104th Session considered the Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2024–2025 (EC-104/CRP.1/Rev.1, dated 9 October 2023). The Council could not achieve consensus on the adoption of a draft decision containing the recommendation of the Council on the Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2024–2025 (EC-104/DEC/CRP.3, dated 9 October 2023). Following a vote on the matter (paragraph 11.20 of EC-104/5, dated 13 October 2023), 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 (EC-104/DEC.2, dated 12 October 2023).
- 13.4 The Conference **considered**, pursuant to subparagraph 21(a) of Article VIII of the Convention and Regulation 3.7(a) of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, and on the recommendation of the Council at its 104th Session (EC-104/DEC.2), a draft decision on the Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2024–2025 (C-28/DEC/CRP.3, dated 23 October 2023).
- 13.5 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: the Russian Federation, Australia (on behalf of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand), China, Cuba, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine, the Netherlands, Italy, India, Türkiye, and Argentina.
- 13.6 In accordance with decision C-28/DEC.2, the European Union made a statement under this agenda item (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, North Macedonia, Norway, Monaco, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Türkiye, and Ukraine).
- 13.7 Under Rules 69 and 72 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the draft decision on the Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2024–2025 (C-28/DEC/CRP.3) was voted on. The vote led to the following result: 98 in favour (Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cameroon,

Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, the Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, the Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Viet Nam); eight against (Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, and Uzbekistan); and 21 abstentions (Angola, Armenia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, El Salvador, Eritrea, India, Jamaica, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, Nepal, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, Tajikistan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, and Zimbabwe). In light of that result, the decision was **adopted** (C-28/DEC.9, dated 29 November 2023).

- 13.8 The following delegations explained their vote: Argentina, Guatemala, the State of Palestine, Bangladesh, the Islamic Republic of Iran, China, and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Scale of assessments for 2024

The Conference **adopted**, pursuant to Regulations 3.7(b) and 5.2 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, a decision on the scale of assessments to be paid by States Parties for the financial year 2024 (C-28/DEC.5, dated 27 November 2023).

15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – External Auditor's report on the audited Financial Statements of the OPCW and the Provident Fund for 2022

At its 104th Session, the Council noted 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). In accordance with Regulation 13.10 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, the report was forwarded to the Conference, which **noted** it.

16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Administrative and financial matters

Subitem 16(a): Multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment by some States Parties of their outstanding annual contributions

- 16.1 At its Eleventh Session, the Conference adopted a decision (C-11/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2006) on a mechanism to encourage States Parties that are in arrears to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions through the use of multi-year payment plans, requesting the Secretariat to submit a report to it each year, through the Council, on the status of implementation of agreed multi-year payment plans as at the end of the quarter that falls immediately before the session of the Council that precedes the session of the Conference.

- 16.2 The Conference **considered** and **noted** 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) that the Council, at its 104th Session, considered and forwarded to it pursuant to the above-mentioned decision.
- 16.3 Also pursuant to C-11/DEC.5, the Council at its 104th Session recommended that the Conference at its Twenty-Eighth Session approve the payment plan submitted by Suriname to regularise the payment of its outstanding annual contributions (EC-104/DEC.1, dated 10 October 2023). The Conference **considered** and **approved** the plan (C-28/DEC.6, dated 27 November 2023).

Subitem 16(b): Recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable

- 16.4 The Council at its 104th Session 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). The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-28/DEC.7, dated 27 November 2023).

Subitem 16(c): Transfers of funds during 2022

- 16.5 In accordance with Regulation 4.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, all transfers between budget programmes shall be reported to the Conference. The Conference **noted** a Note by the Director-General on this matter (EC-103/DG.5 C-28/DG.2, dated 31 May 2023).

Subitem 16(d): Annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2022

- 16.6 In accordance with Regulation 12.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, the Director-General transmitted to the Conference, through the Council, the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2022, and the accompanying Note by the Director-General (EC-103/DG.8 C-28/DG.3, dated 1 June 2023), along with his own comments and any other comments made by the Council. The Conference **noted** this report.

Subitem 16(e): Tenure policy

- 16.7 At its 103rd Session, the Council established a facilitation on tenure policy with the aim of preparing a recommendation to the Conference at its next session (paragraph 11.7 of EC-103/4, dated 13 July 2023).
- 16.8 A draft decision entitled “Amendment of the OPCW Tenure Policy” was issued under the symbol of C-28/DEC/CRP.10 (dated 23 November 2023). An explanatory memorandum to this draft decision was also circulated (C-28/WP.1, dated 14 November 2023).
- 16.9 In accordance with Regulation 4.9 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, the Secretariat circulated a report by the Director-General on the financial, administrative, and programme and budget implications of the proposal (C-28/DG.16, dated 23 November 2023).

- 16.10 The co-facilitators, Ambassador Susannah Gordon of New Zealand and Ambassador Elizabeth Ward Neiman of Panama, reported to the Conference on the outcome of the facilitation.
- 16.11 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: Bangladesh, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, and China.
- 16.12 The Conference **considered** and **adopted** the decision (C-28/DEC.10, dated 30 November 2023).
- 16.13 The Russian Federation disassociated itself from the consensus.
- 16.14 The Director-General made a statement (C-28/DG.20, dated 30 November 2023).

Subitem 16(f): Participation of the OPCW in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

- 16.15 At the 104th Session of the Council, 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).
- 16.16 Also, at its 104th Session, the Council adopted a decision regarding participation of the OPCW in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (EC-104/DEC.3, dated 12 October 2023), and transmitted it, together with its recommendation, to the Conference for approval at its Twenty-Eighth Session.
- 16.17 The Conference **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (C-28/DEC.8, dated 27 November 2023), authorising the Secretariat to conclude an agreement to join the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, from 1 January 2025, subject to terms that the Director-General deems satisfactory and to final approval by the Conference at its Twenty-Ninth Session, and to task the Secretariat with taking all the necessary preparatory administrative actions.
- 17. AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Fostering of international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities**
 - 17.1 The Conference at its Sixteenth Session adopted a decision regarding components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of Article XI of the Convention (C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011), and requested the Secretariat to report to the Conference at each annual session on the progress of concrete measures undertaken in implementing the decision, and on the status of implementation of Article XI.
 - 17.2 The Conference **noted** a report by the Director-General on the progress made and review of the status of implementation of Article XI of the Convention for the period from 26 August 2022 to 25 August 2023 (EC-104/DG.14 C-28/DG.11, dated 13 September 2023).
 - 17.3 The Conference **received** a report by the facilitator for Article XI issues, Ms Fatima Hamdia Tanweer of Pakistan, on activities held during the intersessional period (the report was posted on the external server of the OPCW).

- 17.4 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: Cuba, Mexico, the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), the Syrian Arab Republic, China, Algeria, the Russian Federation, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the United States of America, Kenya, the State of Palestine, and Austria.
- 17.5 In accordance with decision C-28/DEC.2, the European Union made a statement under this agenda item.
- 17.6 The following delegations made statements, exercising their right of reply: the Russian Federation and China.
- 18. AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Ensuring the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention**
- 18.1 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, inter alia, the Director-General 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.
- 18.2 The Conference **noted** the annual Note by the Director-General reporting on the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention during the period 16 August 2022 to 15 August 2023 (EC-104/DG.23 C-28/DG.14, dated 28 September 2023).
- 18.3 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: the Syrian Arab Republic, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the State of Palestine.
- 19. AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – The OPCW Programme for Africa**
- 19.1 The Conference **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).
- 19.2 The delegation of Ghana made a statement under this agenda item on behalf of the African Group.
- 20. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY – Engagement with the chemical industry and the scientific community**
- The Conference **noted** a Note by the Director-General on engaging the chemical industry associations (C-28/DG.15, dated 6 November 2023).
- 21. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-ONE – Reports of subsidiary bodies**
- Committee of the Whole**
- 21.1 The Conference **noted** that, during this session, no items had been allocated to Committee of the Whole.

General Committee

- 21.2 The Conference **noted** the reports of the General Committee and took action as required.

Commission for the Settlement of Disputes Related to Confidentiality

- 21.3 The Conference **noted** the report of the Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the Commission for the Settlement of Disputes Related to Confidentiality (the Confidentiality Commission) (CC-25/1, dated 2 June 2023).
- 21.4 The Conference **welcomed** the appointment of Mr Eduard Klobouček of the Czech Republic on 16 October 2023 as member of the Confidentiality Commission to fill the vacancy in the Eastern European Group for the remainder of the current term of office of the members of the Commission, ending on 30 April 2025.

Credentials Committee

- 21.5 The Conference **considered** and **approved** the report of the Credentials Committee on the credentials of representatives to the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Conference (C-28/4, dated 29 November 2023).
- 21.6 The Conference further **noted** and **approved** the Chairperson's oral report that, following the close of the Credentials Committee meeting, additional original credentials had been received from Azerbaijan and Mongolia.

Committee on Relations with the Host Country

- 21.7 At its Eleventh Session, the Conference adopted a decision establishing a Committee on Relations with the Host Country (the Host Country Committee) (C-11/DEC.9, dated 7 December 2006).
- 21.8 The Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Lucian Fătu of Romania, reported to the Conference on the status of the work of the Host Country Committee.

Advisory Board on Education and Outreach

- 21.9 The Conference **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General reporting on the activities of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO) covering the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 (EC-104/DG.18 C-28/DG.13, dated 22 September 2023).
- 21.10 The Chairperson of the ABEO, Professor Magda Bauta Solés, addressed the Conference.

Scientific Advisory Board

- 21.11 The Chairperson of the Scientific Advisory Board, Mr Günter Povoden, addressed the Conference.

22. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-TWO – Follow-up to the Review Conferences

- 22.1 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

- 22.2 At its 103rd Session, the Council established a Working Group on Geographical Representation (EC-103/DEC.1, dated 12 July 2023), and requested it to report to the Conference at its Twenty-Eighth Session on the activities of the Working Group and to deliver an action plan and its conclusions to the Conference.
- 22.3 A draft decision entitled “Action Plan on Geographical Representation” was issued under the symbol of C-28/DEC/CRP.11 (dated 24 November 2023). An explanatory memorandum to this draft decision was also circulated (C-28/WP.2, dated 9 November 2023).
- 22.4 In accordance with Regulation 4.9 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, the Secretariat circulated a report by the Director-General on the financial, administrative, and programme and budget implications of the proposal (C-28/DG.18, dated 24 November 2023).
- 22.5 The Chairperson of the Working Group, Ambassador Jaime Moscoso Valenzuela of Chile, reported to the Conference on the activities of the Working Group and delivered an action plan and its conclusions to the Conference, in accordance with paragraph 1 of EC-103/DEC.1.
- 22.6 The Conference **considered** and **adopted** the decision (C-28/DEC.11, dated 30 November 2023).
- 22.7 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: Bangladesh and China.

Engagement with civil society

- 22.8 Also 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).
- 22.9 The delegations of Germany and Ecuador updated the Conference on the ongoing consultations on engagement with civil society.
- 22.10 The Conference **took note** of the continuing consultations regarding engagement with civil society.
- 22.11 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: the Russian Federation, Türkiye, China, and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Gender equality

- 22.12 The delegations of Ghana and Mexico delivered a joint statement on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the State of Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Uruguay.

23. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-THREE – Any other business

- 23.1 The following delegations made statements under this agenda item: the Russian Federation, Algeria, Australia, the State of Palestine, and the Syrian Arab Republic.
- 23.2 The Director-General made a statement.

24. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FOUR – Adoption of the report of the Conference of the States Parties

The Conference **considered** and **adopted** the report of its Twenty-Eighth Session.

25. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-FIVE – Closure

The Chairperson closed the session at 17:17 on 1 December 2023.

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