



Chemical Disarmament

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Foreword by the Director-General of the OPCW

Rogelio Pfirter, Director-General



In the past quarter, the primary focus of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons was the Eighth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, which brought together in The Hague 119 States Parties, two Signatory States and two non-Signatory

States, as well as representatives from International Organisations, chemical industry associations, non-governmental organisations and the media.

A number of significant decisions were taken by the Conference, most notably, approval was granted for requests for the extension of the intermediate and final dates of destruction for three States Parties, as foreseen by the Convention's stipulations.

Following the First Review Conference's unanimous approval of the Political Declaration and the Review Document in May 2003, significant progress has already been achieved in two areas considered of essential importance for the Convention: the action plan regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations (national implementation measures) was adopted by the Conference and the action plan on universality was adopted by the Executive Council.

These decisions serve to enhance the credibility of the Convention, since both comprehensive, swift and effective implementation of the chemical weapons ban, as well as universal membership, are crucial factors in the ultimate success of the global ban on chemical weapons.

All States Parties are aware of both the urgent need for supporting comprehensive implementation and the contribution the Convention can make in addressing the threat of chemical terrorism. This realisation is reflected in a number of resolutions relating to chemical disarmament, recently adopted by international organs, such as the First Committee of the United Nations, the African Union, ASEAN, the G-8, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, among others.

Chemical disarmament and peaceful chemistry is more than a hope, as this issue of the OPCW quarterly details, the total elimination of chemical weapons is already being realised by the joint efforts of 157 countries.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rogelio Pfirter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rogelio Pfirter,
OPCW Director-General

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The Chemical Weapons Convention, banning chemical weapons, entered into force in 1997 and mandated the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to eliminate chemical weapons forever, verify the timely destruction of all declared chemical weapons, monitor the non-diversion of dual-use chemicals, facilitate the mutual assistance and protection afforded to all Member States, if any Member State is threatened by or attacked with chemical weapons, and promote the peaceful uses of chemistry.

Fifty-Eighth Session of the General Assembly

Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee)

United Nations, New York – 7 October 2003

Statement by Mr Rogelio Pfirter, Director-General of the OPCW

We have come here today, as we do every year, to report on the most relevant developments on the chemical disarmament front. At the same time we are here to listen to what the voices of the international community gathered in the First Committee have to say about the many issues on the international-security agenda today.

Last year my message was one of hope but it was tinged, too, with a certain anticipation. I expressed hope because, after a critical time, the OPCW was just returning to normal business; but there was anticipation, too, because we were facing important challenges to the delivery of our core mission, and because an important event in the life of our young Organisation—the First Review Conference on the Chemical Weapons Convention—was about to take place in The Hague.

I can tell you today that our expectations were satisfied and that the international community has something to be proud of on the chemical disarmament front, in spite of the many challenges still lying ahead. The First Review Conference took place from 29 April to 9 May 2003. Delegations met during a period that you will no doubt recall was marked by an ongoing conflict and by a lively debate on the crucial issue of multilateralism and its place in the protection and preservation of peace and security through disarmament.

In that context, we must celebrate the unqualified consensus that crowned the meeting, for there emerged from it a resounding reaffirmation by States Parties to the Convention of their unflinching commitment to achieve its object and purpose. A political declaration, agreed by consensus, outlined the basic findings of the participating States Parties, including their recognition of the ways in which the Convention enhances international peace and security. At the same time, the declaration confirmed the basic foundations

of the chemical weapons ban, embodied in its provisions on real and non-discriminatory disarmament, non-proliferation, and international cooperation and assistance.

Together with the political declaration, the First Review Conference also produced a second and more detailed document that set out 134 paragraphs of outcomes and objectives, including the decision of Member States to prepare two separate Plans of Action—one on universality, the other on national implementation of the Convention.

I think, distinguished delegates, that we must recognise this achievement as the significant result of a multilateral effort, at a time when other areas of multilateral disarmament, especially as regards weapons of mass destruction, are confronted with serious challenges and are at times marked by open disagreements.

By contrast, on the chemical disarmament front, we seem to have found common ground—a firm consensus that we have won by working hard to reconcile divergent views, and that we should cherish and promote. Of course no one would say that we have accomplished our mission, but we have to admit that such widespread support is indeed vital, giving us as it does the strength and the impetus to accomplish the demanding tasks the Convention sets for Member States and the Technical Secretariat alike.

Let me give you a brief overview of these tasks. Possessor States, of which there are now five, including Albania, have continued destroying their chemical weapons stocks.

As at 1 September 2003, almost 8,000 metric tonnes of chemical agents, including Category I, Category 2, and binary-component agents, or about 11.2 % of the total stockpile declared, as well as nearly 2 million munitions—nearly 25% of declared stockpiles—have been confirmed destroyed under the OPCW verification regime.

India, the United States of America, and another State Party have met their obligations to destroy 20% of their declared chemical weapons stockpiles to date.

The destruction programme in the Russian Federation, after initial delays, is proceeding in accordance with extensions of the deadlines established by the Convention, as agreed by States Parties. Last October the situation was unclear-but in April this year Russia reached an important milestone by completing the destruction of 1% of its stockpiles, and its campaign continues.

Destroying chemical weapons is an extremely complex and costly operation. Billions of dollars are spent on this obscure but necessary task by possessor States Parties, and by non-possessor States Parties that lend their support to destruction efforts. In spite of the delays and difficulties, Possessor States are firmly committed to destroying their stockpiles within the time-frames established by the Convention. In the United States, some delays are to be expected, but it has demonstrated enormous determination to get the job done through the allocation of financial and technical resources, and we are confident that it will meet the deadlines stipulated in the Convention.

Disarmament is of the essence, and it makes all the difference when it comes to the Convention. But it is only one of the faces of the Convention.

All States Parties to the Convention have affirmed the importance of a credible verification regime for the chemical industry. It would make little sense to destroy existing chemical weapons without an efficient scheme to prevent would-be proliferators from circumventing the will of the international community by developing-new weapons. To date, nearly 1,600 inspections have been carried out by OPCW inspection teams-nearly two-thirds of these at chemical weapons-related facilities and one-third at about 500 industrial plants producing, processing, or consuming- various chemicals that are included in the Convention's schedules of chemicals. We continue to work hand in hand with the National Authorities and with industrial associations around the world to ensure that the verification regime is applied in an equitable fashion and that it does not hamper the economic and technological development of States Parties.

But we have to do more in this area if our verification regime is to remain a credible deterrent. The chemical industry is an important link in the chain of chemical disarmament, and it cannot be overlooked.

International cooperation and assistance programmes continue to be put at the disposal of Member

States, and with increasing success. Through them, the Convention provides added value to the commitment entered into by States Parties. We collaborate with developing countries in their capacity-building to protect themselves against chemical weapons; through the Associate Programme, we train chemical engineers and experts, exposing them as we do so to state-of-the-art technologies and processes; and we facilitate the exchange of information, chemicals, and equipment for the production, processing or use of chemicals for purposes not prohibited by the Convention.

To be truly successful, the Convention must strive for universality. We are growing.

Last year, I reminded you that 147 States had joined the Convention. Today, there are 156 States Parties (NB: The OPCW numbers as at 9 November 2003, 157 Member States.), and we are expecting more accessions in the near future. Our efforts have multiplied, particularly in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Taking once more my statement of last year as a benchmark, you will notice that twelve months ago we announced a programme of action for Africa. Since then, we have strengthened our links with the African Union in pursuance of the decision of the AU to work towards the implementation of the Convention on that Continent. We brought our message to the African Summit in Maputo, Mozambique, earlier this year, and the results are encouraging, as we see new African States joining the Convention and starting to benefit from the cooperation programmes and the increased security deriving from their membership in a major disarmament convention.

Concerted efforts are needed to encourage the remaining States not Party to join.

In some cases, our contacts are promising and we are ready to give interested States all the support and guidance they might require to sign the Convention.

In some others, we are fully aware that wider security considerations might be the reason behind the present reluctance of some States not Party to join the Convention. However, we will not give up: We are convinced that, even in areas of tension, States not Party will realise that the chemical weapons option is out of the question and will never be legitimised by the international community, even in the exercise of the right of self-defence. No one can expect a sympathetic understanding of an ambivalent attitude towards chemical weapons, which have been stigmatised by the international community.

The risk that terrorists will gain access to weapons of mass destruction requires concrete actions by States and international organisations.

We are playing our role, in line with United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1368 and 1373. Cognisant of the fact that we are not an anti-terrorist agency, we nevertheless want to register our contribution to the international fight against this new menace. Implementation of the Convention is, to be sure, one effective measure against it. In addition, the OPCW has participated and will continue to be an active partner in the consultations carried out under the aegis of the UNSC Counter-Terrorism Committee.

In the same spirit we want to increase and enhance cooperation between the OPCW and the Department for Disarmament Affairs, under the new leadership of Ambassador Nobuyasu ABE, whom I wish to congratulate most warmly on his recent appointment. We attach the greatest importance to cooperation with the United Nations. This is logical and cost-effective, as we are different sides of the same international community of nations united behind the concept and principle of disarmament. Through joint meetings, by exploring the possibilities for the exchange of experts, and by collaborating with UN regional centres, we will offer a number

of opportunities for this relationship to grow.

The OPCW is moving ahead with its programmes. Our verification activities continue at a brisk pace, and we continue to multiply initiatives and actions in the field of international cooperation and assistance.

The Chemical Weapons Convention, and the Technical Secretariat established to uphold it and make it operational, are a vibrant reality that we must support.

Before closing, I would like to repeat something I said a couple of weeks ago to our Executive Council gathered in The Hague.

A few weeks ago, a barbaric and cowardly attack on the Headquarters of the UN in Baghdad took the lives of many, including that of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the distinguished Brazilian Sergio Vieira de Mello. We in the OPCW associate ourselves with our UN counterparts, with whom we are working closely on matters of common interest. Let the memory of those who perished for peace, under the sky-blue flag of the United Nations, inspire our deliberations and guide our actions.

Thank you.

OFFICIAL VISITS TO THE OPCW 2003

14 January 2003	The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of The Sudan, H.E. Mr Najeib El Khier Abdel Wahab
19 May 2003	The Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, H.E. Mr Riaz H. Khokhar
5 June 2003	The Foreign Secretary of Tunisia, H.E. Mrs Saida Chtioui
4 July 2003	The Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia, H.E. Mrs Nino Burjanadze
27 August 2003	The Deputy Leader of the Progressive Coalition Party of New Zealand, Hon. Mr Matt Robson
22 September 2003	The Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, H.E. Mr Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma
14 October 2003	The Foreign Minister of Romania, H.E. Mr Mircea Dan Geoană
21 October 2003	The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr Sergei Kislyak
22 October 2003	The Chairman of the National Authority, and Vice Minister of Industry, H.E. Mr Nguyen Xuan Thuy
31 October 2003.	The President of the Belgian Parliament, H.E. Mr Herman De Croo
13 November 2003	The Foreign Minister of Australia, H.E. Mr Alexander Downer
17 November 2003	The Assistant Secretary of State for Verification and Compliance, US Department of State, H.E. Ms Paula DeSutter
19 November 2003	The Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, US Department of State, H.E. Mr John R. Bolton

Officials Visits of the Director-General October – December 2003

7 October 2003

Visit to the United Nations, New York

- Bilateral Meeting with H.E. Mr Nobuyasu Abe, Under Secretary General of Department of Disarmament Affairs, United Nations
- Addressed the First Committee of the 58th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

27 to 31 October 2003

Singapore

- **First Regional Meeting of National Authorities in Asia**
- Participated in the Regional Meeting
- Meeting with H.E. Professor S. Jayakumar, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Bilateral meetings with H. E. Mr Raymond Lim Siang Keat, Minister of State , Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Trade and Industry; H.E. Rear Admiral Teo Chee Hean, Minister of Defence; Ms Tan Yee Woon, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and other senior Government officials.

2 to 5 November 2003

Viña del Mar and Santiago, Chile

Regional Workshop on Assistance and Protection against Chemical Weapons

- Bilateral meetings with H.E. Brigadier-General Carlos Eduardo Oviedo Arriagada, Head of the National Authority of Chile
- Meeting with H.E. Luis Winter, Director, Head of Special Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; H.E. Mr Carlos Portales, Director-General for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and other senior Government officials of the National Authority of Chile.

5 to 8 November 2003

Havana, Cuba

XVIII Session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL)

- Meeting with H.E. Mr. Felipe Pérez Roque, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cuba
- Bilateral meetings with senior Government officials.

11 November 2003

Ieper, Belgium

85th Anniversary of Armistice Day

Attended the Ieper “Remembrance Day” Wreath-laying and Commemoration

Meetings with H. E. Mr Paul Breyne, the Governor of West Flanders; H.E. Mr Luc Dehaene, the Mayor of Ieper; and other dignitaries.

20 to 21 November 2003

Strasbourg

Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Reducing the Threat of Weapons of Mass Destruction

(Co-organised by the European Commission, the European Parliament, in close cooperation with the Italian Presidency of the EU and the French Chair of the G8)

Address to the Conference and participation in panel discussion.

Conference of the States Parties

Excerpts from the Opening Statement by the Director-General to the Conference of the States Parties at its Eighth Session¹

We come to this Conference heartened by the achievements of an extremely busy year: 2003 was undoubtedly marked by our First Review Conference. As we all know, the review was a resounding success that has consolidated and strengthened the foundations of the Organisation as a whole. The political declaration agreed by the First Review Conference confirmed the

We are reassured by the determination of all Possessor States Parties to meet their obligations in accordance with the terms and timelines of the Convention.

solemn and unqualified commitment of all Member States to the chemical weapons ban.

At the same time, a more detailed review document set out 134 agreed paragraphs of outcomes and objectives, including the decision by Member States to prepare two separate action plans — one on universality, the other on national implementation of the Convention. Significant progress has been made on both fronts. We are very close to adopting both plans, and with them the OPCW as a whole — Member States and the Technical Secretariat — will have at its disposal an even more detailed roadmap that will help us achieve the goals of the Convention.

Verification

Destruction campaigns are proceeding apace. As at 1 October 2003, more than 11.3% of declared stockpiles had been destroyed. Since the First Review Conference, new destruction facilities have started operations in the Russian Federation and the United States of America. The chemical weapons destruction facilities at Gornyy, Aberdeen, and Anniston are already operating. Other facilities are in the last stages of construction or systematisation, such as those in Newport, Pine Bluff, and Umatilla in the United States. The destruction facilities in India and a State Party have continued their activities according to schedule. We await the plans for destruction by the Fifth Possessor State.

The Convention requires States Parties to destroy 45% of their Category 1 chemical weapons stockpiles by 29 April 2004. In spite of all the progress registered, and the allocation of substantial human, technical, and financial resources, the United States and a State Party have encountered certain operational difficulties and have submitted requests for extensions of this deadline. In addition, a decision on the Russian Federation request for extension is still outstanding. We are reassured by the determination of all Possessor States Parties to meet their obligations in accordance with the terms and timelines of the Convention. We encourage them to redouble their efforts and to ensure that they comply with their key obligations.

¹) The complete text of the Director-General's Opening Address to the Eighth Session of the Conference of the States Parties is available on the OPCW website under: www.opcw.org/docs/c8dg07.pdf.

The chemical industry is an indispensable partner in the implementation of the Convention, and not just an object of our verification measures. Because we know that the Convention cannot live without the industry's active involvement, we value the initiatives it takes in support of the Convention, such as the Responsible Care Programme, which demonstrates how the chemical industry works to ensure the proper use of its products — products that are essential to modern manufacturing, and indeed to modern life. The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) has recently published a statement calling for effective and full compliance with the requirements of the Convention, and this statement deserves all our praise. Such an active partnership between the OPCW and industry will certainly continue and grow in the future as the non-proliferation goals of the Convention are accorded a far higher priority and as the destruction of existing chemical weapons reaches completion.

International cooperation and assistance

This year we have made notable progress in implementing various ICA programmes. Last year, I stood before the Seventh Session of the Conference and committed myself to obtaining additional funds to the tune of EUR 450,000 in support of ICA programmes. I am glad to report that, indeed, we did produce the required additional funds, which have been applied throughout the year to important projects in this area. With them we have been able to increase the impact and effectiveness of our programme — and indeed there is, in my view, a strong case for incorporating these additional funds into the regular baseline budget of the Organisation.

The OPCW Associate Programme was expanded this year to include twice as many participants as last year. This increase presented us with additional challenges and greater practical difficulties, but I am satisfied that, thanks to the hard work of our staff and the cooperation of Member States and their institutions, including the various chemical industry associations, we have once again made this landmark activity of the Organisation a great success. We are grateful for the essential participation of chemical companies, and we hope that more Member States and chemical industries will be able to participate in the Programme in the years ahead.

Implementation support continues to make good progress. The development of the action plan on national implementation, on which I will have more to say later, will also help to ensure that we target our

efforts and resources to best effect. Also, the Fifth Annual Meeting of National Authorities, which has just concluded, was attended by more than 110 participants representing 72 National Authorities. The national training courses are also moving along as planned, and I am happy to confirm that the second Article VI Implementation Workshop will take place before the end of the year.

As regards assistance and protection against chemical weapons, 2003 will be remembered for the unprecedented number of appeals for assistance by State Parties invoking the provisions of Article X. Prompted by the Iraq crisis, most of the countries in the region have asked for expert advice and training in accordance with paragraph 5 of this Article. As a result, national-capacity-building courses or visits have been held in or made to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kuwait, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia. These projects will evolve into longer-term modules aimed at helping Member States acquire the protection capacity they need. Alongside these activities, the regularly scheduled courses on national capacity-building have continued throughout the year.

2003 will be remembered for the unprecedented number of appeals for assistance and protection against chemical weapons by State Parties invoking the provisions of Article X.

Universality

I am happy to report the good news that in the last 12 months we have achieved the remarkable average of one new Member State per month, for a total of 157. The whole of Europe is now covered by the Convention. In Latin America and the Caribbean, our newest States Parties are Guatemala, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. In Africa, Sao Tome and Principe acceded just last month; Cape Verde, two weeks ago. Asia and the Pacific Islands have also seen notable successes, with Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Palau, Samoa, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Tonga joining the OPCW in the last 12 months. It is critical to maintain this momentum and, in this regard, I am hopeful that the Executive Council's plan of action on universality will swell the ranks of our Organisation even further.

Concerted efforts are needed to encourage the remaining States not Party to join. We are fully aware that wider security considerations may be behind the present reluctance of some States not Party to join the Convention. In particular, the non-accession of North Korea and countries in the Middle East places a question mark over our ability to provide an adequate guarantee against a deadly type of weapon of mass destruction in these regions. However, we will not give up: We are convinced that, even in areas of tension, States not Party should realise that the chemical weapons option is out of the question and will never be legitimised by the international community, even in the exercise of the right of self-defence. No one can expect a sympathetic understanding of an ambivalent attitude towards chemical weapons, which have been stigmatised by the international community.

As we work to expand our membership, we are also reinforcing our relationship with regional organisations as part of an overall external-relations strategy that bears in mind the importance of partnerships, of networking, and of synergy with the efforts of sister

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institutions around the world whose presence and influence are well established. Since the Seventh Session of the Conference, our ties with the African Union have become stronger. My presence at the Summit of the AU earlier this year in Maputo has been followed by more targeted efforts, which will soon start with the Secretariat of the newly elected AU Commission. In the same vein we are also in contact with the League of Arab States, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and the Pacific Islands Forum. I would also note that we have recently attended a meeting of the Organisation of the American States on international terrorism, and that are working to strengthen even further our relationship with the United Nations, whose First Committee I addressed

just a few days ago. Consultations with the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization have continued, with a view to concluding a cooperation agreement between the Secretariats of the two organisations.

In a few days I will attend the Annual General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), to be held in Havana. OPANAL's invitation to this event comes at a time when efforts to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction require a concerted approach by all concerned, at both the global and regional levels.

All these efforts and initiatives are in my view clear indicators of an OPCW actively engaged on all fronts where international security is to be promoted and defended. My colleagues in the Secretariat and I will continue with such efforts, but realistically these can only support the individual and collective actions of Member States. It is that combination that will lead to decisive progress towards universality.

Lastly I want to express my deep gratitude to the Government of Japan for the extremely successful visit I made to their country earlier this month. The support of Japan, as one of the major stakeholders in the OPCW, is key to the success of the Convention. In Tokyo we received expressions of encouragement and commitment from Foreign Minister Kawaguchi and the entire Government of Japan — sentiments we value and appreciate.

National implementation

National implementation continues to be one of the keys to the success of the Convention. In spite of the progress made in some areas, we are still lagging behind in terms of a satisfactory level of internal application of the Convention. Less than 40% of Member States have the required legislation in place, and we cannot remain indifferent to this.

The plan of action regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations is complete. By implementing this plan we shall be better prepared to assist States Parties in meeting their national implementation obligations. This is a joint effort that brings together the Secretariat and States Parties as they are called upon to provide assistance to other States Parties in accordance with their capabilities in a variety of implementation-related areas.

The work of National Authorities is in this regard central to the success of this strategy, which requires of each State Party the adoption of a minimum of administrative measures and the enactment of legislation, including penal legislation, as mandated by the Convention. In this connection let me remind you that for some time now the Secretariat has been assisting those State Parties that need help with their implementing legislation. This has been done through the collection of data and the dissemination of information in various forms. We shall continue to do this, *inter alia* by supporting the Network of Legal Experts, which has been expanded this year to cover all five regions.

Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Eighth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention

The Hague, 20 October 2003

Since the opening for signature of the Chemical Weapons Convention in January 1993, steady and tangible progress has taken place in the field of chemical disarmament. Earlier this year, the First Review Conference to the Chemical Weapons Convention was held to conduct a comprehensive study of the operation of the Convention, with a view to ensuring that the chemical weapons ban remains firm in a changing political and technological environment.

I welcome the remarkable outcome of the First Review Conference, in particular the reaffirmation of the States Parties' intention to comply with all their obligations under all the provisions of the Convention, and their commitment to implementing them fully and effectively. I also welcome the progress made in the ongoing destruction of chemical weapons, and hope that the momentum will be maintained in the implementation of this aspect of the Convention.

The international community remains deeply concerned about the dangers of weapons of mass destruc-

tion falling into the hands of terrorists, and is actively engaged in the work to counter this threat. The Chemical Weapons Convention, fully and effectively implemented, can be a powerful instrument in that work. Less than seven years after entering into force, the Chemical Weapons Convention has 156 States parties. While this represents encouraging progress towards universality, almost 40 States remain outside the Convention — some of them from regions that would benefit greatly from the assurances which membership in the Convention would bring. I urge those States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the CWC to do so without delay.

I extend my warmest wishes to all participants in the Eighth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, and wish you a most productive session.

Eighth Session of the Conference of the States Parties: A Summary

The Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, convened in The Hague from 20 to 24 October 2003, ended its eighth session on Friday evening, 24 October 2003.

Delegations from 117 of the Organisation's 157 Member States (including the Contracting States Parties Kyrgyzstan and Cape Verde) attended. In addition, two Signatory States, Chad and Israel, as well as two non-Signatory States, Iraq and Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, participated in the Conference as Observer States.

The Conference considered and approved decisions on the extension of the intermediate and final deadlines for the destruction of the declared chemical weapons stockpiles held by three States Parties.

29 April 2007 has been established as the revised, intermediate deadline for the destruction of 20% of the chemical weapons declared by the Russian Federation.

In full accordance with their obligations under the Convention, the Russian Federation, the United States and another State Party have been granted extensions of the final date of destruction for 45% of their respective stockpiles. The Conference further approved 31 December 2007 as the final date of destruction for 45% of the United States' chemical weapons stockpile.

The deadline for the destruction of 100% of the chemical weapons stockpiles held by the Russian Federation and the United States, 29 April 2007, has also been extended in principle, in compliance with the Convention's stipulations on final destruction.

To achieve universal adherence to the Convention, the Conference approved an action plan on the implementation of the obligatory national measures to ban chemical weapons and took note of the action plan on the universality of the Convention, adopted by the Executive Council.

The Conference also approved a 6.7% increase in the 2004 budget. The budget now totals € 73,153,390.

The Conference elected a new Chairperson, H.E. Ms Dato' Noor Farida Arrifin, Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the OPCW.

Representatives of the following ten States Parties have been elected as Vice-Chairs of the Conference, to hold office until their successors are elected at its next regular session: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Guatemala, India, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, South Africa, Switzerland, and United States of America.

The Conference elected Ambassador Nouredine Djoudi of Algeria as Chair of the Committee of the Whole, to hold office until a new Chair is elected at the next regular session of the Conference.

Following the proposal of its Chairperson, the Conference appointed the following ten members of the Credentials Committee to hold office until new members are appointed at the next regular session of the Conference: Austria, Cameroon, Cuba, Czech Republic, Jordan, Namibia, Pakistan, Portugal, Ukraine, and Uruguay.

The following delegations made statements during the general debate: Italy (on behalf of the European Union and acceding and associated countries, and of the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway), the Russian Federation, South Africa, Singapore, Norway, China, the United States of America, Panama, Switzerland, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Mexico, Malaysia (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China), India, the Czech Republic, Morocco, Brazil, France, Nigeria, Algeria, Romania, Turkey, Cuba, Ukraine, Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Saudi Arabia, Albania, Slovakia, Qatar, the Sudan, Canada, Mauritius, Viet Nam, Peru, Argentina, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Conference elected 20 members to elective places on the Council, to serve a term of two years, commencing on 12 May 2004:

Africa: Algeria, Kenya, Morocco, South Africa

Asia: Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Eastern Europe: Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Ukraine

Latin America and the Caribbean: Cuba, Panama, Peru, Uruguay

Western Europe and Other States: Greece, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain

The Conference adopted decisions on the draft agreement on the privileges and immunities of the OPCW between Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Burundi, Cyprus, and the Slovak Republic, as well as approving the attendance of eight international organisations, specialised agencies, and other international bodies. In addition, the participation of nine non-governmental organisations and two chemical industry associations in this session of the Conference was approved.

The Conference also considered and approved the report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2002.

Universality Overview 2003

Since the Seventh Session of the Conference, 12 additional states have become States Parties to the Convention. As at 15 November 2003, 157 states had ratified or acceded to the Convention.

In Africa, Sao Tome and Principe and Cape Verde were the first new accessions or ratifications since Uganda and Zambia ratified in 2001.

In Asia and the Pacific Islands, there has been a notable increase in the number of new Member States in the past year, including several non-signatory States. Samoa, Thailand, Palau, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan have either ratified or acceded to the Convention.

In Central America and the Caribbean, both Guatemala, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, ratified the Convention and the Dominican Republic and Haiti report that they are making good progress toward adherence.

A further 22 states have signed the Convention but have yet to deposit their instruments of ratification, and there remain 15 non-signatory States. Regions with States not party include the Middle East, Africa, other parts of Asia and the Pacific Islands, and Central America and the Caribbean.

Universality Outreach Activities in 2003:

- With the cooperation of the Secretariat and the French Government, a bilateral assistance visit was made to Haiti in February 2003 to assist it in its preparations for ratification of the Convention.
- In February 2003, in cooperation with the Government of the French Republic, the Secretariat sent a team to Chad to assist with preparations for its ratification of the Convention.

- A regional workshop on universality of the Convention, held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in March 2003, was attended by both States Parties and States not party to the Convention.
- A regional seminar on universality and the implementation of the Convention, held in May 2003 on Sint Maarten, the Netherlands Antilles, was attended by eight of the nine States not party in the region.
- The Dominican Republic and Haiti participated in the OPCW industry seminar held in Mexico in June 2003.
- In July 2003, the Director-General attended the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Maputo, Mozambique, where he held meetings with foreign ministers of African States not party.
- In August 2003, the Director-General also attended and participated in the First African Regional Meeting of National Authorities held in Khartoum, the Sudan in August 2003.

In the past the following States Parties have made voluntary financial contributions in support of the Organisation's universality efforts: Australia, Canada, France, Greece, Japan, Kuwait, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

National Implementation

Action Plan to Promote the Universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention (Excerpts)

In accordance with the decision of the First Review Conference, the Chairman of the Executive Council appointed a facilitator, Ms Consuelo Femenía of Spain, to assist with the preparation by the Council of an action plan designed to promote the universality of the Convention whose objectives would be: (a) to further encourage, in a systematic and coordinated manner, adherence to the Convention; and (b) to assist States ready to join the Convention in their national preparations for implementing it.

The Action Plan was adopted during the 23rd Meeting of the Executive Council, held on 24 October 2003.

Some of the items mentioned in the Action Plan include:

- Strongly supports the designation of “points of contact” by States Parties, on a voluntary and informal basis, in all regions and sub-regions relevant for the effective promotion of universality, to assist regularly in the implementation of this Action Plan and for the purposes of effective coordination;
- Recommends that the Director-General should designate an officer of the External Relations Division to act as the focal point within the Technical Secretariat for the implementation of this Action Plan and for the purposes of effective coordination;
- Requests the Technical Secretariat, having consulted with States Parties, to prepare a comprehensive annual document on planned universality-related activities, and to provide information to the Council on proposed initiatives, including on potential synergies with States Parties willing and able to join in universality-related efforts. The document should contemplate and systematise activities in which the Technical Secretariat has traditionally engaged and, if deemed appropriate, formulate new universality-oriented projects. The document should set indicative targets for increased membership. In particular, the document could include:
 - (a) measures envisaged by the Technical Secretariat to assist States ready to join the Convention in their national preparations for implementing it;
 - (b) bilateral assistance visits;
 - (c) bilateral meetings with States not Party not represented in The Hague, as well as those represented in The Hague, and other activities of participation support and outreach;
 - (d) regional and sub-regional seminars and workshops;
 - (e) international cooperation activities which might include States in the process of ratifying or acceding to the Convention;
 - (f) measures to increase awareness of the Convention, and of the work of the OPCW, including publications in official languages, as well as measures to reach the appropriate audience in States not Party; and
 - (g) attendance at meetings of, or joint activities with, relevant international and regional organisations;
- Strongly encourages States Parties to strengthen their efforts in the promotion of universality of the Convention, to actively pursue this objective, as appropriate, in their contacts with States not Party, and to seek the cooperation of relevant international and regional organisations;
- Requests 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;
- Recommends that the Conference decide to review, at its Tenth Session, the implementation of this Action Plan, and take any decisions deemed necessary.

National Implementation Measures Action Plan (Excerpts)

At the Eighth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, the Conference adopted a decision on a plan of action with the objective of fostering the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention by all States Parties. The Conference stressed the need to fully implement the recommendations of the First Review Conference on national implementation measures and recognized how important and how urgent it is that States Parties complete their obligations under Article VII to adopt, in accordance with their constitutional processes, the necessary measures to implement the Convention.

Full and effective implementation of Article VII by all States Parties also contributes to universal adherence to the Convention, although the Conference expressed concern that a large number of States Parties have not yet fulfilled the range of obligations under Article VII. Many States Parties may have difficulty in meeting these obligations. The Conference received the Executive Council's recommendation on an action plan and adopted the plan, some of the action items¹ are listed below: included the following action items to identify and analyze the problems and needs to be addressed by the Technical Secretariat and the States Parties:

- **Requests** the Technical Secretariat to intensify its work with those States Parties that have difficulties in adopting the measures required under Article VII, by further identifying, analysing, and addressing those difficulties;
- **Requests** States Parties seeking assistance of any kind in meeting their national implementation obligations and that have not yet informed the Secretariat of what assistance they require, to do so preferably before 1 March 2004;
- **Requests** the Secretariat, within the parameters set by the OPCW Programme and Budget, to offer sustained technical support to States Parties that request it for the establishment and effective functioning of National Authorities, the enactment of national implementing legislation, and the adop-

tion of any administrative measures required in accordance with Article VII;

- **Welcomes** voluntary contributions from States Parties towards the implementation of this plan of action, and requests the Secretariat to implement the plan of action within the resources approved for the OPCW Programme and Budget, together with any voluntary contributions received for national implementation, and in a cost-effective manner;
- **Encourages** States Parties to lend advice, upon request, to other States Parties in drafting and adopting national measures necessary to implement the Convention, *inter alia* to ensure that the laws reflect the comprehensive nature of the Convention by covering all activities that are to be prohibited or required in accordance with the Convention, and that involve the use of any toxic chemicals and their precursors; to cover the provision of annual declarations on past and anticipated activities; to ensure the implementation of the provisions related to transfers of scheduled chemicals; and to cover the annual submission of information on national protective programmes in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article X;
- **Requests** States Parties able to provide assistance of any kind towards national implementation in other States Parties to inform the Secretariat, preferably before 1 March 2004, of what they can offer;
- **Requests** the Secretariat to further develop and improve its implementation support programme, including by mobilising States Parties' efforts so as to provide, upon request and within the limits on available resources, technical assistance and technical evaluations to States Parties in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention, in the areas identified in the section of the report of the First Review Conference on national implementation measures (subparagraph 7.74 to 7.83 of RC-1/5);
- **Encourages** the Secretariat to identify and, by mutual consent, engage with regional, subregional and other relevant groups of States Parties that can render support to the States Parties concerned in

1) To obtain the complete text of the Action Plan adopted by the Eighth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, please visit the OPCW website under www.opcw.org/docs/c8dec16_en.pdf.

their implementation efforts;

- **Encourages** the Secretariat and the States Parties to develop partnerships with relevant regional organisations and agencies that could render support to States Parties in their implementation work;
- Without prejudice to the timelines set by the Convention, recalling States Parties' obligations under Article VII, and reminding them that it has been more than six years since the entry into force of the Convention, **agrees** that it is imperative that those States Parties that still need to do so take the necessary steps and set realistic target dates for these steps leading to the enactment of the necessary legislation, including penal legislation, and/or the adoption of administrative measures to implement the Convention no later than the Tenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, scheduled for November 2005;
- **Calls upon** those States Parties that still need to do so to make every effort to adhere to the overall time-frame established in paragraph 11 above, as well as to the steps and target dates they have established for themselves, and to maintain regular contact with the Secretariat about the implementation of these steps and target dates;
- **Encourages** States Parties and the Secretariat to take measures to raise awareness of the prohibitions and requirements of the Convention, *inter alia* in their armed forces, in industry, and in their scientific and technological communities;
- **Underlines** that the steps mentioned in paragraph 11 above should include:
 - (a) designating or establishing a National Authority and notifying the Secretariat thereof in accordance with Article VII of the Convention, as soon as possible;
 - (b) taking the steps necessary to enact the legislation, including penal legislation, and/or to adopt

the administrative measures States Parties need in order to implement the Convention in accordance with their constitutional processes; and

- (c) providing the Secretariat with the full text of their national implementing legislation, including updates, or, in the case of States Parties with a monist legal system, with information on the specific measures they have taken to implement the Convention;
- **Urges** States Parties that have not yet done so to review their existing regulations in the field of trade in chemicals in order to render them consistent with the object and purpose of the Convention; Oversight by the Executive Council and the Conference of the States Parties (action items for States Parties and the Technical Secretariat)
 - **Requests** the Secretariat to report to the Ninth Session of the Conference and to every second session of the Council starting with the Thirty-Sixth, in March 2004, on the progress made in implementing this plan of action;
 - **Further requests** the Council to provide guidance to, and to coordinate with, the Secretariat as necessary and to monitor the implementation of this plan of action;
 - **Also requests** States Parties that lend advice, upon request, to other States Parties on the drafting and adopting of national measures to implement the Convention, to keep the OPCW informed of their actions and the results they have achieved; and
 - **Undertakes to review**, at its Ninth Session, the progress made in implementing this plan of action, and to **decide** on any further action needed; and **undertakes to review further**, at its Tenth Session, the status of implementation of Article VII and to **consider** and **decide on** any appropriate measures to be taken, if necessary, in order to ensure compliance by all States Parties with Article VII.

First Meeting of the OPCW Network of Legal Experts

4 to 7 November 2003

The first meeting of the OPCW Network of Legal Experts was convened by the Secretariat at OPCW headquarters from 4 to 7 November 2003 in The Hague. Experts from 42 States Parties participated.

The meeting commenced with a general orientation on legislative requirements, enforcement issues, the Article VII Action Plan, the legal module of the OPCW website, and the Article VIII, paragraph 50, privileges and immunities agreements. The second segment of the meeting consisted of national presentations by the participants on the status of national implementing legislation in their country, any problems experienced, and any assistance required. This was followed by a two-day legislation workshop, in which participants engaged in group work and/or bilateral consultations on draft legislation and related issues. The meeting closed with a discussion of suggestions for future directions of work for the Network.

Earlier on in May 2003, the Technical Secretariat had invited States Parties to nominate legal experts who have in-depth knowledge of the national implementing legislation called for by the Convention. The Secretariat also invited States Parties that have not yet finished drafting their legislation to submit the names of the drafter or other legal expert who are currently engaged in this task. On the basis of the nominations

received from 60 States Parties, the OPCW Network of Legal Experts was established, inspired by the network created in 2000 in Latin America and the Caribbean.

With the establishment of the Legal Network, the OPCW has created an informal working mechanism to share experience, pool resources and information, facilitate direct contacts between legal experts of States Parties as well as the Secretariat, and monitor progress in respect to legislative drafting and other national implementation work. The Network will also facilitate bilateral, regional and sub-regional cooperation (an example was the initiative of francophone African States Parties present at the meeting to form their own network). A dedicated (private) Internet website will be set up to facilitate communications amongst the network members. There were a number of proposals for practical next steps, for example the development of modular assistance packages that could be used by experts providing legislative and other implementation support.

This event took place shortly after the Eighth Session of the Conference of the States Parties that adopted the Action Plan for the implementation of Article VII, and the formation of the Network was a first step towards the implementation of the decision taken by the Conference.

Excerpts from the Report by the Network of Legal Experts from Latin America and the Caribbean on its Role in Promoting the Adoption of National Implementing Legislation¹

1. Origin and composition of the Network

1.1 At the First Regional Meeting of National Authorities of Member States in Latin America and the Caribbean in Lima, Peru, in March 2000, it was proposed that a network of legal experts designated by States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter .the Convention.) be established in the region.

1.2 In accordance with that proposal, and in coordination with the Technical Secretariat, the Network of Legal Experts from Latin America and the Caribbean was established, with experts from the following States Parties: Argentina, (Chairperson), Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, Panama, and Saint Lucia. Two additional members from the following States Parties were subsequently designated: Ecuador and Peru.

The Network has held three meetings. The first took place in February 2001 in The Hague, in conjunction with the OPCW International Symposium on *Cooperation and Legal Assistance for the Effective Implementation of International Agreements*. The second was held in March 2001 in Viña del Mar, Chile, to coincide with the Second Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in the Latin American and Caribbean Region. The third meeting took place in February 2003 in Panama City, Panama, in conjunction with the Fourth Regional Meeting of National Authorities in Latin America and the Caribbean. OPCW budgetary constraints had forced the postponement of the third meeting to 2003; however, when funding did become available, an ambitious

programme of work was proposed that included the provision of assistance by a Network member to States Parties in Central America during the Regional Seminar for National Authorities on the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in Central America, which was held in Costa Rica in July 2003. A Network member also provided legal assistance during the National Authority Training Course for the Colombian National Authority, which was held in July 2003.

The Network's initiatives and the potential it has shown have also inspired the Secretariat to expand it this year to include the four other OPCW regional groupings.

2. Role of the Network

Article VII, paragraph 1, of the Convention requires each State Party to .adopt the necessary measures to implement its obligations under this Convention, including the enactment of domestic penal legislation to prohibit any activity prohibited to a State Party under the Convention.

The impetus for creating the Network was the stipulation in Article VII, paragraph 2, of the Convention that each State Party shall cooperate with other States Parties and afford the appropriate form of legal assistance to facilitate the implementation of the obligations under paragraph 1.. This general obligation does not specify the mechanisms through which cooperation and assistance shall be provided, and thus leaves it to regional groups to develop networks such as that created by States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean.

1) The complete text of the Report is available at www.opcw.org/docs/s385_03.pdf

The Network is a body of legal professionals who serve as contact points in each country in the region on matters related to the implementation of the obligations contained in the Convention. Taking advantage of the similarity in the legal systems, government structures, and languages within the region, the Network also aims to provide assistance and advice to those States Parties in the region that are engaged in implementing the national-legislation and administrative measures required by the Convention.

One of the functions of the Network members is to answer inquiries from other States Parties about the implementing legislation in their own countries. The members also share their experiences in implementing new regulations and identify common problems and obstacles, thus facilitating the harmonization of regulations within the region so as to ensure the mutual consistency of the ways States Parties in the region implement their obligations under the Convention.

As part of its effort to achieve a better understanding within the region of the controls currently in place on the trade in chemicals, the Network is preparing a questionnaire on the tracking of exports of chemical substances. Responses to the questionnaire will be sought from States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, and a report on those responses will be made available in due course.

3. Cooperation and legal assistance in criminal matters

Article VII, paragraph 2, establishes only a general obligation to cooperate and provide legal assistance. It does not specify the modalities of the legal assistance to be provided; nor does it define a mechanism that would regulate extradition or judicial assistance. Similarly, it does not cover matters related to the exercise of criminal jurisdiction or establish the principle *aut dedere aut judicare*, whereby a State Party that declines a request for extradition prosecutes the alleged offender in its own jurisdiction. Thus, requests for assistance must be carried out in accordance with the bilateral or multi-lateral extradition or mutual-legal-assistance treaties to which States Parties are party under international law and their own domestic legislation.

In cases in which an individual has carried out acts prohibited under the Convention, a number of States might be competent to conduct an investigation or to institute criminal proceedings. In the resulting situation of concurrent jurisdiction, States would be

obliged to cooperate and, *inter alia*, to extend the legal assistance necessary to fulfil the obligations to prohibit, impede, prosecute, and punish acts prohibited under the Convention, as well as to ensure security and protect persons and the environment.

The obligation of States Parties to take the measures necessary to prohibit and punish acts prohibited by the Convention also entails an obligation to extend mutual legal assistance. The provision of, or requests for, assistance will encounter obstacles if States do not have the necessary internal measures in place covering, for example, dual criminality for requests for extradition, the investigation and prosecution of crimes, the use of search warrants, the arrest of persons, the seizure of assets, the interception of mail, and wire-tapping.

4. Activities proposed by the Network

With the goal of increasing assistance and cooperation in the region, the Network proposes to:

- (a) expand the Network to include new members designated by other States Parties in the region;
- (b) compile information on the status of implementation regionally and on internal norms and regulations regarding requests and responses for cooperation and legal assistance;
- (c) identify and analyse existing laws in the region that would provide the degree of dual criminality necessary for extradition in cases involving violations of the norms of the Convention, so as to stimulate the adoption by States Parties of new penalties as appropriate;
- (d) identify in each State Party the centralised organ in charge of coordinating requests for cooperation and legal assistance, and the persons responsible in those organs;
- (e) contact each national customs department in the region to inform it of the existence of the Network;
- (f) identify relevant agreements on mutual legal assistance to which each State Party is party at the international, regional, and bilateral levels;
- (g) create a regional-cooperation database that clearly outlines each State Party's needs;
- (h) identify and analyse the best methods of harmonising States Parties, national implementing legislation and of optimising the systematic exchange of information;
- (i) identify and analyse assistance requirements common to States Parties, thus enabling a more efficient response;
- (j) report existing export controls in the region, and analyse the possibility of establishing a harmonised

export-control system and developing common levels of controls in order to eliminate commercial disadvantages; and

- (k) explore the possibility of joint action to prevent crimes related to the Convention, as well as to enable immediate action to be taken at national borders to prevent the diversion of toxic chemicals for proliferation purposes.

The Network also proposes to study the following items as they relate to cooperation in the case of a threatened or actual terrorist attack involving chemical weapons:

- (a) The means each State Party has at its disposal to respond to different threat or attack scenarios, including hospitals, experts who can treat affected persons, and necessary materials;
- (b) administrative and customs procedures; and
- (c) export- and import-control measures related particularly to specialised materials, equipment, and vaccinations.

5. Conclusion

The establishment of the Network of Legal Experts in Latin America and the Caribbean opened an avenue for States in the region to work together on themes related to the implementation of the Convention. Whether it is initiated by a legal expert or a National Authority, dialogue helps to facilitate the implementation of national legislation and the fulfilment by States Parties of their obligations under the Convention. The above-mentioned proposals are being presented to the new OPCW Network of Legal Experts for its consideration as it plans out its work. The Secretariat has expressed its appreciation to the Network of Legal Experts of Latin America and the Caribbean for its work and for the inspiration it provided for the expansion and transformation that have resulted in the OPCW Network of Legal Experts, which encompasses all five regional groupings in the OPCW.

ICCA¹ Statement on Consistency between the Chemical Weapons Convention and Responsible Care[®] Implementation

September 2003

The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), which represents chemical industry associations throughout the world, values its relationship with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and fully supports the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

The ICCA's support for the CWC is rooted in the chemical industry's voluntary Responsible Care[®] initiative. The CWC is one of many important tools industry employs to help fulfill its commitment to Responsible Care[®] in the management of chemicals worldwide.

Since its launch in 1985, Responsible Care[®] has helped drive continuous improvement in the safety, health and environmental performance of the global chemical industry's manufacturing processes and products. Under Responsible Care[®], companies, through their national associations, commit to work together to:

- inform the public of the risks and benefits of what they make and do, and about their performance, achievements and challenges;
- listen to and work with their stakeholders at the local, national and international level to understand and address their concerns and needs;

- cooperate with governments and organizations at all levels in the development and implementation of effective regulations that safeguard the community, workplace and environment, and to meet or exceed those requirements; and
- extend Responsible Care[®] to all those who manage chemicals, their customers, suppliers, distributors and contractors.

Implementation of Responsible Care[®] is consistent with the CWC's goals of fostering and furthering the peaceful use of chemistry and preventing the misuse of essential chemical products for making chemical weapons by developing and implementing effective safeguards on chemical products.

In May 2003, the ICCA announced a major strategic review to revitalize and strengthen its Responsible Care[®] initiative now practiced in 47 countries and growing. The strategic review will focus on enhanced industry performance, product stewardship, sustainable development and reputation, and will be driven by global chemical industry leaders. Industry is working to improve itself as well as promote full and effective implementation of the CWC, which reflects and reinforces Responsible Care[®] in the management of chemicals worldwide.

1) The membership of the International Council of Chemical Associations includes: Conselho das Associações da Indústria Química do Mercosul (CIQUIM), Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC), Japan Chemical Industry Association (JCIA), Asociación Nacional de la Industria Química (ANIQ), Mexico, Canadian Chemical Producers' Association (CCPA), American Chemistry Council (ACC), United States, New Zealand Chemical Industry Council (NZCIC), Plastics and Chemical Industry Association (PACIA), Australia.

The Legal Module on the OPCW Website

Over the past several months, the legal module on the OPCW website has been completely redesigned and updated and now includes significantly more information for Member States.

In addition to a comprehensive section on national implementing legislation, there is information about legal technical assistance, cooperation and legal assistance, privileges and immunities, facility agreements, the administrative law aspects of the OPCW, and access to various legal publications on chemical weapons disarmament. The legal module has been designed for ease of navigation.

The legal module is most easily accessed through the OPCW home page, which can be found at the following address: www.opcw.org.

Contents of the legal module

The section, *Provisions of the CWC Referring to Legislation*, emphasizes the importance that the OPCW and its policy-making organs place on legislation as the key to ensuring effective implementation at the national level.

Implementation Kits is a new project, aiming to facilitate national legislation implementation in an interactive and user-friendly manner, which contains all those measures that States Parties are obligated to implement and those that are normally necessary.

The kit is organized in such a manner that States Parties need only refer to those measures that they believe are applicable in their particular case. In other words, the kit should not be viewed as a model statute *in toto* but rather as a toolbox with model statutory language for each measure that can be selected and changed to suit each State Party's needs. The kit can be used by States Parties to ensure that any implementing legislation they already have in place is effective and comprehensive.

Checklists leads to a set of prioritised checklists for non-possessor States Parties in all official OPCW languages. These checklists include actions that must be taken by each State Party in respect of its general obligations under the Convention, the timeframes for doing so, the

Convention references requiring such actions, and contact persons at the OPCW who can advise on these actions. In addition, checklists are provided for legislators in all official OPCW languages. They have recently been fully updated and expanded and closely mirror the directory of measures for the implementation kits.

The *Models* link leads to a page with an Australian model for national implementing legislation and a model of an integrated approach to national implementing legislation, which was developed by the Secretariat of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). The latter model, *inter alia*, allows the parliaments of OECS Member States to consider in one single step the regulation of pesticides and toxic chemicals, together with the regulation of toxic chemicals under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Legislation Database leads to National Authority home pages or to copies of implementing legislation provided to the OPCW Office of the Legal Adviser by those States Parties, which have agreed to allow the OPCW to post their legislation on the website. We encourage all States Parties with comprehensive implementing legislation (that is, legislation that covers all key areas for enforcement of the Convention) to provide the OPCW written permission to post their legislation on the organisation's website or to create a link to their National Authority homepage. You may do so by sending a fax to the Office of the Legal Adviser or by sending an e-mail to legal@opcw.org. Please note that a link to your National Authority's website and/or online legislation is preferable because it ensures that the latest version of the legislation, including amendments and supplements, is provided.

Questionnaires leads to the first Legislation Questionnaire and analysis of the responses thereto and the second Legislation Questionnaire. All parties are still required to complete the second Legislation Questionnaire. Accordingly, those that have not done so are invited to download this document from the OPCW website, complete it and send it to the Office of the Legal Adviser for review and to ensure that the legislation matrix in respect of your State Party is current. Completing the second Legislation Questionnaire is

also a useful exercise because it allows States Parties to determine whether there are gaps in their legislation with regard to enforcement of the Convention. This is particularly important because if violations of the fundamental provisions of the Convention are not legally defined as criminal acts in the jurisdiction of a given State Party, it is unlikely that the State Party in question will be able to cooperate with, and provide legal assistance to, another State Party in investigating or prosecuting that violation.

Harmonised System leads to a note by the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission containing the World Customs Organisation (WCO) recommendation on the insertion in national statistical nomenclatures of subheadings for substances controlled by the Convention. The document is available in all official OPCW languages. This recommendation was made at the Council of the Harmonised System Committee meeting in Hong Kong in June 1996 and proposes new national subheadings for those substances – ‘toxic chemicals and their precursors’ – which are covered by the provisions of the Convention.

Legal Technical Assistance describes various kinds of legal technical assistance that the Office of the Legal Adviser provides, including examples of comprehensive legislation, models, and explanatory documentation on the OPCW website; advice on legislation under preparation; and, resources permitting, technical assistance visits to OPCW Headquarters for drafting assistance and advice. Legal technical assistance also includes bilateral consultations with experts from other States Parties, including those who have been appointed to the Network of Legal Experts.

Network of Legal Experts has the objective of increasing the OPCW’s capacity to assist States Parties in implementing their obligations under Article VII, paragraphs 1 and 5, by providing a framework for States Parties that are in a position to do so to offer bilateral legal assistance, and thereby creating a cost-effective complement to the technical assistance offered on request by the Secretariat to individual States Parties.

Cooperation and Legal Assistance discusses cooperation and legal assistance between States Parties, which is an obligation under Article VII, paragraph 2, of the Convention. Such an obligation arises from the fact that States Parties must extend their penal legislation in respect of the Convention extraterritorially to prohibited activities undertaken by their nationals abroad.

States Parties may, therefore, be faced with the need for legal assistance from another State Party. Accordingly, cooperation and legal assistance not only includes monitoring and preventive cooperation among States Parties’ police and customs authorities but also cooperation in the prosecution of offences which encompasses, *inter alia*, identifying suspects, taking testimony or statements, producing or preserving evidence, etc.

Privileges and Immunities contains a description of the legal basis, rationale, and types of privileges and immunities for the OPCW and certain categories of its officials as well as the five scenarios in which these privileges and immunities could be invoked. These include privileges and immunities on the territory and in any other place under the jurisdiction or control of States Parties, in the host country (that is, the Netherlands), during the conduct of inspections, during the conduct of an investigation of alleged use, and when OPCW resources are placed at the disposal of the United Nations Secretary-General.

Facility Agreements contain a brief description of facility agreements. Such agreements are required for all chemical weapons-related facilities, Schedule 1 facilities, and Schedule 2 plant sites (unless agreed otherwise for the latter). Such agreements are negotiated between the Secretariat and the inspected State Party. To assist States Parties in their preparations for beginning negotiations with the OPCW, the following model agreements, which have been approved by the Conference of the States Parties for use, can be downloaded through links on the navigation bar or through the list of links in the facility agreements introduction: model agreements for chemical weapons production facilities, storage facilities, and destruction facilities and for Schedules 1 and 2 facilities.

Administrative Law covers the OPCW Staff Regulations, the OPCW Secrecy Agreement, the OPCW Financial Regulations and Draft Financial Rules, and the Directive on Procurement of Goods and Services.

The Office of the Legal Adviser encourages legal experts and other personnel implementing the Convention in capitals to turn to this resource for documents, information and guidance. Feel free to contact the Office of the Legal Adviser by e-mail, phone, fax, or post with any queries that you may have, including comments on the website and suggestions for improvement.

Site Map of the new Legal Website

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 - Legal Assistance Under the CWC
 - International Symposium: Cooperation and Legal Assistance
 - A Commentary on the Chemical Weapons Convention
 - Verification Practice Under the Chemical Weapons Convention

Monitoring Chemical Weapons Destruction: Present Realities and Future Challenges

Excerpts from the Statement by the OPCW Director-General
Inter-Parliamentary Conference, Strasbourg, France, 20-21 November 2003

Disarmament and non-proliferation are key elements to the preservation of international peace and security. In the declaration adopted after the meeting held in Thessaloniki, Greece, last June, the European Council made manifest its unequivocal commitment to uphold and implement multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation treaties, as well as its support for the multilateral institutions entrusted with verification of compliance with those treaties.

The OPCW plays a significant role in this field. A complex verification mechanism, comprising on-site inspections and monitoring, certifies that States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention thoroughly abide by their commitments.

The Chemical Weapons Convention embodies the commitment of the international community to eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. In effect, it subjects the world's largest stockpiles of chemical weapons and former production facilities to a comprehensive verification and destruction regime.

The verification regime (...) is built on the combination of a unique scheme of data monitoring and on-site inspections, designed to assess that the activities conducted by States Parties are consistent both with the object and purpose of the (Convention) and with the contents of the declarations submitted by (States Parties).

The destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles and production facilities is a central aspect of the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Inspections are critical to the implementation of the verification regime set forth in the Convention. The vast majority of the verification resources allocated

to the Technical Secretariat have been dedicated to chemical weapons-related inspections and a significant proportion, eighty percent, supports the verification of destruction operations.

Inspections to chemical weapons destruction facilities comprise monitoring the destruction activities through physical presence, which is done either in short-term campaigns, or, in the long-term by rotating on-site inspection teams in their monitoring responsibilities at continuously-operated facilities.

Thus far, the Technical Secretariat has been planning inspection activities, keeping a watchful eye on the efficient allocation of the means available for a successful completion of the activities lying ahead.

The task lying ahead is, indeed, challenging. During the current year, four continuously-operated and three non-continuously-operated chemical weapons destruction facilities have been in operation and are thus subject to inspection. It is foreseen that, in the course of the upcoming year, these numbers will mount to seven and six, respectively.

Therefore, not only is there a preference to optimise the use of resources but an actual need to do so, if the ability of the Technical Secretariat to duly comply with its mandate is to be safeguarded. The projections we have made make it clear that with the resources currently available and the present methodology employed, full and adequate compliance by the Technical Secretariat with inspection requirements would be impossible to achieve.

Recognition of this, and of the importance of destruction activities in the overall scope of verification activities, has led States Parties to request through the First

Review Conference that the Technical Secretariat conduct an analysis of the resources employed to this end, with a view to assessing the efficiency in their use and further optimising it.

The verification of destruction-related activities is primarily aimed at confirming two core aspects: the identity and quantity of the stocks of chemical weapons to be destroyed, on the one hand; and their actual destruction, on the other.

(...) a cost-efficient approach to the systematic verification of chemical weapons destruction that may successfully tackle both aims can only be achieved by striking an adequate balance between the physical presence of inspectors and the various means of technical monitoring available for verification purposes, focusing attention on those activities which are absolutely necessary to attain the verification aims, minimising overlaps or unnecessarily recurring activities without adversely affecting the accuracy and credibility of the process.

The key to our success in this effort will be given by our ability to refine the existing verification regime by moving ahead in the ongoing task of seeking enhanced

efficiency, further evolving towards a scheme progressively less resource-intensive, whilst preserving its overall efficacy. This will by no means be a revolution, but rather an evolution. This move will be sustained by consensus among States Parties and will be rooted in the lessons learnt from the practice accrued thus far.

The task lying ahead is complex but viable and necessary. We have to sustain the full-fledged implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention within the crucial parameters of disarmament, non-proliferation and international co-operation in the peaceful uses of chemistry that must prevail in the implementation of its provisions.

The latent virulence of the threat posed by international terrorism adds a strong element of urgency to the need to successfully achieve chemical disarmament and non-proliferation and, for this, efficient verification of compliance is, of course, of undisputed essence.

The OPCW is ready to play its role in the global partnership against the spread of weapons and materials of mass destruction. To this end, better co-ordination and exchange of information among the key players in the field is indispensable.

The Thirty-fourth Session of the Executive Council — Summary

The Executive Council of the OPCW met for its thirty-fourth session during 23-26 September. This session was chaired by Ambassador Petr Kubernát of the Czech Republic.

The Vice Chairpersons and coordinators for clusters of issues reported to the Council on informal consultations during the intersessional period as follows: Ambassador José Antonio Arróspide of Peru on chemical weapons issues; Ambassador Alexander Olbrich of Germany on chemical industry and other Article VI issues; Ambassador Hossein Panahi Azar of the Islamic Republic of Iran on administrative and financial issues; and Mr. Peter Makwarela, on behalf of Ambassador Priscilla Jana of South Africa, on legal, organisational, and other issues.

Executive Council deliberations at its thirty-fourth session

Destruction Issues Once again, the Council received two reports, one by the Director-General and one by the Russian Federation, on progress in Russian destruction of its chemical weapons stockpiles. The note by the Director-General stated that, between 26 April and 11 September 2003, Russia had destroyed 33.0 metric tonnes of mustard gas. Thus, the total amount destroyed by that date was 434.4 metric tonnes, or approximately 1.1% of the Russian declared stockpile of Category 1 chemical weapons, at the Gorny chemical weapons destruction facility (CWDF). The report further states that, in accordance with an amendment to the annual detailed plan for the destruction of its Category 1 chemical weapons at the Gorny CWDF, dated 30 July 2003, and in keeping with the notification provided by the Russian Federation on the resumption of destruction operations, dated 7 August 2003, Unit 2 (mustard gas destruction) began its second chemical weapons destruction campaign on 18 August. The same notification stated that Unit 1 (lewisite destruction) will begin in October.

The report by the Russian Federation on progress in destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles stated that

destruction of chemical weapons in Unit 2 (mustard gas detoxification) at the Gorny CWDF recommenced on 18 August and, as at 15 September, 440 tonnes of mustard gas had been destroyed. The destruction of lewisite in Unit 1 is scheduled for November. The Russian report also contained details on construction of the Kambarka (lewisite) destruction facility, with operations expected to commence in 2005 and finish in 2009. A CWDF is being set up at Shchuchye with financial assistance from the United States, Italy, the United Kingdom, Canada, Norway and the European Union. The report also stated that the Russian programme provided for draining and detoxification facilities at Maradykovski, Leonidovka and Pochep to destroy air bombs filled with organophosphorus agents and, in the case of Maradykovski, mixtures of mustard gas and lewisite as well. The Council considered the two reports and decided to consider them further at its next meeting to be convened prior to the Eighth Session of the Conference.

The Council also received a request from a State Party for an extension of its obligation to meet the intermediate deadline for the destruction of its chemical weapons, a highly protected document, and the related draft decision. The Council decided to further consider the draft decision at its next meeting prior to the Eighth Session of the Conference.

The Council received another request for an extension of its obligation to meet the intermediate deadline for the destruction of its chemical weapons from the United States, as well as the related draft decision. In a statement to the Council, the United States noted that it will have only destroyed approximately 28%, or 8000 metric tonnes, of its stockpile by the intermediate deadline of 29 April 2004 and would only reach the 45% target by 31 December 2007. The Council decided

to further consider this draft decision at its next meeting prior to the Eighth Session of the Conference.

The plan for the verification of destruction of chemical weapons at the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility was again deferred by the Council until its next session.

Conversion of Chemical Weapons Production Facilities

The Council received several notifications from the Russian Federation on changes at former chemical weapon production facilities (CWPFs) being converted to purposes not prohibited under the Convention. . The Council noted that no objections had been raised by any Member State within 30 days of receipt of notification on changes at the former CWPF at OJSC Sibur-Neftekhim, Kaprolaktam plant, in Dzerzhinsk (lewisite production, second train).

The Council also noted that the United States and the Secretariat had concluded a transition agreement for the temporary conversion of the DF Production and Fill Facility at the Pine Bluff Chemical Activity.

Facility Agreements The Executive Council adopted the decision approving a facility agreement with Albania for a chemical weapons storage facility. The Council again deferred a decision on the facility agreement relating to the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

International cooperation and assistance and protection

The Executive Council decided to continue working on assistance and protection against chemical weapons, including procedures for annual submission by States Parties of information relating to their national protective purposes programmes, further to a request from the First Review Conference.

Reports of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2002 and the External Auditor, the audited financial statements of the Organisation for 2002, and implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor and the Office of Internal Oversight

The Council received a verbal report on the informal consultations on the Office of Internal Oversight (OIO) report for 2002.

The Council received a verbal report on informal consultations on the External Auditor's report on the financial statements of the Organisation for 2002. The Council noted the External Auditor's final conclusion regarding the Organisation's financial statements and transactions as well as his overall assessment of the

results of the audit. The Council forwarded the audited financial statements and External Auditor's report to the Conference of the States Parties. Substantively speaking, the Council requested the Secretariat to prepare a report on the progress of the *SmartStream* project for its consideration at its thirty-fifth session.

The Council considered and noted the reports on the status of implementation of the recommendations in 2002 of the External Auditor and OIO.

OPCW Programme and Budget for 2004 and Draft

Medium-term Plan 2005-2007 The Executive Council decided to consider the draft programme and budget for 2004 at its next meeting, which will take place before the Eighth Session of the Conference.

The Council also noted the draft medium-term plan 2005-2007 and forwarded it to the Eighth Session of the Conference.

The Council noted the report of the Fourteenth Session of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters.

The Council renewed the appointment to the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters of Ms. Anna Hynkova, Mr. Michal Szlezak, Mr. Hadi Farajvand, Mrs. Norma Suarez Paniagua, Mr. Gianpaolo Malpaga, and Mr. Vladimir A. Iossifov, retroactive to the dates on which their first three-year terms of office expired. The Council also noted the resignations of Mr. Dudley Lashmar and Mrs. Maria Dulce Silva Barros from the Advisory Body, and approved the appointment of Mr. Damian Brewitt, with application retroactive to the date of nomination.

Other Business

The Executive Council approved the draft report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities (as amended) as well as the draft report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Convention in 2002, for submission to the Conference of the States Parties at its Eighth Session.

Finally, the following Executive Council meetings were approved for next year: EC-36: 23-26 March; EC-38: 12-15 October; and EC-39: 14-17 December. A date for EC-37 will be addressed at its December 2003 (EC-35) session.

National Authorities

Fifth Annual Meeting of National Authorities

The Hague, 17 to 19 October 2003

The fifth annual meeting of National Authorities took place at the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons headquarters, in The Hague, from 17 to 19 October 2003. 104 representatives from 67 National Authorities attended this annual session.

This conference facilitated the exchange of information and experiences on the Convention's implementation and promoted cooperation amongst National Authorities, to identify common implementation problems and to facilitate their resolution through cooperative efforts of States Parties and the Secretariat, to contribute to greater National Authorities' self-sufficiency and promote enhanced awareness of activities relating to international cooperation under the Convention.

The meeting was divided into three segments, including a one-day workshop on the implementation of the OPCW's international cooperation programmes, an information update and an exchange between National Authorities, and consultations between individual National Authorities and the OPCW Technical Secretariat staff members on implementation issues relating to the CWC. Representatives of National

Authorities identified areas to improve their work and develop their cooperation. They agreed that sustained implementation support was of essence to the vast majority of them to improve their performance and in that context attributed particular importance to the Annual Meetings of National Authorities. They exchanged their experiences on specific implementation related issues including the quality of the data to be submitted to the Organisation in declarations required by the Convention. The participants underlined the need to strengthen the process of regional consultations.

The main purpose of organising such an event annually is to increase national capacity to comply with the Convention's obligations and to provide a discussion forum for issues relevant to the Convention. Over the years, interest in the Annual Meetings has increased consistently. The Annual Meetings of National Authorities will become a means, through which to promote the materialisation of the "Plan of Action Regarding the Implementation of Article VII Obligations" that was considered and adopted during the Eighth Session of the Conference of the States Parties of the OPCW.

Technical Meeting of National Authorities on the Practical Aspects of the Transfers Regime in Terms of the Current Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention – Free Zones and Free Ports

Barcelona, Spain 15 to 17 September 2003

The Technical Meeting of National Authorities on the practical aspects of implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention's transfers regime was convened from 15 to 17 September 2003. The objective of this meeting was: (1) to develop a greater understanding of the import/export data on chemicals that is submitted to the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for the effective implementation of the Convention; (2) to facilitate discussion about the implementation of the CWC in respect of free zones and free ports, including improving the monitoring and tracking of chemical shipments; the temporary transit and storage of chemicals; and, (3) to discuss ways and means to eliminate discrepancies caused by free areas and free ports from the import and export data provided to the OPCW.

Presentations made during this workshop, included the following: ones by the OPCW, an overview of the World Customs Organisation and a discussion of the role of the harmonized system for goods (as well as on the Recommendation on Chemicals Controlled by the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) for new national subheadings for those substances - 'toxic chemicals and their precursors' - which are covered by the provisions of the CWC); the Spanish export control regime for defence materials and dual use goods and technologies; trade in chemical precursors and drugs in the European Union; and presentations by the Port of Rotterdam, the Uruguay Customs Authority, the Basel Convention, and the International Chemical

Council Association. Several National Authorities and other national agencies discussed their experiences in implementing the Convention including controlling and monitoring goods shipped through free zones or ports. The meeting also included a trip to Barcelona Port and the Free Zone Consortium.

78 participants from 48 States Parties took part in the meeting. Representatives from the World Customs Organisation, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, the International Council of Chemical Associations and the Rotterdam Harbour also participated and contributed to the programme.

In addition, during the meeting, issues concerning the effectiveness of the control on transfers of chemical substances that are relevant to the Convention were discussed. Although free zones and ports have their own systems in place there is the need for improvement when transfers are done through regular port and customs procedures. A minimum degree of harmonization of basic terminology, administrative and operational procedures, and legislation are essential to overcoming present difficulties.

A weak point in the non-proliferation regime in the CWC is not free ports or free zones themselves but the general shipping issues of trying to intercept contraband that is passing as goods in transit and enforcement of international law on the high seas. These problems are not specific to free ports but to all ports. Free

ports and free zones are free from customs duties and taxes but are not free of control, so in principle the State Party should be able to implement the CWC in their free ports and free zones. States which have set up their free port or free zone to be completely outside the authority of customs have the extra job of requiring the port authority (who otherwise will be unaware of CWC requirements) to implement the CWC in the zone. It is all a question of proper regulations to monitor goods to prevent illegal activity. The obligation to monitor transfers and intercept contraband will pertain in free ports as in the rest of the State Party's territory.

Effective coordination between National Authorities and Customs is indispensable to assist the latter in efficiently reviewing scheduled chemicals listed in Convention "Annex on Chemicals" and improving the accuracy of the data provided to the OPCW.

Three elements were considered essential in assessing whether or not free zones and ports constitute an obstacle for the goals and objectives of the Convention. These three elements are: a) the existence of appropriate legislation to regulate free ports and zones, b) the existence of appropriate national implementing legislation, and c) clear terms of reference and the efficiency of the customs controls.

The role of the Customs enforcement is central to effective monitoring of chemical transfers in free ports

and zones. The primary functions include: revenue collection, environmental protection, information collection, trade compliance and trade facilitation

The need to review legislation on free zones and free ports to make it consistent with the Convention was underlined. This review includes: appropriate enforcement, detection, prevention and punishment of violations of export control laws, and establishment of effective penalties to deter possible violations.

Several issues were identified as matters of concern, including the lack of codes and clear identification of the merchandise, the lack of computerized tracking, changes in the routes or means of transport, transshipments, delays in the shipping, and re-exports.

Appropriate controls are necessary for transshipments which cause concern over smuggling and diversion of legitimate trade with harmful consequences not only for the implementation of the CWC but also for the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and acts of terrorism.

At the conclusion of this meeting it was recommended that there should be a follow-up to the discussions that took place in Barcelona. Argentina offered to host the next technical meeting in the near future.

Implementation Support

First Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Asia

Singapore, 29 to 31 October

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and The Government of Singapore jointly organised the First Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Asia from 29 to 31 October 2003. Around 40 participants from 28 States Parties of the OPCW participated in this three-day meeting: Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, China, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Philippines, Qatar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, and Yemen.

The Director-General of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW, Mr Rogelio Pfirter, noted in his opening address that, "Through full and effective compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), States Parties can make a decisive contribution to international peace and security. This is precisely the key role National Authorities are expected to play in the process. By ensuring that national industry makes accurate declarations, by assisting our inspection teams in their missions, or by advising national legislative branches in accordance with your constitutional procedures, you are providing the regime with the indispensable counterpart it needs to be operative."

National Authorities are government bodies established to implement the Convention's stipulations at

the national level. This meeting contributes to the ongoing efforts by the OPCW to establish a mechanism to support Member States in their national implementation of the Convention.

The objective of these conferences is to facilitate the exchange of information and experiences, to identify common problems and to facilitate their resolution through the cooperation of States Parties and the Secretariat, as well as to enhance the National Authority's self-sufficiency in implementing the Convention's stipulations.

During this workshops discussions took place to explain the aims and procedures of national implementation measures as stipulated under Article VII of the CWC. Representatives of the Asian and other interested National Authorities also had the opportunity to exchange information on the kind of systems and procedures that were in place to ensure the national implementation of the Convention. Deliberations also focused on the establishment of a regional network to support the continued implementation of the Convention, in particular in areas where collective action might be required, such as tracking transfers of scheduled chemicals, developing effective national implementing legislation, assistance and protection against chemical weapons, and procedures for clarification.

Assistance and Protection

Regional Capacity-Building Course and Exercise for South East Europe

Sozopol, Bulgaria, 22 to 26 September 2003

A regional capacity-building course and exercise for South East Europe was held in Sozopol, Bulgaria from 22 to 26 September 2003. This event co-organized by the Bulgarian State Agency for Civil Protection and the Technical Secretariat and drew participants from the following States Parties: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Greece, Romania, Slovenia, Serbia and Montenegro, and Turkey.

The theoretical part of the event covered lectures from the host country, the participating States Parties and the Technical Secretariat aimed at exploring the ways and means to enhance regional cooperation in the areas of civil protection against chemical weapons. This region enjoys both the technical means and the expertise in the field of protection that can also be utilized for the capacity building in other regions.

In conjunction with the course, the Secretariat participated in a table-top exercise organized by the Bulgarian Emergency Response system and the Permanent District Commission for Protection of the Population in the case of Disasters, Accidents and Catastrophes of the Council of Ministers of Bulgaria. This table top exercise was aimed at testing the capacity of Bulgaria in response to chemical release, as well as a preparation for the subsequent field exercise.

On the exercise day, the participants observed "Defence 2003", which was conducted in a declared chemical plant in Burgas, the Black Sea.

The Exercise covered the following objectives:

1. Planning, preparation and information exchange (table top exercise phase);
2. Containment of the consequences of an accident in connection with a release of toxic substance into the environment after a terrorist attack on a petrochemical complex;
3. Civil Protection response (evacuation of a village and medical response triage).

During the initial meeting, chaired by Mrs Filiz Husmenova, Head of the Council of Ministers for Bulgarian Emergency Response, briefings were presented on response to actual emergency situations.

Participants were invited to observe the simulated terrorist attack on an industrial production line and the response from the police and facility response teams, handover of individual protective equipment to civil population of the threatened village, evacuation and medical response.

The exercise was carried out in a very professional way indicating the degree of seriousness with which the States Parties in this region regard preparation against the possible use of chemical weapons.

The participants agreed to carry out similar exercises on an annual basis in the region to develop and maintain the regional capacity against chemical weapons.

National Protection Course in Qatar

Doha, Qatar, 5 to 9 October 2003

The State of Qatar, in preparation for the Asian Olympic Games in 2006, has embarked upon improving its response system against weapons of mass destruction. In order to enhance the national capacity to provide civil protection against chemical weapons, the Technical Secretariat was asked for assistance, invoking paragraph 5 of Article X. A two-day assessment visit by the Assistance and Protection Branch of the OPCW Technical Secretariat took place from 18 to 19 March 2003. As part of the medium term project to this end, a national protection course was held in Doha from 5 to 9 October this year.

The course was attended by 25 trainees coming from the Armed Forces and other agencies involved in preparation of response systems.

The theoretical component of the course included presentations on development of emergency response system, integration of first responders, behavior in chemical environment, detection, monitoring, the use of

personal protective equipment and medical countermeasures against a chemical weapons attack.

During the practical activities of the workshop, the trainees were divided into smaller groups carrying out decontamination exercises, detection and how to operate a contamination control station.

Alongside the course, separate meetings had been arranged with Qatari legal experts to discuss the implementing legislation for the Chemical Weapons Convention. During this period, discussions were also held for the continuation of the training for first responders, including an advance course and conduct of exercises jointly with the Technical Secretariat.

This project is expected to continue up to the inauguration of the Olympic Games for Asia in 2006 with more rigorous scenario-based exercises being conducted in 2004 and 2005.

Assistance and Protection

Seventh Annual Assistance Coordination Workshop

Rosersberg, Sweden, 13 to 17 October 2003

The seventh annual assistance coordination workshop was held from 13 to 17 October 2003 at the Swedish Rescue Services College, Rosersberg training centre. Fifty-one representatives from 40 Member States (Albania, Algeria, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Hungary, India, Iran, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Palau, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Serbia & Montenegro, Slovakia, Swaziland, Switzerland, Togo, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan and Sweden) and five staff members from the Secretariat participated in the workshop.

In her opening statement, Ms Anne Mari Lau-Eriksson, Head of Sweden's National Authority, elaborated on the structure of the Authority, which is part of the National Inspectorate of Strategic Products and is also the authority for export control of both military equipment and dual-use chemicals. The National Authority works closely with the Swedish Rescue Services Agency, which was tasked with establishing and organising the chemical support team, as part of Sweden's offer under paragraph 7 of Article X.

During this workshop presentations were made on the activities implemented under Article X during 2003 with an overview of assistance and protection programmes; relevant outcomes of the First Review Conference; offers of assistance under paragraph 7¹ of Article X ; and projects pursuant to paragraph 4² of Article X .

Participants provided national presentations, which included detailed presentations on two exercises: a chemical weapons terrorism exercise that was conducted in the London underground, mobilising rescue teams to assess the "level-of-preparedness" of the response system in the event of a release of toxic chemicals, and an exercise centred on a terrorist attack on a Bulgarian industrial facility in Burgas.

Other presentations focused on training facilities for international protection programmes, national protection programmes, the structure of national authorities, status of preparedness of emergency response systems and the challenges in dealing with emergency situations.

A "hands-on" exercise, supervised by Swedish instructors, was conducted. The exercise dealt with appropriate reaction and response to a simulated chemical weapons attack. The equipment used during the exercise was part of Sweden's offer under Article X.

Command and Control Centre presentations on various types of rescue operations were complemented by a demonstration of individual protective equipment (by NBC Sweden). Discussions during this meeting addressed future exercises, which would strengthen regional cooperation in the delivery of assistance and protection; more attention to command and control aspects; and a wider coverage of the medical aspects of dealing with a chemical weapons attack.

1) Each State Party undertakes to provide assistance through the Organization and to this end to elect to take one or more of the following measures: (a) to contribute to the voluntary fund for assistance to be established by the Conference at its first session; (b) To conclude, if possible not later than 180 days after this Convention enters into force for it, agreements with the Organization concerning the procurement, upon demand, of assistance; (c) To declare, not later than 180 days after this Convention enters into force for it, the kind of assistance it might provide in response to an appeal by the Organization. If however, a State Party subsequently is unable to provide the assistance envisaged in its declaration, it is still under the obligation to provide assistance in accordance with this paragraph.

2) For the purposes on increasing transparency of national programmes related to protective purposes, each State Party shall provide annually to the Technical Secretariat information on its programme, in accordance with procedures to be considered and approved by the Conference pursuant to Article VIII, paragraph 21 (i)

Medical Aspects of Defence against Chemical Weapons

Tehran, Iran, 25 to 29 October, 2003

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in conjunction with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, organised the sixth annual course on the medical aspects of defence against chemical weapons. The course was held from 25 to 29 October 2003 at the International Medical Centre for Training and Treatment against Chemical Weapons (IMCTTCW), situated in the Baghiyatollah hospital in Tehran, Iran.

The purpose of the course was to assist Member States in the implementation of the programmes relating to the protection against chemical weapons and to improve their ability to make use of the medical assistance that may be provided in accordance with Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention. This was the first course in this series that was presented for a specific regional group, having been made available for the medical personnel of the Central Asian Region. All proceedings of the course were simultaneously interpreted into the Russian language to allow a full exchange of information and ideas. Twenty-five persons representing eight countries participated.

The course consisted of a theoretical section, where students received lectures on the nature and effects of chemical weapons. This was followed by an overview of international efforts to control and eliminate chemical weapons, in which the content, organs, and activities of the Chemical Weapons Convention were described. They were introduced to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and updated on current progress in its work to implement the Convention. The course also covered theoretical aspects of the main pillars of defence against chemical weapons – detection and recognition of chemical

attack, methodology of protection, and the processes required for contamination control.

After receiving theoretical lectures on the long term effects of mustard gas, the attending doctors had the opportunity to attend clinical teaching sessions in the Baghiyatollah hospital where they examined patients who are suffering from these effects. Around 100,000 Iranians were exposed to chemical weapons during the war with Iraq during the 1980's, and approximately 30,000 are still being monitored in a rehabilitation and follow-up program. The students attended three clinics (ophthalmology, dermatology, and pulmonology) where, under the guidance of specialist Iranian physicians, they were able to see at first hand the chronic debilitating effects caused by mustard gas exposure.

In the final module of the course, the students travelled to the Distance Learning Center of the Shaheed Behesti University for Medical Sciences, where they participated in a computer-assisted self-learning program. They were able to interactively explore teaching modules involving audio-visual material from actual chemical weapons incidents, including casualty scenarios from the Iran/Iraq war, and the Tokyo subway sarin incident. This section of the course provided an insight into the innovative techniques being utilised to educate Iranian medical students regarding the medical aspects of chemical defence.

The course enabled the participants to gain a broad understanding of the nature of chemical weapons, and the problems they might encounter if they are involved in national and international responses to chemical weapons incidents.

The Regional Workshop on Assistance and Protection Against Chemical Weapons

Viña del Mar, Chile, 3 to 6 November 2003

The Regional Workshop on Assistance and Protection against Chemical Weapons that was jointly organised by the Government of the Republic of Chile and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) took place in Viña del Mar, Chile from 3 to 6 November 2003. The workshop focused on implementation of Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in Latin America and the Caribbean region. It was intended for personnel from the Member States of the region who are responsible for determining and preparing for civilian protection against threats arising from chemical weapons and their use. 27 participants from 17 regional countries and 30 participants and observers from the host country attended the course.

The Director-General in his opening remarks to the workshop stated that the region had been fortunate in the past not to have faced any attack or threat of use of chemical weapons. However in the aftermath of terrorist attacks on the United States on 11 September 2001 and the changes that have occurred in the international security landscape, the possibility of use of weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons, by terrorists can no longer be excluded. Member States in this region are taking a fresh approach to implementation of Article X both with regard to national capacity building and international capacity to deal with this menace emanating from possibility of use of chemical weapons by terrorists. The Technical Secretariat stands ready to render its support to Member States in their endeavor to enhance their protection capacity against chemical weapons in accordance with provisions of Article X, the Director-General added.

The participants attending this workshop also provided an overview of the concerns and challenges facing their respective Member States in the event of a chemical weapons threat. They emphasised the following requirements in the region.

1. training in dealing with chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats;

2. adequate equipment,
3. education and training for protection of civilians in the event of use of chemical weapons by terrorists;
4. a study or contingency plans against chemical weapons attacks

The Workshop ended with an exercise by the Chilean first responders to a large chemical industry facility release of chemicals. This scenario involved the release of chlorine, leading to a significant number of casualties. The exercise was broadcast on national television programmes.

In conclusion, the participants proposed the following course of action:

1. The workshop has identified needs and requirements of the region at national level. This matter needs to be put in broader perspective of dealing with assistance and protection in the day-to-day life of our nations;
2. The workshop proposed establishment of more intensive coordination among Member States in the region including establishment of a network of protection experts for Latin American and the Caribbean region;
3. Peru is proposing to host the next regional workshop on assistance and protection in 2004; and,
4. The regional network of protection experts will explore the possibility of evaluating and concretizing other ideas and projects.

Suggestions were also made to start the project at sub-regional level as well. Chile proposed its idea of an electronic platform for the region and it was proposed that the Technical Secretariat dispatch an expert team during the early part of 2004 to evaluate and assess the needs and requirements of the Member States of the region in terms of training for civilian population. The workshop can be considered a watershed for the development and maintenance of a regional capacity against chemical weapons.

Workshop and Exhibition on National Response Systems to Protect against Chemical Emergencies

The Hague, The Netherlands, 19 to 20 November 2003

The annual workshop on protection against chemical weapons was held at the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) headquarters on 19 and 20 November 2003. The theme of this year's workshop was the "National Response Systems to Protect against Chemical Emergencies". An exhibition of protection and detection equipment was held concurrently.

The workshop and the exhibition followed the reaffirmation by the First Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (First Review Conference) of the continuing relevance and importance both of the provisions of Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention and of the activities of the OPCW in relation to assistance and protection against chemical weapons.

The First Review Conference noted that these activities had gained additional relevance in the contemporary security context, and it reaffirmed that the Secretariat should continue with the activities it has undertaken to further improve the situation in this area, including providing expert advice to develop and improve national protective capacities, ensuring that the OPCW can facilitate the delivery of assistance when requested to do so by any Member State, and developing the OPCW's data bank on protection that contains publicly available information, concerning various means of protection against chemical weapons, as well as such information as may be provided by States Parties.

Additionally, the First Review Conference noted concerns related to the possibility that chemical facilities may become the object of attack, which could lead to the deliberate release, or the theft, of toxic chemicals. It noted that some States Parties had taken measures to

minimize these risks, and in this context recalled that the OPCW had been established as a forum for consultation and cooperation among the States Parties. It stated that States Parties could, if they so decided, make use of this framework to exchange experiences and to discuss issues related to this matter.

All Member States of the OPCW have committed themselves never to use chemical weapons. Yet protection against the use, or threat of use, of chemical weapons remains a crucial task for the Organisation. Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) obliges all States Parties to assist and protect their fellow States Parties in the event of the threat of use, or use, of chemical weapons against any of them.

Over 100 participants attended the workshop which focused on the means to strengthen each Member State's own capacity to protect its population against chemical emergencies. In addition, 15 companies displayed state-of-the-art, protection-related technology to deal with emergency situations arising out of the use or threat of use of chemical weapons.

The presentations at the workshop included national papers from the following member states : United States of America, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland, Czech Republic, South Africa, Australia, Netherlands, Russian Federation; and a presentation from NATO

The next OPCW Protection Week 2004 is scheduled for 17 to 18 November 2004

New Arrivals

New Permanent Representatives



CHINA

H. E. Mrs Xue Hanqin, the Permanent Representative of China to the OPCW, presented her credentials to the Director-General, Mr Rogelio Pfirter, on 19 September 2003. She is concurrently accredited as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the

Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Prior to taking up her present assignment, Ambassador Xue Hanqin was the Director-General, Law and Treaty Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from 1999 to 2003. Ambassador Xue Hanqin is the Vice-President of the Chinese Society of International law and Vice-President and Council member of the Chinese Society of Private International Law. She is also a member of the International Law Commission.

Ambassador Xue Hanqin has been a member and the

head of the Chinese delegation to a number of international conferences and treaty negotiations from 1980 to 2000, in the field of outer space law, nuclear liability, environmental law, antiterrorism and private international law. She has also been a chief negotiator in many bilateral treaty negotiations between the People's Republic of China and other countries.

Ambassador Xue Hanqin has written books and articles exclusively on the subjects relating to international law, which were published in such law journals as the Chinese Yearbook of International Law, The Colorado Journal of International Environmental Law and Policy and Studies in International Affairs.

Ambassador Xue Hanqin received her doctoral and master degree in law (J.S. D. and LL.M.) from Colombia University School of Law.

She is married and has one daughter.



RUSSIA

H.E. Mr Kirill Goratsiyevitch Gevorgian, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation, presented his credentials to the Director-General, Mr Rogelio Pfirter, on 19 September 2003. He is concurrently accredited as Ambassador Extraordinary and

Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Ambassador Gevorgian, a career diplomat, joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1975. He has worked in

the Russian Embassy in Paris, France during the period 1993 to 1997. Subsequently, in 1997 he was appointed as the Deputy Director of the Legal Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Russia.

Ambassador Gevorgian graduated from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Russia.

He is fluent in English and French.

Ambassador Gevorgian is married and has two children.



BRAZIL

H.E. Mr Gilberto Vergne Saboia, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Brazil, presented his credentials to the Director-General, Mr Rogelio Pfirter, on 22 September 2003. He is concurrently accredited as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of

the Netherlands.

Ambassador Saboia joined the Brazilian Diplomatic Service in 1966. He has since served in various capacities in the Brazilian diplomatic missions in Washington D.C., Guatemala, Brazilian Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, and at the Permanent Mission to the Organization of American States, in Washington D.C. He also served as Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil, to the International Organizations based in Geneva and afterwards as Ambassador to Sweden.

Ambassador Saboia has vast experience in the realm of issues dealing with Human Rights and has participated in a number of international conferences dealing with this issue, including the UN Human Rights Commission, the Executive Committee of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the Conference for the Establishment of an International Criminal Court. He was selected as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna; and President of the UN Human Rights Commission.

Ambassador Saboia has also held the position of Under Secretary General for Bilateral Political Affairs and as Under Secretary General for Political Affairs within the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2002 to 2003.

He graduated from the Law School at the Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro.

Ambassador Saboia is married and has three children.



FIJI

H.E. Mr Isikeli Uluinairai Mataitoga, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Fiji to the OPCW, presented his credentials to the Director-General, Mr Rogelio Pfirter, on 22 September 2003.

Ambassador Isikeli Mataitoga is currently Fiji's Ambassador to the European Union and to eight EU member states, including the Kingdom of Belgium. He is also the Permanent Representative of the Fiji Islands to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Rome.

Since 1 February 2003, he has assumed the Chairmanship of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors. In that capacity, he is directly involved with the

Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations, with the EU and the ACP preparation of the Doha Development Agenda in the build-up to the 5th WTO Ministerial Meeting in Cancun, Mexico in September 2003. He is also Chairman of the ACP Consultative Group on Sugar and the ACP Ambassadorial Spokesperson on Trade in Services for the EPA negotiations.

Before embarking on his diplomatic career, Ambassador Mataitoga held the post of Solicitor General and Permanent Secretary for Justice in the Fiji Government for 5 years. He also held the post of Director of Public Prosecution for 6 years.

He holds a degree in Bachelor of Laws (LLB) and Master of Laws (Hons) from Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand.



GUATEMALA

H.E. Mr Alfonso Matta Fahsen, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Guatemala to the OPCW, presented his credentials to the Director-General, Mr Rogelio Pflirter, on 26 September 2003. He is concurrently accredited as Ambassador Extraordinary and

Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Ambassador Matta Fahsen is a career diplomat who joined the Foreign Service of Guatemala in 1969. He has served in a number of posts, including Spain and Chile. He was appointed as his country's representative to Colombia (1991 to 1994), during which he

developed and created the Colombian/Central American Chamber of Commerce. He was subsequently posted to the Russian Federation from 1994 to 2003.

Ambassador Matta Fahsen was the representative of the Education Ministry of Guatemala to the Iberoamerican Education Office (O.I.E.), Spain and was also a member of the Consular Corps of Madrid. In Chile, he was an Executive Member of the Chilean/Guatemalan Chamber of Commerce during the period 1988 to 1991.

He is fluent in Spanish, English, French and Russian, and understands Italian.

Ambassador Matta Fahsen is married and has children.



SINGAPORE

H.E. Professor Walter Woon, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Singapore to the OPCW, presented his credentials to the Director-General, Mr Rogelio Pflirter, on 13 October 2003. He is concurrently accredited as Ambassador Extraordinary and Pleni-

potentiary to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, with concurrent accreditation to the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the European Commission and the Holy See.

Prior to his present assignment, Ambassador Woon was Singapore's Ambassador to Germany from 1998 to July 2003 and was concurrently accredited to Greece (March 2000 to July 2003).

Professor Woon is an advocate and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore. He was the Legal Advisor

to the President and Council of Presidential Advisors from 1995 to 1997. He was a nominated Member of Parliament from 1992 to 1996.

Professor Woon joined the National University of Singapore in 1981 and was appointed as Sub-Dean of the Faculty of Law (1988 to 1991) and subsequently took over as the Vice-Dean of the Faculty (1991 to 1995). He remains a Professor at the Law Faculty of the National University of Singapore and is the author of several legal textbooks.

He graduated from the National University of Singapore with LLB in 1981 and also received his master's in the same subject in 1983 from Cambridge University.

He is married and has two children.



BANGLADESH

H.E. Mr Liaquat Ali Choudhury, the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the OPCW, presented his credentials to the Director-General, Mr Rogelio Pfirter, on 15 October 2003. He is concurrently accredited as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to

the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Ambassador Choudhury, a career diplomat, joined the Bangladesh Foreign Service in 1979. He worked in the International Organization Division of the Foreign Ministry of Bangladesh until 1981, followed by a study year at the Institut International d'Administration Publique, Paris France. He has served in the Bangladesh missions in Geneva, New York and New Delhi.

From April 2001 to December 2001, Ambassador Choudhury was the Director-General of Multilateral Economic Affairs, United Nations, International Organizations and South Asia within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh.

He has participated as a member of the Bangladesh delegation, including meetings of the Human Rights Commission, Conference of Disarmament, all meetings of the UN General Assembly between 1988 and 1992, and also attended the Non-Aligned Summit in Kuala Lumpur and the Special Session of the OIC Foreign Ministers in Qatar in 2003.

Ambassador Choudhary received his Bachelor and Master of Arts in Economics from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.

He is married and has two children.



LATVIA

H.E. Mrs Baiba Laizāne, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Latvia to the OPCW, presented her credentials to the Director-General, Mr Rogelio Pfirter, on 15 October 2003. She is concurrently accredited as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to

the Netherlands.

Prior to her present assignment, Ambassador Laizāne was the Director of the 1st Political Department in the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She also served as the Foreign Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister of Latvia from 1998 to 1999.

Ambassador Laizāne has been dealing with issues relating to international organisations and was a Counsellor at the task force for the Preparation of the EU Accession Negotiations within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Before that she served in the Latvian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York.

She is a lawyer by education and also has a Master's degree in Social Sciences from the University of Latvia. She is fluent in Latvian, English and Russian, and has a basic knowledge of French.

She is married.



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

H.E. Mr Learie Rousseau, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the OPCW, presented his credentials to the Director-General, Mr Rogelio Pfirter, on 14 November 2003. He is concurrently accredited as Ambassador

Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdoms of Belgium and the Netherlands, the Holy See, the European Communities, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Swiss Confederation and the French Republic.

Ambassador Rousseau joined the Foreign Service in 1971 and has held several important positions within his Ministry, including: Deputy Chief of Protocol and Director of Administration. He has also served in New York as the Consul General of Trinidad and Tobago

from 1990 to 1995. In 1996 he was appointed Acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ambassador Rousseau has been part of the Trinidad and Tobago delegations to African, Caribbean and Pacific Group (ACP) negotiations in 1973 to the Caribbean/United States Summit in Barbados (May 1997), and member of the Cabinet?Appointed Follow?up Committee for Justice and Security Issues arising from the 1997 Caribbean/US Summit.

He is fluent in English and has very good working knowledge of French and Spanish.

He graduated in Economics from Iona College, New Rochelle, New York in 1970 and received a Certificate in Diplomacy from Oxford University, UK in 1975.

He is married.



URUGUAY

H.E. Mr Carlos Gianelli Derois, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uruguay, presented his credentials to the Director-General, Mr Rogelio Pfirter, on 13 November 2003. He is concurrently accredited as Ambassador

Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Ambassador Gianelli Derois joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1976. He was the Director of the International Technical Cooperation Office in the Secretary of Planning at the Presidency of the Republic Office. Ambassador Gianelli Derois has served in the Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations, New York from 1987 to 1991. In his capacity of Alternate Representative of Uruguay, he acted as Vice-Chairman of the Second Commission of the General

Assembly and Chairman of UNDP Governing Council in 1990 and, subsequently, was appointed as the Ambassador of Uruguay to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for a two-year period until 1993.

He returned to the Foreign Affairs Ministry in 1993 as Director-General of Political Affairs, after which he represented Uruguay in Mexico from 1995 to 2000. Following this, he took over as he Director-General for Economic Affairs, Foreign Affairs Ministry between 2000 and 2003.

Ambassador Gianelli Derois graduated from the Faculty of Law from the University of Uruguay in 1975 and did his master's degree in social studies from Bariloche Foundation Rio Negro, Argentina.

He is married and has 3 children.



OPCW Preparatory Commission History Project

Progress Report No 3 (August to October 2003)

Netherlands Government makes financial contribution and promises help.

Meeting planned for early 2004 to work on history of the Netherlands bid.

Kenyon and Feakes visit The Hague for CSP8 and contact delegations and staff

Contact with former Directors of the OPCW Foundation who start to check archives

Project team activities

The relocation of the Harvard Sussex Program into the Freeman Centre at the University of Sussex is now almost complete and the team have been able to start the process of locating papers relevant to the initial tasks we have set ourselves. As usual in such cases some of the papers we believe to be important as starting points are in the missing volumes of otherwise complete sets of papers but we will find them elsewhere.

We continue to seek sources of finance and in this regard wish to record our gratitude to the Foreign Ministry of the Netherlands, who have made us a significant grant. We hope that other member state governments will feel able to contribute also. We can supply budgetary and other details to any delegation which would be prepared to consider a formal application for support.

Ian Kenyon and Daniel Feakes were able to use the opening days of the Eighth CSP in October to make contacts among both delegations and former members of the PTS. Ian also used a visit to New York that month to bring the project to the attention of senior members of the UN Department of Disarmament Affairs.

Seat

In pursuance of the sub-project on the selection of The Hague as seat of the organisation and the subsequent operation of the Host Country Bid we have established formal contact with the appropriate branch of the Netherlands MFA and with the former directorate of the OPCW Foundation. It has been confirmed that the Foundation Archives are in a good condition and work has been put in hand to translate the index from Dutch to English. The MFA is considering the degree of transparency which might be permitted with regard to government papers. It is intended to hold a meeting in The Hague in the New Year between Project personnel, former Foundation staff and the MFA to progress this sub-project. In the meanwhile the project team will produce an outline for discussion.

Prologue

The first part of the project will cover events preceding the First Preparatory Commission Meeting in The Hague in February 1993, including work in Geneva and New York on the initial budget; the adoption of UNGA Resolution 47/39 and its associated UN responsibilities; and the drafting and adoption of the Paris Resolution. We have identified some of the key documents and the main players and will be producing a preliminary discussion document on these issues also in the next period.

Scoping exercise

The other key initial activity is creating some kind of chart indicating all the main activities of the Preparatory Commission and their timelines. This work has been started but is likely to be a large task and to require continuous updating as we gather more material.

Contacts

We have started to receive offers of help from former members of national delegations and the PTS. As we receive contact details we ask for a preliminary statement of the particular activities of the Preparatory Commission with which the individual was engaged and the timeframe. This information will then enable us to send detailed questions to the right people as we reach different sections of the project. We are encouraged that so many former colleagues are prepared to help us in this task.

We are still anxious to hear from all those others who were involved in the task of creating OPCW, whether in the PTS or from the side of Member States. Please contact us:

OPCW PC History Project
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Status of Participation in the CWC

Formal notifications as at 15 November 2003

Number of States Parties — 157

Number of signatory States which had not yet ratified — 22

Number of States which have not signed or acceded — 15

States Parties

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Afghanistan | 43. Ethiopia | 85. Mexico | 125. Slovakia |
| 2. Albania | 44. Fiji | 86. Micronesia (Federated States of) | 126. Slovenia |
| 3. Algeria | 45. Finland | 87. Monaco | 127. South Africa |
| 4. Andorra | 46. France | 88. Mongolia | 128. Spain |
| 5. Argentina | 47. Gabon | 89. Morocco | 129. Sri Lanka |
| 6. Armenia | 48. Gambia | 90. Mozambique | 130. Sudan |
| 7. Australia | 49. Georgia | 91. Namibia | 131. Suriname |
| 8. Austria | 50. Germany | 92. Nauru | 132. Swaziland |
| 9. Azerbaijan | 51. Ghana | 93. Nepal | 133. Sweden |
| 10. Bahrain | 52. Greece | 94. Netherlands | 134. Switzerland |
| 11. Bangladesh | 53. Guatemala | 95. New Zealand | 135. Tajikistan |
| 12. Belarus | 54. Guinea | 96. Nicaragua | 136. Thailand |
| 13. Belgium | 55. Guyana | 97. Niger | 137. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia |
| 14. Benin | 56. Holy See | 98. Nigeria | 138. Togo |
| 15. Bolivia | 57. Hungary | 99. Norway | 139. Tonga |
| 16. Bosnia and Herzegovina | 58. Iceland | 100. Oman | 140. Trinidad and Tobago |
| 17. Botswana | 59. India | 101. Pakistan | 141. Tunisia |
| 18. Brazil | 60. Indonesia | 102. Palau | 142. Turkey |
| 19. Brunei Darussalam | 61. Iran (Islamic Republic of) | 103. Panama | 143. Turkmenistan |
| 20. Bulgaria | 62. Ireland | 104. Papua New Guinea | 144. Uganda |
| 21. Burkina Faso | 63. Italy | 105. Paraguay | 145. Ukraine |
| 22. Burundi | 64. Jamaica | 106. Peru | 146. United Arab Emirates |
| 23. Cameroon | 65. Japan | 107. Philippines | 147. United Kingdom of Great Britain and N. Ireland |
| 24. Canada | 66. Jordan | 108. Poland | 148. United Republic of Tanzania |
| 25. Cape Verde | 67. Kazakhstan | 109. Portugal | 149. Timor Leste |
| 26. Chile | 68. Kenya | 110. Qatar | 150. United States of America |
| 27. China | 69. Kiribati | 111. Republic of Korea | 151. Uruguay |
| 28. Colombia | 70. Kuwait | 112. Republic of Moldova | 152. Uzbekistan |
| 29. Cook Islands | 71. Kyrgyzstan | 113. Romania | 153. Venezuela |
| 30. Costa Rica | 72. Lao (People's Dem. Rep.) | 114. Russian Federation | 154. Viet Nam |
| 31. Côte d'Ivoire | 73. Latvia | 115. Saint Lucia | 155. Yemen |
| 32. Croatia | 74. Lesotho | 116. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | 156. Zambia |
| 33. Cuba | 75. Liechtenstein | 117. Samoa | 157. Zimbabwe |
| 34. Cyprus | 76. Lithuania | 118. San Marino | |
| 35. Czech Republic | 77. Luxembourg | 119. Sao Tome and Principe | |
| 36. Denmark | 78. Malawi | 120. Saudi Arabia | |
| 37. Dominica | 79. Malaysia | 121. Senegal | |
| 38. Ecuador | 80. Maldives | 122. Serbia and Montenegro | |
| 39. El Salvador | 81. Mali | 123. Seychelles | |
| 40. Equatorial Guinea | 82. Malta | 124. Singapore | |
| 41. Eritrea | 83. Mauritania | | |
| 42. Estonia | 84. Mauritius | | |

Chemical Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Figures

As at November 2003

Number of States Parties Inspected since Entry into Force	58
Number of Inspections since Entry into Force	1,596
Number of sites inspected since Entry into Force	678
Number of inspection Days since entry into force	88,409
Number of sites or facilities declared	5,655

100% of the declared chemical weapons production facilities have been inactivated.

100% of the declared chemical weapons have been inventoried.

11% of the declared global stockpile of 70,000 tons of chemical agents has been destroyed.

Over 1,600 inspections have taken place on the territory of 58 States Parties since April 1997.

Out of the 61 declared chemical weapons production facilities, 40 have been certified as destroyed or converted.

	Declaring States Parties	Declared Sites or Facilities	Inspections to Date	Number of Sites Inspected
Chemical Weapons Production Facilities*	11	61	294	63
Chemical Weapon Destruction Facilities	4	39	372	26
Chemical Weapons Storage Facilities	5	33	217	34
Abandoned Chemical Weapons	3	15	22	17
Old Chemical Weapons	10	42	50	27
Schedule 1	21	27	123	34
Schedule 2	35	432	230	199
Schedule 3	34	509	115	115
Discrete Organic Chemicals	61	4,497	163	163
TOTALS		5,655	1,586	678

Figures as at 24 November 2003

*Declaring States Parties include Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, France, India, Iran, Japan, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States, Serbia and Montenegro, and another State Party. Please note that of the 61 declared CWPPF's, 40 have been certified as destroyed or converted.

Total weight of declared chemical agents	~70 thousand metric tonnes
Total number of declared munitions/containers	~8.6 million items
Total destroyed agent	~7,9 thousand metric tonnes
Total destroyed munitions	~1.9 million items
Number of Chemical Weapons Production Facilities destroyed	30
Number of Chemical Weapons Production Facilities converted	11
Initial declarations received	147
Implementing legislation submitted	94
National Authorities established	128
Laboratories designated	15
States that have pledged assistance under para. 7 of Article X	58
States that have provided information on national programs related to protective purposes, paragraph 4 of Article X	45
States that have contributed to the Voluntary Fund for Assistance	31
Balance of the Voluntary Fund for Assistance	EUR 1,013,593

Figures as at 24 November 2003



OPCW inspector on exercise

Fostering Awareness of the CWC and the Peaceful Uses of Chemistry

Activities organised/sponsored by the OPCW from July 1997 to October 2003

Event Type	No. of events	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Associate Programme	4				1	1	1	1
Conference Support Programme	56	1	6	11	11	4	6	16
Equipment Exchange Programme	3		2	1				
Internship Support Programme	22			3	9	2	3	4
Laboratory Assistance Programme	9	1	2	1	4			1
National Authorities Courses-Advance	5			3	1	1		
National Authorities Courses-Basic	15	2	3	3	2	1	3	1
National Authorities Meetings & Preparatory	7			1	2	1	2	1
National Authorities Regional Meetings	4				1	1	1	1
Other Courses	4			2	1		1	
Other Meetings	18		1	6	6		2	3
Other Seminars	8		1	4	2		1	
Other Workshops	7		1	2	2	1	1	
Regional Courses	8		1	1	6			
Regional Implementation Courses	9		1	2			1	5
Research Projects Programme	99		9	29	4	13	21	23
Support for National Authorities	2			1	1			
Training Assistance & Protection Programme	28		2	7	5	3	7	4
Workshops in Assistance	5			1	2	1	1	

Chemical Disarmament,
Vol. 1, No. 4, December 2003

Editorial Team

Peter Kaiser, Aabha Dixit, Tarso Calixto, Pere Mora Romà

Photographs provided by:

Carole Dunk

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 Scott Spence – Harvard Sussex Program Researcher at the OPCW
 Lisa Tabassi – Legal Officer
 Keith Wilson – Political Affairs Officer

OPCW Events

December 2003

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 2-5 December | 35th Session of the Executive Council
OPCW Headquarters, The Hague, the Netherlands |
| 8-10 December | Regional Workshop on Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention
Saudi Arabia |
-

Other Events

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| From 9 September | United Nations General Assembly: 58th Session at the United Nations
New York |
| 24 Nov-5 Dec | 23rd Session of the International Maritime Organization & Maritime Transport of Nuclear Material & Waste
IMO Headquarters, London, U.K. |
| 1-5 December | Annual Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects
Geneva, Switzerland |
| 8-12 December | First Meeting of Group of Governmental Experts on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development
United Nations, New York |

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