



108th Session  
4 – 7 March 2025

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### **ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE 108TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 4 – 7 MARCH 2025**

This revised annotated agenda<sup>1</sup> has been prepared by the Technical Secretariat (the Secretariat) to guide and assist members of the Executive Council (the Council) in their substantive preparations for its 108th Session. It lists the items of business for the session in the sequence in which they appear in the provisional agenda set for it (see agenda item two below).

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

The 108th Session of the Council will be opened in The Hague by the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral of Ecuador, at 10:00 on 4 March 2025.

#### **2. AGENDA ITEM TWO – Adoption of the agenda**

The Council is **requested** to consider and adopt the following agenda, which has been circulated under cover of EC-108/1 (dated 27 January 2025).

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Opening statement by the Director-General
4. Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on the activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues
5. General debate
6. Status of implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
  - (a) Reports by the Director-General on destruction-related issues
  - (b) Implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues
  - (c) Elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme

<sup>1</sup>

This document is issued for information purposes only and does not supersede in any way the provisional agenda for the 108th Session of the Executive Council, or prejudice the outcome of its deliberations.



- (d) Other verification-related issues
  - (e) Destruction-related plans and facility agreements
  - (f) Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use
  - (g) Timely submission of declarations under Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention
  - (h) Status of implementation of Article X
  - (i) Implementation by the Technical Secretariat in 2024 of the regime governing the handling of confidential information
- 7. Countering chemical terrorism
  - 8. Emerging technologies
  - 9. Administrative and financial matters:
    - (a) Nominations for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
    - (b) Status of implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations
    - (c) Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise resource planning system
    - (d) Adjustment to the Director-General's gross salary
  - 10. Education and outreach
  - 11. Follow-up to the Review Conferences<sup>2</sup>
  - 12. Election of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council
  - 13. Report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
  - 14. Appointment of the Director-General
  - 15. Any other business
  - 16. Adoption of the report
  - 17. Closure

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

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

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<sup>2</sup>

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

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

The Vice-Chairpersons and coordinators for clusters of issues are expected to report to the Council on informal consultations held during the intersessional period: Ambassador Mutlaq bin Majed Al Qahtani of Qatar on chemical weapons issues; Ambassador Salima Abdelhak of Algeria on chemical industry and other Article VI issues; Ambassador Beti Jacheva of North Macedonia on administrative and financial issues; and Ambassador Giorgio Novello of Italy on legal, organisational, and other issues.

**5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – General debate**

With respect to the general debate, delegations are invited to consult the “Practical Information for Delegates” on the iMeet portal (<https://catalyst.opcw.org/sites/imeet>).

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

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

- 6.1 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012), the Council is **requested** to consider and note a report by the Director-General on the overall progress with respect to the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons (EC-108/DG.11, dated 26 February 2025).

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

- 6.2 The Secretariat is expected to provide updates to the Council on its destruction-related verification activities and on Article III-related submissions (the presentation has been posted on the external server of the OPCW).
- 6.3 The States Parties concerned are expected to brief the Council on their destruction-related activities.
- 6.4 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-108/NAT.3, dated 10 February 2025) and a national paper by Japan (EC-108/NAT.2, dated 7 February 2025) 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.
- 6.5 The Council is **requested** to consider and note the final report of the Chairperson of the Council on the visit by the Chairperson, the Director-General, and members and observers of the Council to the Mudanjiang excavation and recovery site, Heilongjiang Province, and to the Haerbaling abandoned chemical weapons destruction site, Jilin Province, China, from 18 to 22 September 2024 (EC-108/3, dated 27 February 2025).

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

- 6.6 Further to its decision at its Eighty-Third Session (EC-83/DEC.5, dated 11 November 2016), the Council decided to place “Elimination of the Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme” on the agenda of all future Council sessions until the Council determines that all elements of the Syrian chemical weapons programme have been eliminated.
- 6.7 The Council is **requested** to note reports by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme (EC-108/DG.1, dated 25 October 2024; EC-108/DG.2, dated 25 November 2024; EC-108/DG.3, dated 24 December 2024; EC-108/DG.4, dated 24 January 2025; and EC-108/DG.10, dated 24 February 2025).
- 6.8 The Council is **requested** to note national papers by the Syrian Arab Republic on the activities related to the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and their production facilities (EC-108/P/NAT.1, dated 15 October 2024; and EC-108/P/NAT.2, dated 15 November 2024).
- 6.9 The Secretariat circulated a Note entitled “Summary Update of the Activities Carried out by the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria” (S/2344/2024, dated 6 December 2024).
- 6.10 The Secretariat also circulated a Note entitled “The Situation in the Syrian Arab Republic in Relation to the Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme and the Way Forward” (S/2376/2025, dated 26 February 2025).
- 6.11 The Council is **requested** to note a Note by the Director-General entitled “Report on the Work of the Declaration Assessment Team” (EC-108/DG.13, dated 28 February 2025).

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

- 6.12 The Secretariat is expected to provide an update to the Council on its other verification-related activities (the presentation has been posted on the external server of the OPCW).

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

- 6.13 The Secretariat has submitted to the Council a Note on amendments and modifications to the arrangement for the destruction at the abandoned chemical weapons mobile destruction facility of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of the People’s Republic of China (EC-108/S/5, dated 20 February 2025).
- 6.14 The Council is **requested** to consider and approve the amendments to the aforementioned arrangement (EC-108/DEC/CRP.3, dated 20 February 2025).
- 6.15 The Secretariat also submitted to the Council a Note on amendments to the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction at the abandoned chemical weapons mobile destruction facility of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of the People’s Republic of China (EC-108/S/4, dated 20 February 2025).

- 6.16 The Council is **requested** to consider and approve the amendments to the aforementioned agreed detailed plan for verification (EC-108/DEC/CRP.2, dated 20 February 2025).

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

- 6.17 The Council is **requested** to note the regular report by the Director-General to the Council on progress made in the implementation of the decision of the Conference of the States Parties (the Conference) entitled “Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use” (C-SS-4/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2018) (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations).

**Subitem 6(g): Timely submission of declarations under Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention**

- 6.18 Further to a decision by the Council at its Fifty-First Session (EC-51/DEC.1, dated 27 November 2007), the Council is **requested** to note a status report by the Director-General on the timely submission by States Parties of declarations under Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention) for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2024 (EC-108/DG.5, dated 29 January 2025).

**Subitem 6(h): Status of implementation of Article X**

- 6.19 The Council is **requested** to consider and note a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 December 2024” (EC-108/DG.8, dated 14 February 2025).

**Subitem 6(i): Implementation by the Technical Secretariat in 2024 of the regime governing the handling of confidential information**

- 6.20 The Council is **requested** to consider and note a report by the Director-General on the implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Secretariat in 2024 (EC-108/DG.6 C-30/DG.1, dated 4 February 2025).

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

- 7.1 The Council is **requested** to consider and note a Note by the Director-General on the status of the OPCW’s contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts (EC-108/DG.12, dated 27 February 2025).
- 7.2 The Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T), Ambassador Vusimuzi Philemon Madonsela of South Africa, is expected to brief the Council on the work of the OEWG-T during the intersessional period.

**8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Emerging technologies**

- 8.1 The “Global Conference on the Role of Artificial Intelligence in Advancing the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention” was held in Rabat, Morocco from 22 to 24 October 2024.

- 8.2 The Secretariat circulated a Note entitled “Global Conference on the Role of Artificial Intelligence in Advancing the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention: A Path Forward” (S/2360/2025, dated 29 January 2025).

**9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Administrative and financial matters**

**Subitem 9(a): Nominations for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters**

- 9.1 The Council is **requested** to note a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (EC-108/S/2, dated 27 January 2025), and to appoint Mr Muhammad Junaid of Pakistan to replace Mr Muhammad Wasif of Pakistan, as of the date of his appointment by the Council.

**Subitem 9(b): Status of implementation of the External Auditor’s recommendations**

- 9.2 The Council is **requested** to consider and note a report on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor (EC-108/S/3, dated 20 February 2025).
- 9.3 The facilitator for this issue, Mr Paul Neville of the United States of America, is expected to report on the consultations carried out during the intersessional period.

**Subitem 9(c): Report on the status of implementation of the enterprise resource planning system**

- 9.4 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 is **requested** to note a Note by the Director-General reporting on the status of implementation of the ERP system (EC-108/DG.9, dated 20 February 2025).

**Subitem 9(d): Adjustment to the Director-General’s gross salary**

- 9.5 In accordance with a decision of the Conference at its First Special Session (C-SS-1/DEC.4, dated 25 July 2002) stipulating that the terms of appointment of the Director-General shall be subject to adjustments by the Council to keep the terms in line with those of other executive heads within the United Nations system, the Council is **requested** to adopt a draft decision adjusting the Director-General’s gross salary and allowances (EC-108/DEC/CRP.5, dated 28 February 2025).

**10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Education and outreach**

The Council is **requested** to consider and note a Note by the Director-General reviewing the operation of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach for the period 2022 to 2024 (EC-108/DG.7, dated 14 February 2025).

**11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Follow-up to the Review Conferences**

- 11.1 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).

**Organisational governance**

- 11.2 At its Twenty-Eighth Session, the Conference adopted a decision entitled “Amendment of the OPCW Tenure Policy” (C-28/DEC.10, dated 30 November 2023) providing the Director-General the authority to issue, for up to 10 staff members, one-year contract extensions, for a period of no more than three years beyond the seven-year total length of service otherwise provided for in Staff Regulations 4.4(b) and 4.4(d).
- 11.3 At the Twenty-Ninth Session of the Conference, upon request of the delegations of New Zealand and Mexico, a paper entitled “Amendment of the OPCW Tenure Policy to Allow Rehiring on an Exceptional Basis” was circulated (C-29/WP.2, dated 25 November 2024).
- 11.4 At the same session, the Chairperson of the Conference concluded that “the Conference had exhausted its discussions on this matter and that it would not adopt a decision during this session. Accordingly, it will be for the Council, at its next session, to decide on this matter. The Conference agreed to such conclusion” (paragraph 22.13 of C-29/5 (dated 29 November 2024) and Corr.1 (dated 19 December 2024)).
- 11.5 The Council is **requested** to consider and adopt a draft decision entitled “Amendment of the OPCW Tenure Policy to Allow Rehiring on an Exceptional Basis” (EC-108/DEC/CRP.4, dated 24 February 2025) circulated upon the request of the delegations of New Zealand and Mexico.
- 11.6 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 (this document will be assigned an official reference number when it is made available to delegations).

**12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Election of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council**

In accordance with Rule 6 of its Rules of Procedure, and with effect from 12 May 2025, the Council is **requested** to elect its new Chairperson for a term of office ending on 11 May 2026, and its new Vice-Chairpersons for the same period. The Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons shall be elected from among the representatives accredited to the Council.

**13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country**

The Chairperson is expected to report to the Council on the status of the work of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

**14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Appointment of the Director-General**

- 14.1 In accordance with subparagraph 21(d) and paragraph 43 of Article VIII of the Convention, the Director-General of the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons shall be appointed by the Conference upon the recommendation of the Council for a term of four years, renewable for one further term, but not thereafter.
- 14.2 At its Twenty-Sixth Session, the Conference considered and adopted a decision renewing the appointment of the present Director-General for one further term of four years beginning on 25 July 2022 and ending on 24 July 2026 (C-26/DEC.9, dated 30 November 2021).
- 14.3 The Chairperson of the Council issued a Note entitled “Road Map for the Process of the Appointment of the Next Director-General in 2025” (EC-108/2, dated 7 February 2025).
- 14.4 Pursuant to Rule 48 of its Rules of Procedure, and considering that the Thirtieth Session will be the last regular session of the Conference before the expiry of the term of the present Director-General, the Council is **requested** to consider and adopt a draft decision on this matter (EC-108/DEC/CRP.1, dated 7 February 2025).

**15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – Any other business**

**16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Adoption of the report**

**17. AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Closure**

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