

## Conference of the States Parties

The Conference of the States Parties (CSP) is the “principal” organ which comprises of all members of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). It enjoys the power to supervise and watch over the implementation of the Convention. It also undertakes the function of promoting the aim and purpose of the Convention.<sup>1</sup>

CSP is the main decision making body of the OPCW. As per this position, the CSP appoints the Director General of the OPCW’s Technical Secretariat. It also decides the budget and the amount of contribution which is expected from the States Parties. In addition, it approves the annual report and elects the Executive Council of the OPCW and reviews the scientific and technological developments which can affect the overall functioning of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).<sup>2</sup>

Article VIII, paragraph 21, (of the CWC) enlists the activities to be undertaken by the Conference. They consist of the following;

1. “Taking measures necessary to ensure compliance with the Convention;
2. Deciding on the programme and budget and the scale of financial contributions to be paid by States Parties;
3. Approving the annual report of the Organisation;
4. Electing the members of the Council;
5. Appointing the Director-General;
6. Fostering international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities; and

7. Reviewing scientific and technological developments that could affect the Convention”.<sup>3</sup>

The CSP meets once every year. Till 2012 the CSP had met seventeen times and the Seventeenth meeting of the CSP was concluded in November 2012. The Director General announces the Conference 90 days before the meeting.<sup>4</sup> The Executive Council of the CSP consists of 41 rotating members. These members represent five regional grouping, Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Others Group.<sup>5</sup>

## Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> “Organisation For The Prohibition Of Chemical Weapons” at <http://www.opcw.org/about-opcw/conference-of-the-states-parties/>

<sup>2</sup> “Q&A: OPCW Conference of States Parties: Overview & Issues for the 17th Session” CNS, November 2012 at [http://cns.miis.edu/reports/pdfs/OPCW\\_CSP\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](http://cns.miis.edu/reports/pdfs/OPCW_CSP_Fact_Sheet.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> “Organisation For The Prohibition Of Chemical Weapons” <http://www.opcw.org/about-opcw/conference-of-the-states-parties/about-the-conference-of-the-states-parties/>

<sup>4</sup> “Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the States Parties” at <http://www.opcw.org/about-opcw/conference-of-the-states-parties/rules-of-procedure/#rule1>

<sup>5</sup> “Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)” NTI at <http://www.nti.org/treaties-and-regimes/organization-for-the-prohibition-of-chemical-weapons/>