



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Seventeenth Session
26 – 29 November 2012

C-17/5
29 November 2012
Original: ENGLISH

**REPORT OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES
26 – 29 NOVEMBER 2012**

1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

- 1.1 The Seventeenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) was opened at 10:39 on 26 November 2012 by the Chairperson of the Sixteenth Session of the Conference, Ambassador Paul Arkwright of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Conference **received** a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, delivered by his special representative, Mr Jarmo Sareva, Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Director of the Conference on Disarmament Secretariat and Conference Support Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs at Geneva.
- 1.2 The following 132 States Parties participated in the Seventeenth Session: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.



- 1.3 In accordance with Rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the following signatory States participated in this session of the Conference as observers: Israel and Myanmar.
- 1.4 In accordance with Rule 30 of these Rules of Procedure, and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-17/DEC.1, dated 26 November 2012), the following non-signatory State was accorded observer status: Angola.
- 1.5 In accordance with Rules 31 and 32 of these Rules of Procedure, and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-17/DEC.2, dated 26 November 2012), five international organisations, specialised agencies, and other international bodies attended the Seventeenth Session.
- 1.6 In accordance with Rule 33 of these Rules of Procedure, and pursuant to a decision of the Conference on the matter (C-17/DEC.3, dated 26 November 2012), 35 non-governmental organisations attended the Seventeenth Session.

2. AGENDA ITEM TWO – Election of the Chairperson

In accordance with Rules 34 and 35 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference, by acclamation, **elected** as its Chairperson Ambassador Peter Goosen of South Africa, 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** representatives of the following 10 States Parties as Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference, to hold office until their successors are elected at its next regular session: Argentina, Armenia, Cameroon, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kenya, Norway, Russian Federation, and United States of America.
- 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 Eberhard Schanze of Germany, who shall hold office until a new Chairperson 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 Seventeenth Session was circulated under cover of C-17/1*, dated 11 July 2012.
- 4.2 The Conference **approved** the following agenda for its Seventeenth 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 – Statement by the Director-General

AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – General debate

AGENDA ITEM NINE – Status of implementation of the Convention

AGENDA ITEM TEN – Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2011

AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Annual report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities for the period from 16 July 2011 to 13 July 2012

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

AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2013, submitted by the Executive Council, and all items pertaining to this Budget

AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Scale of assessments to be paid by States Parties

AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – External Auditor's report on the audited financial statements of the OPCW for 2011

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 Convention

AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – The OPCW Programme for Africa

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY – Reports of subsidiary bodies

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-ONE – Any other business

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

AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-THREE – Closure

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

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.

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: Belgium, Croatia, Guatemala, Iraq, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, and Rwanda.

7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Statement by the Director-General

The Conference **noted** the opening statement by the Director-General (C-17/DG.16*, dated 26 November 2012).

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – General debate

The following delegations made statements during the general debate: Iran (Islamic Republic of) (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China), Cyprus (on behalf of the European Union and associated countries), Sudan (on behalf of the African Group), Kenya, Switzerland, Chile, Iraq, India, Brazil, Malaysia, Argentina, Singapore, Norway, Mexico, Iran (Islamic Republic of) (in its national capacity), Sri Lanka, Colombia, Japan, New Zealand, Pakistan, Australia, United States of America, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Russian Federation, China, Belarus, Republic of Korea, United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Uruguay, Bahrain, Thailand, Turkey, Algeria, Bolivia, Philippines, Ukraine, Ecuador, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Rwanda, Congo, Cuba, Morocco, Nigeria, Libya, Qatar, Cameroon, Gambia, Zimbabwe, Israel (observer), and Myanmar (observer).

9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Status of implementation of the 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** the report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 27 July 2012: Article VII(1)(a) to (c) and Other Obligations” (EC-70/DG.3 C-17/DG.6, dated 28 August 2012); the report by the Director General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 27 July 2012: Further Obligations Pursuant to Article VII” (EC-70/DG.4 C-17/DG.7, dated 28 August 2012); and the Note by the Director General on the “Overview of the Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 27 July 2012” (EC-70/DG.5 C-17/DG.8, dated 28 August 2012).

- 9.2 The facilitator for this issue, Mr Rami Adwan of Lebanon, reported on the consultations carried out during the intersessional period.
- 9.3 The Conference **emphasised** the full and effective implementation of all provisions of Article VII. The Conference **urged** all States Parties which have not yet completed implementation of their Article VII national measures to do so. The Conference **urged** the Secretariat and all the States Parties to provide assistance and technical support to those States Parties to adopt the necessary measures, according to their constitutional processes. The Conference **suggested** that proposals should be explored, based on tailor-made, results-based measures, through continuation of consultations by the facilitator.

Subitem 9(b): Implementation of the regime governing the handling of confidential information by the Technical Secretariat in 2011

- 9.4 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 (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) in 2011 (EC-67/DG.8 C-17/DG.1, dated 1 February 2012).

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

- 9.5 The Conference **noted** that, at its Sixteenth Session, it had adopted a decision on the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 (C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011). The Conference **expressed its concern** regarding the Director-General’s statement in his report to the Sixty-Eighth Session of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”), provided in accordance with paragraph 2 of C-16/DEC.11, that “three possessor States Parties, namely Libya, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America, have been unable to fully meet the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 for the destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles” (EC-68/DG.9, dated 1 May 2012). The Conference **noted further** that the measures that had been identified in paragraph 3 of its decision (C-16/DEC.11) were now being implemented.
- 9.6 The Conference **further noted** the statements and comments made by States Parties on the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons by possessor States, **recalling** the relevant Convention obligations and relevant decisions by the Conference and the Council. The Conference **recalled** that the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons by possessor States Parties should continue in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and its Annex on Implementation and Verification and with the application of the measures contained in decision C-16/DEC.11.
- 9.7 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 (C-17/DG.15, dated 21 November 2012) to the Conference on the overall destruction progress by the possessor States concerned, based on the independent information received by the Secretariat from the Organisation’s inspectors undertaking verification in accordance with Part IV(A) D of the Verification Annex, that included information on:

- (a) The progress achieved to meet the planned completion date(s).
 - (b) The effectiveness of any specific measures that have been undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes.
- 9.8 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the Russian Federation provided an annual report (C-17/P/NAT.1, dated 15 November 2012), and an annual briefing, on the progress in the destruction of its remaining stockpiles of chemical weapons, including on any specific measures undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes and information on the projected schedule for destruction activities to meet the planned completion date, which were **considered** and **noted** by the Conference, along with comments on the issue as mentioned above.
- 9.9 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the United States of America provided an annual report (C-17/NAT.1, dated 30 October 2012), and an annual briefing, on the progress in the destruction of its remaining stockpiles of chemical weapons, including on any specific measures undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes and information on the projected schedule for destruction activities to meet the planned completion date, which were **considered** and **noted** by the Conference, along with comments on the issue as mentioned above.
- 9.10 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), Libya provided an annual report (C-17/NAT.2, dated 1 November 2012), and an annual briefing, on the progress in the destruction of its remaining stockpiles of chemical weapons, including on any specific measures undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes and information on the projected schedule for destruction activities to meet the planned completion date, which were **considered** and **noted** by the Conference, along with comments on the issue as mentioned above.
- 9.11 Pursuant to this decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (subparagraph 3(f) of C-16/DEC.11), the Conference **undertook** an annual review of the implementation of this decision at a specially designated meeting of the Conference.
- 9.12 The Conference **welcomed** the Council's decision on "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, dated 15 February 2012). The Conference **recognised** the achievement of the destruction of 35,681 items of abandoned chemical weapons in Nanjing, and **encouraged** continued cooperation between China and Japan in the implementation of EC-67/DEC.6.
- 9.13 The Conference **welcomed** the Council's decision EC-67/DEC.8 (dated 17 February 2012) on the "Request by Italy for Modification of Decision EC-48/DEC.2, dated 13 March 2007, Concerning the Destruction of all its Old Chemical Weapons".

Subitem 9(d): Chemical industry and other Article VI issues

- 9.14 Pursuant to a recommendation by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (paragraph 4.4 of EC-67/3, dated 27 March 2012), the Conference **considered** the issue of salts of scheduled chemicals (subitem II.1(i) of EC-67/INF.1, dated 28 October 2011) closed and requiring no further action.
- 9.15 Pursuant to a recommendation by the Council at its Seventieth Session (paragraph 4.2 of EC-70/5, dated 28 September 2012), the Conference **considered** the issue of “Understanding on access to records during Schedule 2, Schedule 3, and DOC/PSF plant-site inspections” (item II.3 of EC-70/INF.1, dated 30 July 2012) closed and not requiring any further action.
- 9.16 Pursuant to a recommendation by the Council at its Seventieth Session (EC-70/DEC.4, dated 28 September 2012), the Conference **adopted** a decision on guidelines for the number, intensity, duration, timing and mode of inspections at Schedule 1 single small-scale facilities and at other Schedule 1 facilities (C-17/DEC.8, dated 28 November 2012). The Conference **welcomed** the intention of the Secretariat to provide written information to States Parties on the procedures developed for implementing the guidelines.

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Annual report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2011

The Conference **considered** and **approved** the report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2011 (C-17/4, dated 27 November 2012).

11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Annual report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities in the period from 16 July 2011 to 13 July 2012

- 11.1 The Conference **noted** the report of the Council on the performance of its activities in the period from 16 July 2011 to 13 July 2012, 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 Sixteenth Session in Response to Recommendations Made by the Executive Council in the Period Prior to That Session” (EC-70/4 C-17/2, dated 28 September 2012). The report was introduced by the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Bhaswati Mukherjee of India, who also briefed the Conference on the developments that had taken place since the cut-off date for the report.
- 11.2 The Conference **also noted** the Note by the Secretariat on “The Destruction of Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People’s Republic of China” attached to EC-70/4 C-17/2, pursuant to paragraph 9.2 of the report of the Council at its Seventieth Session (EC-70/5).

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

In accordance with paragraph 23 of Article VIII of the Convention, and with Rule 83 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference **elected** 21 members for the following elective places on the Council for a term of two years, starting on 12 May 2013:

Africa:	Cameroon, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal
Asia:	China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia
Eastern Europe:	Poland, Serbia
Latin America and the Caribbean:	Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Uruguay
Western Europe and Other States:	France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2013, submitted by the Executive Council, and all items pertaining to this Budget

- 13.1 In accordance with subparagraph 21(a) of Article VIII of the Convention, and pursuant to Financial Regulation 3.6(a), the Conference **considered** and **adopted** the Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2013, which the Council had submitted to it (C-17/DEC.4, dated 27 November 2012).
- 13.2 The Medium-Term Plan for the period from 2013 to 2015 (EC-70/S/1 C-17/S/1, dated 28 June 2012 and Corr.1, dated 19 July 2012) was circulated to the Member States, along with the Draft Programme and Budget for 2013.

14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Scale of assessments to be paid by States Parties

In accordance with paragraph 21(b) of Article VIII of the Convention, the Conference **adopted** a decision on the scale of assessments to be paid by States Parties for the financial year 2013 (C-17/DEC.5, dated 27 November 2012).

15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – External Auditor’s report on the audited financial statements of the OPCW for 2011

The Conference **noted** the financial statements of the OPCW and the report of the External Auditor for the year ending 31 December 2011 (EC-70/DG.1 C-17/DG.4, dated 10 July 2012 and Corr.1, dated 28 September 2012), forwarded to it by the Council in accordance with Regulation 13.10 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules.

16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Administrative and financial matters

Subitem 16(a): OPCW income and expenditure for the financial year to 30 June 2012; and the cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2012

16.1 The Council at its Seventieth Session considered and forwarded to the Conference a report by the Director-General on OPCW income and expenditure for the financial year to 30 June 2012 (EC-70/DG.2 C-17/DG.5, dated 19 July 2012 and Corr.1, dated 7 September 2012). The Conference **noted** this report.

16.2 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (subparagraph 3(n) of C-16/DEC.12, dated 2 December 2011), the Conference **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2012 (EC-70/DG.11 C-17/DG.12, dated 12 September 2012).

Subitem 16(b): Status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions

16.3 Pursuant to a decision by the Conference at its Eleventh Session (C-11/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2006), the Conference **considered** and **noted** the report on the status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans (EC-70/DG.6 C-17/DG.9, dated 4 September 2012).

Subitem 16(c): Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2011

16.4 In accordance with Regulation 12.5 of the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules, the Council at its Sixty-Ninth Session considered and forwarded to the Conference the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2011, and the accompanying Note by the Director-General (EC-68/DG.1 C-17/DG.3, dated 20 March 2012). The Conference **noted** this report.

Subitem 16(d): Transfers of funds between programmes in 2011

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** the Note by the Director-General on this matter (EC-67/DG.12 C-17/DG.2, dated 10 February 2012).

Subitem 16(e): Amendments to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the OPCW

16.6 Pursuant to the recommendation by the Council at its Seventieth Session regarding the amendments to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the OPCW (EC-70/DEC.1, dated 26 September 2012), the Conference **adopted** a decision containing the proposed amendments (C-17/DEC.6, dated 27 November 2012).

Subitem 16(f): Amendment to the OPCW Staff Regulations

- 16.7 Pursuant to the recommendation by the Council at its Seventieth Session regarding the amendment to the OPCW Staff Regulations (EC-70/DEC.2, dated 28 September 2012) and Staff Regulation 12.1, the Conference **adopted** a decision containing the proposed amendment (C-17/DEC.7, dated 27 November 2012).
- 17. AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Fostering of international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities**
- 17.1 The Conference **noted** a report by the Director-General entitled “Progress Report on and the Status of Implementation of Article XI of the Chemical Weapons Convention for the Period 1 January to 15 August 2012” (EC-70/DG.10/Rev.1 C-17/DG.11/Rev.1, dated 26 September 2012).
- 17.2 The Conference **emphasised** the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of Article XI. The Conference **recalled** the decision on Article XI of the Convention (C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011), which identified components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of this article, and **requested** the Council to continue its facilitation process in order to implement that decision, with progress to be reviewed by the Conference at its Eighteenth Session.
- 18. AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Ensuring the universality of the Convention**
- 18.1 The Conference **noted** the annual report by the Director-General on the implementation of the action plan for universality of the Convention during the period from 16 September 2011 to 15 August 2012 (EC-70/DG.14 C-17/DG.13, dated 18 September 2012).
- 18.2 The facilitator for this issue, Mr Gary Applegarth of the United States of America, reported on the consultations carried out during the intersessional period.
- 18.3 The Conference **welcomed** the efforts of the Secretariat towards achieving universality, especially the recent joint letters by the United Nations Secretary-General and the Director-General to the eight countries that are not yet States Parties to the Convention. The Conference **encouraged** the States Parties and the Secretariat to increase their efforts towards that end.
- 19. AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – The OPCW Programme for Africa**
- The Conference **noted** the Note by the Director-General on the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (EC-70/DG.9 C-17/DG.10, dated 12 September 2012).

20. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY – Reports of subsidiary bodies

Committee of the Whole

- 20.1 The Conference **noted** that, during this session of the Conference, no items had been allocated to the Committee of the Whole.

General Committee

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

Confidentiality Commission

- 20.3 The Conference **noted** the report of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Commission for the Settlement of Disputes Related to Confidentiality (hereinafter “the Confidentiality Commission”) (CC-14/1, dated 25 May 2012).
- 20.4 The Conference was informed by its Chairperson that, following consultations with the Eastern European Group, pursuant to Rule 4 of the Operating Procedures of the Confidentiality Commission (C-III/DEC.10/Rev.1, dated 2 December 2004), he had appointed Mr Ognemir Stoimenov to replace Mr Tsvetin Spasov for the remainder of the latter’s term of office.
- 20.5 In accordance with paragraph 23 of the Confidentiality Annex to the Convention and Rule 2(b) of the Operating Procedures of the Confidentiality Commission (C-III/DEC.10/Rev.1), the Conference **elected** the following 20 members of the Confidentiality Commission for a term of two years, beginning on 1 January 2013:

Africa	Ambassador Nassima Baghli (Algeria) Mr Désiré Jean Claude Owono Menguele (Cameroon) Mr Omer Dahab Fadl Mohamed (Sudan) Mr Lebogang Montjane (South Africa)
Asia	Ambassador Kazem Gharib Abadi (Islamic Republic of Iran) Mr Yonosuke Harada (Japan) Mr Guangzhou Qu (China) Dr W. Selvamurthy (India)
Eastern Europe	Ms Nineta Barbulescu (Romania) Mr Jan Chára (Czech Republic) Ms Assia Angelova Davidova (Bulgaria) Mr Sergei Sereda (Russian Federation)
Latin America and the Caribbean	Ambassador Gastón Lasarte (Uruguay) Lieutenant Colonel DIM. Ramiro Eduardo Calderón de la Riva Lazcano (Bolivia) Counsellor Camilo Sanhueza Bezanilla (Chile) Minister Gustavo Zlauvinen (Argentina)
Western European and Other States	Mr Irvin Høyland (Norway) Ms Susan Richey (United States of America) Professor Ioannis Seimenis (Greece) Professor Dieter C. Umbach (Germany)

Credentials Committee

- 20.6 The report of the Credentials Committee was presented by its Chairperson, Ambassador Jorge Alfredo Lemcke Arévalo, Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the OPCW. The Chairperson reported orally that, following the close of the Credentials Committee meeting, original credentials have been received from Bhutan, China, Colombia, Montenegro, Nigeria, Panama, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela. Copies of credentials have been received from Tunisia, Vanuatu, and Zambia. The Conference **noted** this additional information and **approved** the report (C-17/3, dated 27 November 2012).

Committee on Relations with the Host Country

- 20.7 The Conference **noted** statements by concerned delegations related to issues under consideration by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country. The Conference **requested** the Host Country to expedite examination, with a view to their resolution, of outstanding issues that were brought to its attention by concerned delegations. The Conference **decided** to remain seized of this matter and to consider progress made in addressing these outstanding issues at its next regular session.
- 20.8 The Conference **considered** and **noted** the report by the Committee on the performance of its activities, for the period from September 2011 to January 2012 (EC-67/HCC/1 C-17/HCC/1, dated 14 February 2012) and another report for the period from February to August 2012 (EC-70/HCC/1/Rev.1 C-17/HCC/2/Rev.1, dated 27 September 2012).

21. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-ONE – Any other business

The Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Third Review Conference,¹ Ambassador Nassima Baghli of Algeria, reported to the Conference on the activities of the Working Group.

22. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-TWO – Adoption of the report of the Conference of the States Parties

The Conference **considered** and **adopted** the report of its Seventeenth Session.

23. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-THREE – Closure

The Chairperson closed the Seventeenth Session of the Conference at 16:26 on 29 November 2012.

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