

Chemical Disarmament

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ABOLISHING CHEMICAL WEAPONS GLOBALLY:
SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

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CHEMICAL INDUSTRY'S RESPONSIBLE CARE
PROGRAMME

BERNHARD THIER



OPCW COMPLETES NINTH ASSOCIATE PROGRAMME



OBITUARY: IAN KENYON



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Foreword to the September 2008 issue of the Chemical Disarmament Quarterly

By: Ambassador Rogelio Pflirter, OPCW Director-General

In presenting the September 2008 issue of the Chemical Disarmament quarterly journal, I am pleased to inform our readers that a second State Party has completed the destruction of its declared chemical weapons stockpile, and that a third is poised to do so in the near future. I wish to congratulate these States Parties for their determined efforts to fulfil their obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).



This progress reinforces the importance of the CWC and creates anticipation about the complete destruction of the remaining stockpiles within the given time frame. As of 1 September 2008 over 40% of the total declared stockpiles of chemical weapons have been verifiably destroyed, as have 36%

of the declared munitions and containers.

To act on the guidance provided by the Second Review Conference, the Technical Secretariat has forwarded several Article VI initiatives for consideration by the Executive Council. In an era of fast-changing technological developments in the chemical industry, it is vital that the verification regime of the Convention remains adequately flexible to meet the emerging challenges. At the same time, close interaction with the chemical industry is crucial to keep abreast of trends in the industry.

Universal adherence is a quest that continues to have high priority for the Organisation. We presently count 184 Member States in the OPCW family and continue with our efforts to engage those States remaining outside the Convention to join at the earliest. I remain confident that decision-makers in these States will recognise the benefits of joining the Convention.

Elimination of chemical weapons and the prevention of chemicals being used for purposes prohibited by the Convention are fundamental to the efforts by States Parties to effectively and fully implement their obligations. National implementation is a crucial objective for the Organisation, and to ensure this all States Parties need to put in place the necessary legal measures. National Authorities have contributed articles in this issue on their efforts to implement different facets of the Convention. I thank them for their contributions.

It is abundantly clear to me that the impetus provided by the Plan of Action regarding implementation of Article VII obligations, and the excellent collaboration amongst States Parties and the Technical Secretariat to achieve the objective of full national implementation, continues to produce tangible results.

In this issue you will find useful information on a number of events and activities undertaken by the OPCW to enhance national capacities in the peaceful uses of chemistry, national implementation, and assistance and protection in the event of a chemical threat or attack. These activities clearly underscore the importance that Member States attach to pursuing the goals of this Convention and the active role they play in ensuring its success.

Obituary: Mr Ian Kenyon



Mr Ian Kenyon

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing away of Mr Ian Kenyon, the Executive Secretary of the OPCW Preparatory Commission.

Ian Kenyon was a highly distinguished British diplomat and a respected international civil servant. He went to Edinburgh University to study chemical engineering, graduating with a first-class honours degree in 1962. In 1974 he joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and after serving for two years as a First Secretary at the FCO in London he was posted to the UK Delegation at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

In 1979 he was promoted to Head of Chancery in Bogota, Columbia. After returning to London in 1982, the following year he became the Head of the Nuclear Energy Department in the FCO.

In 1986-87 Mr Kenyon was an Inspector with the Diplomatic Service Overseas Inspectorate and in 1988

returned to Geneva as the Deputy Leader of the UK Delegation at the Conference on Disarmament. Between 1988 and 1992, he led the UK delegation in New York at the United Nations Disarmament Committee and at the Partial Test Ban Treaty Amendment Conference.

In 1993, he took leave from the UK Diplomatic Service to serve as the Executive Secretary of the OPCW PrepCom in The Hague, a post he held until 1997 when he retired from the FCO.

Mr Kenyon then became a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the Mountbatten Centre for International Studies, Southampton University. In 2003, he became, in addition, a Senior Fellow at the Science and Technology Policy Research Unit at Sussex University. He was still working on chemical and nuclear disarmament issues almost up to the time of his death.

He co-edited two books: *Deterrence and the Changing Security Environment* (2006) and *The*

Creation of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons: A case study in the birth of an intergovernmental organization (2007). He also wrote a number of articles about arms control and disarmament dealing with biological and chemical weapon issues.

Mr Kenyon was a source of guidance and wisdom to

his colleagues and a fine lecturer. His dedication to disarmament for over 30 years was an inspiration.

The OPCW family has lost an individual who contributed greatly to building the Organisation. His expertise in the field of international security and disarmament was greatly valued and he will be deeply missed by those who knew him.

POLICY-MAKING ORGANS

Summary of the Fifty-Third Session of the Executive Council

The Chairperson of the Executive Council, Ambassador Oksana Tomová of Slovakia, opened its Fifty-Third Session on 24 June 2008.



H.E. Mrs Oksana Tomová

The Council, bearing in mind Rules 50 and 22 of its Rules of Procedure, considered a request from Iraq, a State not Party, and, accordingly, invited it to participate in the Fifty-Third Session of the Council as an observer.

The Vice-Chairpersons and coordinators for clusters of issues reported to the Council on informal consultations held during the intersessional period: Ambassador Werner Burkart of Germany on chemical weapons issues; Ambassador Benchaâ Dani of Algeria on chemical-industry and other Article VI issues; Ambassador Francisco José Aguilar de Beauvilliers Urbina of Costa Rica on administrative and financial issues; Mr Mohsen Naziri Asl on behalf of Ambassador Bozorgmehr Ziaran of the Islamic Republic of Iran on legal, organisational, and other issues; and Ms Annie-Claire Mari of France, the facilitator for the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism, on behalf of the Chairperson. The Chairperson also reported on her own activities and those of her predecessor on behalf of the Council during the intersessional period.

Detailed plans for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons

Further to its consideration of this issue at previous sessions, the Council considered and approved amendments to the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons at the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, Newport, Indiana, the United States of America.

Further to its consideration of this issue at previous sessions, the Council considered and approved the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of the Category 1 chemical weapons at the Maradykovsky chemical weapons destruction facility (CWDF), Kirovskaya oblast, the Russian Federation.

Further to its consideration of this issue at previous sessions, the Council considered and approved amendments to the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons

at the Pine Bluff Binary Destruction Facility, located in Pine Bluff Arsenal, Arkansas, the United States of America.

The Council considered and approved the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of the Category 1 chemical weapons at Leonidovka CWDF, Penzenskaya oblast, the Russian Federation.

The Council considered and approved a decision on the amendments to the detailed plan for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons at a CWDF in India, which had been submitted separately to the Council.

Facility agreements

Further to its consideration of this issue at previous sessions, the Council considered and approved the amendments to the facility agreement with the United States of America regarding on-site inspections at the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, Indiana, the United States of America.

Further to its consideration of this issue at previous sessions, the Council considered and approved the facility agreement with the Russian Federation regarding on-site inspections at the CWDF located in Maradykovsky, Kirovskaya oblast.

Further to its consideration of this issue at its previous session, the Council considered and approved a facility agreement with the Russian Federation regarding on-site inspections at the CWDF located at Leonidovka, Penzenskaya oblast.

The Secretariat has submitted to the Council at its previous session a Note on amendments to the facility arrangement with Canada regarding on-site inspections at a single small-scale facility (SSSF).

The amendments to the facility arrangement with Canada regarding on-site inspections at a SSSF have been submitted separately to the Council, which considered and approved them.

The Secretariat has submitted to the Council at its previous session a Note on amendments to the facility agreement with the Kingdom of Sweden regarding on-site inspections at a Schedule 1 facility.

The amendments to the facility agreement with the Kingdom of Sweden for a Schedule 1 facility have been submitted separately to the Council, which considered and approved them.

The Council considered and approved a decision on the amendments to the facility agreement between the OPCW and the Government of the Republic of India regarding on-site inspections at a CWDF, which had been submitted separately to the Council.

Revisions to the specifications for three items of approved inspection equipment

The Council considered a Note by the Director-General on revisions to the specifications for three items of approved inspection equipment. The Director-General distributed to States Parties for their review the proposed list of revisions to these technical specifications. The Council approved the revisions proposed.

Discrepancies regarding declaration of import and export data for Schedule 2 and 3 chemicals

The Council considered and approved a decision on the guidelines regarding declaration of import and export data for Schedule 2 and 3 chemicals.

The facilitator on this matter, Ms Kiwako Tanaka of Japan, briefed the Council on the consultations held during the intersessional period.

Draft report of the OPCW for 2007

The Council considered the Draft Report of the OPCW on the Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction in 2007, and forwarded it to the

Conference for consideration at its Thirteenth Session. The Council requested the Secretariat to post this document on the OPCW website, clearly indicating that it has yet to be considered and approved by the Conference.

OPCW Central Analytical Database

At the last session of the Council, the Director-General submitted a Note containing lists of new validated data for inclusion in the OPCW Central Analytical Database (OCAD). The Council considered further and approved said lists.

The Director-General submitted to this Session of the Council a Note containing lists of new validated data for inclusion in the OCAD. The Council considered and approved said lists.

Administrative and financial matters

The Council received the Draft Programme and Budget for 2009, which the Director General had submitted to it in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.4. The Council agreed that consultations on the draft would continue during the intersessional period with a view to the Council's considering it further at its next regular session and transmitting it, together with its recommendation and any amendments it deems appropriate, to the Conference at its Thirteenth Session.

The Council also received the Draft Medium-Term Plan for the period from 2009 to 2011.

Agreement on the privileges and immunities of the OPCW

The Council considered and concluded an agreement between the OPCW and the Republic of Ecuador on the privileges and immunities of the OPCW.

FEATURED ARTICLES

Nigeria's Commitment to the CWC and Support for the Chemical Weapons Disarmament Efforts of the OPCW

By: Dr Nimota Nihinlola Akanbi, Ambassador & Permanent Representative of Nigeria

Nigeria signed the Chemical Weapons Convention on 13 January 1993 and ratified it on 1 March 1999. Since becoming a Member State, Nigeria has strongly supported all efforts to achieve the fundamental objectives of the CWC to prohibit the production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer and use of chemical weapons, as well as their total destruction within a time-bound framework. Nigeria also attaches great importance to the fulfilment of Article X, which seeks to provide assistance and protection against the threat or use of chemical weapons, and of Article XI that promotes the peaceful uses of chemistry and the exchange of scientific and technical information.



The inexorable drive towards globalisation continues. In such a world, no nation can isolate itself from the consequences of terrorism, or discount the possibility of the use of chemicals as weapons. In view of this, one can say that what affects Europe, America and Asia can equally be felt by countries in Africa. As the saying goes, "When you throw a stone in a crowded market place, it could fall on one of your own." Consequently, the role of the CWC in the promotion of world peace and security cannot be over-emphasised. Nigeria has recognised the crucial role that the OPCW plays and unequivocally supports the OPCW's mission.

To implement the CWC the Federal Government of Nigeria established a National Authority, which serves as the national focal point for domestic implementation of the Convention. The Chemical Weapons Prohibition Bill 2005 for the domestication of the CWC in Nigeria is in the last stages of completion and approval by the National Assembly of the Nigeria.

In order to create awareness among the top echelon of the public service of the executive arm of government, parliamentarians and strategic stakeholders, a workshop was recently organized by the National Authority with the assistance of the OPCW to facilitate the implementation process.

The Federal Government of Nigeria is determined to meet its obligation under the CWC, especially to submit in a timely fashion its annual declarations to the OPCW for the import and export of scheduled chemicals. Nigeria has submitted its Aggregate National Declaration for the year 2007 and remained transparent in its dealings with the OPCW by

providing all information on its activities as and when required.

It is pertinent to note that the Federal Government further demonstrated its commitment to the objectives of the Convention by hosting the Third Annual Regional Meeting of National Authorities in Africa in October 2005. The meeting was significant as it provided momentum to the quest for universality in Africa as well as accelerated implementation of Article VII of the CWC by African States Parties. Recently, the Federal Government of Nigeria also responded to an appeal from the Secretariat for the funding of the Scientific Advisory Board by donating the sum of US \$10,000.

Nigeria through its National Authority has always taken advantage of the various programmes offered by the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the OPCW. Technically qualified Nigerian nationals have been selected for programmes like the Associate Programme and assistance and protection courses. Collaboration between the OPCW and the Federal Ministry of Environment, Housing and Urban Development in Nigeria and other partners was instrumental in organising a regional workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling (GHS) for implementation in the ECOWAS region.

With strong leadership provided by the OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter, the Organisation has been able to accomplish a number of important objectives in its relatively short span of existence. In conclusion, allow me to also reiterate the total commitment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the objectives of the CWC, for the total destruction of chemical weapons, the non-proliferation goals of the CWC and the promotion of the peaceful uses of chemistry.

The Chemical Industry's Responsible Care® Programme Reflects its Commitment to Non-Proliferation

By: Bernhard Thier, Responsible Care Manager, European Chemical Industry Council

The accomplishment of the objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and ensuring the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are vital to the maintenance of international peace and security.



The chemical industry supports these objectives unconditionally and actively seeks to cooperate with governments to effectively implement the requirements of the CWC relating to the monitoring of trade in chemicals, as well as ensuring the non-diversion of the

chemicals produced at industrial facilities. This support for the objectives of the CWC is deeply rooted in the chemical industry's voluntary Responsible Care initiative. The effective implementation of the requirements of the CWC is an important tool employed by the industry to fulfil its commitment to Responsible Care and to the management of chemicals world wide.

Since its launch in 1985, the Responsible Care initiative has continuously sought to enhance the measures undertaken by the global chemical industry on standards relating to safety, health, and the environment during the manufacture and processing of chemicals. Under Responsible Care, companies are also committed to creating awareness by informing the public of the risks and benefits of the processes adopted by the chemical manufacturers. In addition, the companies need to interact with the stakeholders at the local, national, and international levels. To accomplish these objectives, the chemical industry closely interacts with governments and relevant organisations to develop effective regulations that would safeguard the community, workplace and environment. Companies that are associated with Responsible Care are committed to meeting or exceeding these requirements.

In February 2006, the Responsible Care Global Charter was launched at the United Nations' International Conference on Chemicals Management in Dubai. The chemical industry represented by the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) took the initiative for this Charter, which was a landmark achievement for the chemical industry's Responsible Care initiative. Since then, the ICCA has positioned the Global Charter as a primary tool for implementation of the UN-led Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) that was adopted at the Dubai conference. SAICM was developed to meet the standards set at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. This standard requires that by 2020 chemicals will be used and produced in ways that lead to the minimisation of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment. The Global Charter is committed to achieving this objective.

The Responsible Care Global Charter provides

guidance and direction to companies and relevant organisations to meet the objective of continuous improvement in the chemical industry. These include the identification of nine key elements requiring action and commitment by national and regional chemical associations and their members. The most important element in this commitment is to address the safe management of chemicals throughout the "value chain".

The sound management of health, safety and environmental issues at production sites is and will continue to be the basis of Responsible Care work. However, today these elements are addressed as an integral part of the life cycle of chemical products, including an intensive dialogue with all stakeholders. In the chemical industry this practice is called "product stewardship". Dedicated to the responsible handling of chemicals throughout the value chain is the Global Product Strategy (GPS), launched in conjunction with the Global Charter. With GPS, the ICCA has committed itself to the implementation of all regulatory requirements with regard to risk assessment and risk management. One of the main achievements of the GPS to date is the development of a comprehensive set of global guidelines for product stewardship. The guidelines provide practical help to all those in the chemical chain of commerce, particularly those with less product stewardship expertise or fewer resources at their disposal. The guidelines include principles to be applied from beginning to end of the product life cycle in research and development, raw-materials procurement, manufacturing, sales, distribution, handling, use and disposal or recycling of chemicals.

In order to accomplish the objectives of the Global Charter the ICCA has developed a comprehensive work plan, the implementation of which is to be a continuous process. The CEOs of multinational companies, as well as national associations, have approved and accepted the Global Charter, which strongly reflects corporate commitment to Responsible Care.

A new global Responsible Care governance process has also been developed. This process details the roles and responsibilities to govern and implement Responsible Care at the international, regional, national and company levels. The important elements are to make efforts to harmonise this initiative across more than 50 countries, provide assistance on request to improve the performance of companies, and ensure the integrity of the Responsible Care programme.

The Global Charter has already raised the profile of

Responsible Care, with some successes being achieved. In 2007, the Russian Chemists Union joined the Responsible Care initiative and an aspirant to join the Charter is the newly formed Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA). The GPCA has an extensive membership base throughout the chemicals sector in the Middle East.

Over the past two years, the Charter has been circulated and publicised among the industry and its stakeholders. It has also been analysed and reviewed by associations and their member companies,

Abolishing Chemical Weapons Globally: Successes and Challenges - An NGO Perspective

By: Dr Paul F. Walker, Legacy Program Director, Global Green USA [1]

The successful, verified elimination of some 40% of the six declared chemical weapons stockpiles in the first 11 years of the Chemical Weapons Convention represents a major achievement for the treaty regime and its implementing body, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The primary goal of the Convention - the total elimination of existing chemical weapons stockpiles - is well on the way to being met in the foreseeable future.



Of the current 184 States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, six countries have declared chemical weapons stockpiles. Two of these, the United States and the Russian Federation, possessed about 94% of the total declared stockpiles of 71,315 metric tonnes (MT). The remaining four declared possessor States - Albania, India, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and another country which has requested anonymity - held some 4,200 MT.

Over the past 11 and one half years, about 40% of these enormous and deadly arsenals - 28,575 MT - have been eliminated. The U.S., which has been actively demilitarising its chemical weapons arsenal for some 18 years now, has destroyed over 16,000 MT of which some 1,435 MT were destroyed at the first chemical weapons incinerator on Johnston Atoll before the 1997 CWC entry into force (EIF). Since then the U.S. has destroyed an additional 14,567 MT through both incineration and neutralisation at seven of its nine declared stockpile sites. Johnston Atoll completed incinerator operations in 2000, and two other sites - Aberdeen, Maryland and Newport, Indiana - have also now completed their neutralisation operations. Four incinerators continue to operate, while two neutralisation facilities remain in early construction.

Russia has neutralised over 11,000 MT - about 29% of its stockpile - since its first chemical weapons destruction facility (CWDF) began operating in late 2002 at Gorny in the Saratov Oblast. The Gorny facility finished its neutralisation process in 2005, and two additional facilities at Kambarka in the Udmurt Republic and at Maradykovsky in the Kirov Oblast are currently neutralising lewisite and nerve agents respectively. This leaves four additional Russian sites currently in various phases of construction.

generating a lot of activity at all levels. The Charter stresses the need for all associated companies to provide the essential resources and the manpower to support and nurture the implementation of industry's signature performance initiative, Responsible Care.

The implementation of Responsible Care by companies and their subsidiaries around the world and the extension of this initiative in new sectors and countries will contribute to achieving the aims of the CWC.

The first country to finish its demilitarisation programme was Albania, which incinerated its relatively small stockpile of 16 MT during the first six months of 2007. Libya has not yet begun the destruction of some 23 MT of mustard agent but successfully eliminated its unfilled munitions bodies - 3,563 aerial bombs - in 2004. India declared a chemical weapons stockpile of over 1,000 MT and had successfully incinerated some 97% of this by mid-2008.

The successful, verified elimination of some 40% of the six declared chemical weapons stockpiles in the first 11 years of the Chemical Weapons Convention represents a major achievement for the treaty regime and its implementing body, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The primary goal of the Convention - the total elimination of existing chemical weapons stockpiles - is well on the way to being met in the foreseeable future. The sizeable tonnage eliminated to date includes almost three million munitions and containers filled with deadly chemical agents which could theoretically have proliferated into dangerous hands. Also not to be overlooked is the destruction or conversion to date of 61 of 65 former chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) declared in 12 countries; the institutionalisation of on-site verification activities by the OPCW, which has conducted almost 3,400 inspections in 81 countries; and the fact that all declared chemical weapons stockpiles have been fully inventoried by the OPCW, something that was dangerously absent a decade ago.

And yet, in spite of all its important successes over the past decade, the OPCW still faces formidable challenges for completing its primary goal of complete global elimination of chemical weapons. Five of these interrelated challenges, amongst many others, are noted below.

Meeting CWC deadlines

The CWC established four deadlines for destruction of declared chemical weapons stockpiles based on the April 1997 EIF date: 1) 1% by April 2000, 2) 20% by 2002, 3) 45% by 2004, and 4) 100% by 2007, or 10 years after EIF. The treaty also allows for extensions of up to five years to be granted by the OPCW Executive Council. The negotiators of the CWC no doubt felt that this 15-20 year time-frame would be more than adequate for possessor States to eliminate their stockpiles (2-5 years prior to EIF, 10 years for destruction, and another five years of extensions). But they failed to fully understand the technical, financial and political complexities of chemical weapons demilitarisation.

No possessor State has or will meet all of its initial CWC deadlines. Albania, the first to eliminate its CW stockpile, missed its April 2007 deadline by about two months due primarily to unpredicted technical equipment failures. The United States, which has successfully eliminated the most tonnage to date, met its 1% and 20% deadlines in 2000 and 2002; but its 45% deadline, which it met in 2007, was extended three years. And, although it received the maximum five-year extension from the OPCW for its 100% deadline, the U.S. announced in 2006 that it would not be able to complete its demilitarisation programme by 2012. [2]

Russia, which holds the largest CW stockpile, only met its 1% and 20% deadlines in 2003 and 2007 after three- and five-year extensions. Its 45% deadline has been extended more than five years to December 2009, while its 100% deadline has been extended to April 2012. Although Russia publicly declares that it will meet these deadlines, many informed observers are sceptical that this is realistic. India has received a two-year extension for the 100% deadline until April 2009 and appears likely to meet this. If Libya is to reach its extended deadline of December 2010, it must begin destruction activities soon.

While it is disappointing that demilitarisation programmes have been so delayed, far beyond predictions of both CWC negotiators and national programme implementers, it is reassuring that no possessor State appears to lack the political will to complete its demilitarisation programme. The challenge for the OPCW and States Parties will be how best to deal with deadline violations, especially in 2012 when both the U.S. and Russia may be in violation of their final deadline. The OPCW Executive Council, when faced with Albania's violation last year, did not overreact and threaten Albania with serious sanctions; rather, it acknowledged the violation and requested regular reports on further progress. And this "management and oversight" approach is likely the best way to handle the 2012 dilemma. As the OPCW Director-General stated at the April 2008 Second Review Conference, "States Parties might wish to consider the option of calling for a Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to review the matter objectively and to decide on a course of action that best serves the long-term interests of both the Convention and the

OPCW." [3]

Paying for demilitarisation

Neither the CWC's negotiators nor national programme implementers had much sense of total costs for the demilitarisation efforts a decade or more ago. The U.S. first estimated the cost of its programme 20 years ago at US\$2 billion; this has now escalated to over US\$35 billion. Russia first spoke of a US\$3 billion programme 10 years ago; this is now estimated at over US\$8 billion. The financial burden of these programmes is part of the reason for delay by both the U.S. and Russia. While the U.S. is spending some US\$1.5 billion annually on its demilitarisation programme, this is still insufficient to meet CWC deadlines and national schedules. Although an accelerated programme was recommended by Congress after the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks, the U.S. Defense Department rejected the increased costs and thereby delayed the programme well beyond the 2012 CWC deadline.

When considering treaty ratification in the mid-1990s, Russia emphasised the fact that it would find it difficult to meet programmatic costs in the midst of its historic socio-economic transformation. For this reason a dozen or more foreign countries, as members of the G-8 Global Partnership, have pledged support to Russia for destroying its CW stockpiles. The U.S. has already appropriated over US\$1 billion for CW demilitarisation in Russia as part of its Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) programme while Germany, Canada and the United Kingdom, amongst other donor nations, have likewise committed at least US\$700 million in support.

Yet the funding for both the U.S. and Russian programmes still remains inadequate. Russia only began serious funding of its own programme about five years ago, and the U.S. has refused to provide additional support to Russia over the past two years. A recent U.S. Army report on funding and schedule also indicates that the U.S. could accelerate its demilitarisation efforts with some US\$200 million in additional annual funding now. [4]

Both the U.S. and Russia must provide sufficient funding for their individual programmes in order to help meet their legally binding deadlines under the CWC. Director-General Pfirter re-emphasised this point this past April before the Second Review Conference: "The two countries concerned, surely, on their part, need to ensure the timely commissioning of all necessary destruction sites and the timely allocation of the required resources." [5]

And regardless of current East-West politics and perceptions, all members of the G-8 Global Partnership must likewise continue to help Russia eliminate its dangerous stockpiles in a timely and safe manner. These stockpiles must be eliminated not only for Russian and U.S. security, but for the sake of global security.

Finishing the job

One of the major issues in chemical weapons

destruction programmes has been to define the “end point of destruction”, that is, at what point a deadly agent is irreversibly destroyed. This is the point at which the OPCW may credit the possessor State with destruction. This can be a highly technical and esoteric discussion about percentages of precursor chemicals remaining in neutralised agent (what Russia calls “reaction mass”) or degrees of deformation of metal munitions bodies. But the bottom line is that chemical agents and weapons must be destroyed so that no harmful agent remains, and there is no possibility of back-engineering the agent and weapon.

In the United States the CW agents, weapons and all related parts (“dunnage”) have been incinerated in multiple furnaces or destroyed in a two-stage neutralisation process which includes either bio-treatment or incineration in the second stage. This has left no doubt about the end-point of destruction and the OPCW has credited the U.S. with destruction after the final processing stage. Russia, on the other hand, has undertaken a single-stage neutralisation process for lewisite, mustard, and lewisite-mustard mixtures at Gorny and Kambarka, and for nerve agents at Maradykovsky. Although Russia has just recently begun incinerating the reaction mass and mutilating the aerial bombs at Maradykovsky, the OPCW has agreed to credit Russia with destruction after the first stage.

It will be important for all possessor States to fully complete their destruction processes in all stages, as well as provide for safe closure and cleanup of contaminated CW destruction facilities, if these commendable and historic demilitarisation efforts are to be fully successful.

Protecting public health and the environment

Article IV of the CWC requires that each “State Party, during the transportation, sampling, storage and destruction of chemical weapons” must provide “the highest priority to ensuring the safety of people and to protecting the environment.” Director-General Pfirter has also emphasised the critical need for protecting populations and the environment during demilitarisation operations in many of his recent public statements.

While possessor States have committed to atmospheric monitoring, emergency warning systems, emergency planning and evacuation procedures, and enhanced medical and public health services in stockpile regions, there have been instances of much less than full preparedness and ideal protection for local populations and on-site workers. Fortunately, no major accidents or injuries have yet been reported at any operating destruction facility, and it will be incumbent on all possessor States, regardless of CWC deadlines, to continue to fully protect people and the environment.

Ensuring transparency and stakeholder involvement

The process for securing and destroying a whole

category of weapons of mass destruction has been very contentious and time-consuming in both Russia and the United States. Regions, states, communities, and families have understandably been very concerned over potential public health, environmental and safety impacts, while programme managers have faced unpredictable delays with legal entanglements, regulatory oversight and public demonstrations. While everyone is committed to eliminating the threat of chemical warfare, terrorist attacks and stockpile leaks and accidents in a timely and efficient way, this takes place best through extensive public outreach, transparency and involvement activities. Building consensus usually takes time up front, but saves much difficulty later on in the process.

In conclusion, one must first re-emphasise the tremendous success of the first 11 years of the international Chemical Weapons Convention and its implementing agency, the OPCW in The Hague. The verified elimination of enormous and dangerous chemical weapons stockpiles and production facilities, along with the implementation of a global inspection regime, sets a historic precedent for multilateral arms control and disarmament regimes. It will truly make chemical weapons taboo in international politics, and will no doubt encourage expansion of the arms control and inspection regimes for nuclear, biological, and perhaps even conventional weapons.

And yet much still remains to be done to fully implement the Convention. As discussed above, we need to keep our eyes on the prize: a global verified abolition regime, which includes the safe and sound elimination of all declared chemical weapons stockpiles; the accession to the CWC of 11 more countries, some of whom are suspected of harbouring CW stockpiles, in order to establish a truly universal treaty; the long-term inspection of commercial and military chemical facilities to preclude any possibility of breakout; the support of all States Parties of the OPCW, including national implementation, timely payment of annual organisational dues, and pro-active participation in the annual Conference of States Parties; and strong encouragement by the OPCW and States Parties for active involvement by civil society, including non-governmental organizations and chemical industry. It will take the whole global community to fully realise the dream of a chemical weapons-free world.

Footnotes

[1] U.S. national affiliate of Green Cross International founded by Mikhail Gorbachev.

[2] Former U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld wrote Congress on 10 April 2006 stating that the U.S. destruction programme would not finish by 2012. “I have determined that the United States will not be able to meet even the extended destruction deadline. Current estimates indicate approximately 66 percent of the declared chemical weapons stockpile will be destroyed by April 2012.” More recently, the U.S. Senate has drafted

legislation for Fiscal Year 2008 which obligates the U.S. to finishing by 2017, six years ahead of the Army-projected date of 2023.

[3] OPCW, Opening Statement by the Director-General to the Second Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, RC-2/DG.2, The Hague, April 7, 2008, p. 6.

[4] U.S. Department of Defense, Semi-Annual Report

to Congress, Washington DC, June 2008. This report promised a full assessment of schedule and costs for US chemical weapons destruction in a February 2009 report.

[5] OPCW, Opening Statement by the Director-General to the Second Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, RC-2/DG.2, The Hague, April 7, 2008, p. 6.

OFFICIAL VISITS

Visits by the OPCW Director-General (3 June-24 September 2008)

Belgrade, Serbia, 3 June 2008

The OPCW Director-General visited Serbia on 3 June 2008, where he opened the Seventh Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Eastern Europe in Belgrade. While there the Director-General met with H.E. Mr Radojko Bogojevic, the State Secretary of Foreign Affairs; H.E. Mr Saša Dragin, Minister of Environment Protection; H.E. Mr Dušan Spasojevic, State Secretary, Ministry of Defence; H.E. Mr Feodor Starcevic, Assistant Minister for Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Ambassador Bratislav Djordjevic, Head of the National Authority of Serbia.

Penza Region, Russian Federation, 17-18 June 2008

The Director-General paid an official visit to the Russian Federation on 17 and 18 June 2008 to attend the official event marking the commencement of the new Leonidovka chemical weapons destruction facility in the Penza region. During the visit, the Director-General met with Mr Victor Kholstov, Deputy Director of the Federal Industry Agency, Head of the Russian Chemical Weapons Destruction Program, and General Valery Kapashin, Head of the Federal Department for the Safe Storage and Disposal of Chemical Weapons.

Paris, France, 19 June 2008

The Director-General visited Paris on 19 June 2008 to address a seminar on "Middle East Security and Weapons of Mass Destruction Non Proliferation/Disarmament" organised by the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS).

Rome, Italy, 21 June 2008

The Director-General visited Rome on 21 June 2008 to deliver an address to the 25th International Workshop on Global Security. The event was organised by the Centre for Strategic Decision Research.

Buenos Aires, Argentina, 22-23 July 2008

The Director-General visited Buenos Aires on 22 and 23 July 2008 where he addressed the regional meeting of representatives of national authorities and parliaments in Latin America and the Caribbean. During his visit the Director-General met with Ambassador Victorio Taccetti, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Argentina; Ambassador Raúl Ricardes, General Director for Multilateral Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina; and the Hon. Luis Francisco Cigognia, Chairman of the Justice Committee of Argentina's Chamber of Representatives.

Paris, France, 24 September 2008

The Director-General addressed a basic course for personnel of national authorities involved in implementing the CWC that was jointly organised by France's National Authority and the OPCW at the Training Centre for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in Paris. He thanked the government of France for its excellent preparations and the French presidency of the EU for providing another opportunity to further its collaboration with the Technical Secretariat. He also held discussions with high-level officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defence, who assured him of France's continued strong support for the CWC and the work of the OPCW.

Visits to the OPCW

The following dignitaries visited the OPCW headquarters for meetings with the Director-General.

27 June 2008 Mr Ken Staley, Acting Deputy Secretary of Defense, Department of Defence (USA)

1 July 2008 H.E. Mr E. Kronenburg, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

2 July 2008 H.E. Mr Ron Muzert, Ambassador for International Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands; and H.E. Mr Rob Zaagman, Ambassador for International Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

10 July 2008 H.E. Mr Gilles de Kerchove, EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator

14 July 2008 H.E. Mr José Antonio García Belaúnde, the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Peru

15 July 2008 H.E. Mr Ahmed Amin Fathalla, Ambassador of Egypt (State not Party to the CWC) to the Netherlands

13 August 2008 Mr Rami Adwan, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Lebanon (State not Party to the CWC) in the Netherlands

5 September 2008 H.E. Mr Deng Alor Kuol, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan

19 September 2008 H.E. Mr Pham Gia Khiem, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Ninth Annual OPCW Associate Programme



The OPCW concluded its Ninth Associate Programme on 19 September 2008 with a closing ceremony held in the Technical Secretariat. Twenty-six participants from 24 Member States, including 11 in the African region, completed the programme: Argentina, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Fiji, Ghana, the Islamic Republic of Iran,

Jamaica, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Serbia, South Africa, Tajikistan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The training course under the Associate Programme promotes the peaceful uses of chemistry by enhancing and improving the skills of qualified chemists and chemical engineers from Member States with developing economies and economies in transition. The programme also increases the talent pool of experienced personnel that National Authorities and the OPCW can draw upon.

Addressing the closing ceremony, the Director-General highlighted the Associate Programme as one of the OPCW's leading and most popular international cooperation activities. He noted that the programme has contributed to building skills and capabilities in areas related to the peaceful uses of chemistry while also creating wider awareness of the need to implement the industry-related provisions of

the Convention.

The Director-General emphasised the important contribution of the OPCW Member States, without whose firm support this unique programme could not be conducted. On behalf of the OPCW he expressed gratitude to the Government of the Netherlands for its support to this programme since inception, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for its voluntary financial contribution as well as the contribution in kind provided by the Government of Japan. The Director-General also gratefully acknowledged the support of the Governments of Denmark, France, India, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, and Switzerland for industrial placement, as well as their respective national chemical associations, for their support to the course's industrial attachment segment.

The Director-General expressed his appreciation to the University of Surrey for the excellent job it has been doing in relation to the OPCW Associate Programme and noted the strong support extended by the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC) under their Responsible Care policy. He also gratefully acknowledged the cooperation extended by individual companies for this programme including Clariant, SARP Industries, Merck Santé, Arkema, GNFC Fertilizers, Ranbaxy Laboratories, United Phosphorous Limited, Asahi Kasei Chemicals Corporation, Ube Industries, Brunner Mond, LyondellBasell Industries, Bayer and Danisco.

Finally, the Director-General highlighted the support for other components of the programme from Deltalinqs, the Netherlands Customs Authority, Technical University Library at Delft in the Netherlands, CEFIC, and the World Customs Organisation.

Course on the Analysis of Chemicals Related to the CWC in the Framework of OPCW Proficiency Testing

The Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN) and the OPCW conducted a course for laboratory technicians on the analysis of chemicals related to the CWC.



Main entrance of the VERIFIN.

The course focussed on the reporting of results of analyses performed during proficiency tests conducted by the OPCW. The course took place at VERIFIN, University of Helsinki, Finland from 8 to 26 September 2008.

The objective of the course was to improve the participants' practical skills in analysing chemicals related to the CWC by using gas chromatography (GC) and gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) techniques. Information was provided to participants on the preparation of samples and included a round-table discussion on interpreting the mass spectra emerging from samples testing. The

programme also provided participants with an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the maintenance of these instruments to ensure a high standard of performance.

The course consisted of the following elements:

- preparation of environmental samples;
- novel sample-preparation methods;
- properties of CWC-related chemicals;
- introduction to GC and GC-MS equipment;
- interpretation of mass spectra;
- hands-on exercises on sample preparation;
- hands-on use of GC and GC-MS equipment;
- hands-on exercises in quality assurance and the maintenance of instruments;
- reporting results during OPCW proficiency tests.

UNIVERSALITY

Update on the Implementation of the Universality Action Plan

Two more countries have joined the Chemical Weapons Convention in the course of 2008, bringing the total number of States Parties to 184.



The Republic of Congo deposited its instrument of ratification

on 4 December 2007 and the Convention entered into force for it on 3 January 2008. Guinea-Bissau deposited its instrument of ratification on 20 May 2008 and the Convention entered into force for it on 19 June 2008. This leaves only 11 States not Party to the Convention, of whom four are signatory States (the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Israel and Myanmar) and seven are non-signatory States (Angola, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Somalia and Syria). Iraq and Lebanon have taken important domestic steps toward joining the Convention, with the Parliamentary bodies of both States having adopted laws authorising accession to the CWC.

The Second Review Conference on the Chemical Weapons Convention, held in The Hague from 7 to 18 April 2008, reiterated that achieving universality

remains a high priority for the OPCW and urged all remaining States not Party to ratify or accede to the Convention "as a matter of urgency and without preconditions, in the interests of enhancing their own national security," as well as to affirm their commitment to global peace and security.

The Second Review Conference acknowledged the significant progress achieved in efforts to promote universal adherence. In particular, it acknowledged that of the 40 States not Party to the Convention in 2003 when the Executive Council adopted the Action Plan on Universality, more than two-thirds have joined the Convention including one possessor State. At the same time, the Conference stressed that the objectives of the Convention will not be fully realised as long as there remains even a single State not Party that could possess or acquire chemical weapons.

In this context, the Second Review Conference called upon the Technical Secretariat, the Director-General, the OPCW policy-making organs and all States Parties in a position to do so, to intensify their efforts with States not Party with a view to achieving full universality at the earliest possible date.

Since December 2007 the Technical Secretariat has

conducted a number of activities aimed at promoting the universality of the CWC. A Technical Secretariat team visited Guinea-Bissau from 18 to 21 February 2008 with financial support from the European Union under its 2007 Joint Action in support of the OPCW. The visit aimed to encourage and assist authorities of Guinea-Bissau to expedite the ratification process, and to promote awareness of the Convention and the benefits it offers to States Parties.

During the visit, the Technical Secretariat team held bilateral meetings with a host of senior Guinean authorities. These included the Ministers in charge of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Commerce, Justice and Interior, as well as the Vice President of the Supreme Court, Chief of Cabinet and Director of the Office of the President of the Republic, Director-General and Acting Minister for National Defence, and the Director-General in charge of Customs. A workshop for dissemination of information on the CWC and the OPCW was also held, bringing together 30 participants including experts and mid-career staff representing the Ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Justice, Interior and Commerce, as well

as the Supreme Court and the Directorate-General of Customs.

In his continued efforts to reach out to senior officials of States not Party, the OPCW Director-General addressed correspondence to the leaders of Angola, Myanmar and Guinea-Bissau encouraging their governments to join the Convention. In June 2008 he addressed special communications to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Israel, Myanmar and Syria with a view to promoting cooperation with their respective governments on matters related to the Convention. In addition, representatives of Egypt, Israel and Lebanon paid courtesy calls on the Director-General.

A number of States not Party have also participated as observers in meetings of the policy-making organs of the OPCW. Representatives of the Dominican Republic, Iraq, Israel and Lebanon attended the Twelfth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Israel and Lebanon were represented as observers at the Second Review Conference. Iraq also participated as an observer in the 52nd and 53rd sessions of the Executive Council.

NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION

National Implementation of the CWC in Bangladesh with European Union Funding

By: Squadron Leader Md. Rashed-un-Nabi, Desk Officer, BNACWC

In response to an OPCW invitation, the Bangladesh National Authority for the Chemical Weapons Convention (BNACWC) applied for a European Union financial grant to support carefully identified national implementation activities. The request for EU financial support was in order to conduct three training courses/workshops for stakeholders of the National Authority and for the reproduction of national legislation on the CWC. BNACWC successfully completed all activities with the grant.



National Authority and Industry Outreach Training Course, 8-10 April 2007

BNACWC conducted the training course with technical support from the OPCW at the Training Institute for Chemical Industries (TICI) in Dhaka. Thirty-one representatives from the National Board of Revenue, Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Textile and Jute, and BNACWC participated in the training course, all of whom were directly involved with the implementation of the CWC. The training was designed to enhance awareness among stakeholders regarding Article VI declarations-related aspects of the CWC.

During the training course, information on the status of implementation, declaration requirements of the OPCW, and potentially declarable activities in Bangladesh was provided, as was detailed information about the OPCW verification regime and inspection process. Participants also took part in a mock inspection at an OCPF to familiarise participants with the specific Article VI declaration

requirements. As a result of the mock inspection exercise, participants are now well acquainted with the inspection procedures of the OPCW in respect to conducting Article VI inspections.

National Training Course for Customs Officials, 15-17 April 2008

The second training workshop with EU funding, held from 15 to 17 April 2008, was designed to create awareness amongst customs officials on the requirements of the CWC's transfers provisions. Twenty-eight customs officials from the National Board of Revenue attended the training course, which provided them information on the transfers provisions of the CWC and requirement to apply these provisions at the national level. The participants received extensive hands-on training in monitoring the import and export of scheduled chemicals. They also received practical assistance in producing declarations of aggregate national data for the production, processing, consumption, import, and export of scheduled chemicals. With this training, customs officials manning border posts are now in a better position to monitor the import and export of scheduled chemicals.

National Awareness Workshop on Declarations

under the Convention and the Technical Aspects of OPCW Inspections, 14-15 July 2008

BNACWC conducted a third national workshop with the EU grant for 26 participants from the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation, Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries and Bangladesh Armed Forces who are involved with the implementation of the CWC. The workshop aimed to enhance awareness among stakeholders regarding aspects related to making annual declarations and receiving OPCW inspections.

The topics included an introduction to the CWC and OPCW, status of implementation of the Convention, declaration requirements, declarable activities in Bangladesh, verification regime, inspection processes and preparatory activities for conducting inspections. An additional presentation on emergency response in chemical incidents was also included in the programme. The interactive workshop made the participants more confident and conversant with the

specific declaration requirements and their responsibilities in receiving OPCW inspection.

Reproduction of National Legislation on the Convention

The national legislation on the CWC, named 'Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act-2006' was approved by the Bangladesh Government on 24 September 2006 and translated into English in 2007. However, a limited number of copies of the translated text were printed by the Bangladesh Government. In order to increase general awareness of the Convention at the national level, the National Authority sought funds to print additional English-language copies of the national legislation and completed the printing in March 2008 using the EU grant. Copies have now been distributed to the stakeholders to make them aware of the requirements of the national legislation, which has greatly assisted the BNACWC in implementing the Convention in Bangladesh.

Sensitisation Workshop for Ugandan Parliamentarians on Rights and Obligations of States Parties to the CWC

By: David Mugisa, National Coordinator for Implementation of the CWC

Uganda signed the CWC on 13 April 1993 and acceded to it on 30 November 2001. The National Authority of Uganda was designated in 2002, and since then it has coordinated the submission of national declarations to the OPCW and monitored the national trade in Scheduled chemicals on a regular basis.



The National Authority has also taken the lead role in drafting national implementing legislation, the Toxic Chemicals Prohibition and Control Bill, in consultation with relevant ministries and

departments of the Ugandan government. The bill must be submitted to the Parliament for enactment, and to expedite early approval the National Authority organised a sensitisation workshop for Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament in Kampala on 28 March 2008 prior to its submission to Parliament. The workshop was supported with financial assistance from the European Union-OPCW Joint Action programme.

The workshop was opened by Hon. Syda N.M. Bbumba, Minister for Gender, Labour and Social Development. In her opening remarks, Ms Bbumba said the bill was drafted with the active

participation of concerned ministries and departments as well as in consultation with civil society representatives. She informed the workshop participants about developments since the government ratified the Convention and drew attention to the progress made in the national implementation of the CWC.

The participants adopted a statement at the end of the workshop in which they expressed their unequivocal support to the CWC as an important disarmament and non-proliferation treaty to eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. They noted that the achievement of universal adherence to the CWC was a fundamental requirement for its success and reaffirmed that appropriate national implementation is a necessary guarantee to achieve the objectives and purpose of the CWC, and for its contribution to international peace and security. They committed their strong support for the early passage of the national implementing legislation in the Parliament.

Update on National Implementation as at 18 August 2008

Under Article VII each State Party in accordance with its constitutional processes is required to adopt the necessary measures to implement its obligations under the CWC. The importance of States Parties fulfilling their obligations under Article VII has been repeatedly reaffirmed by the Conference of the States Parties.



The table below compares the status of implementation of Article VII obligations by States Parties at the time of the adoption of the Action Plan regarding the Implementation of Article VII Obligations at the

Eighth Conference of the States Parties (C-8/DEC.16, dated 24 October 2003) with the current status.

Under Article VII each State Party in accordance with its constitutional processes is required to adopt the necessary measures to implement its obligations under the CWC. The importance of States Parties fulfilling their obligations under Article VII has been repeatedly reaffirmed by the Conference of the States Parties. At its Twelfth Session, the Conference adopted a decision regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations (C-12/DEC.9, dated 9 November 2007), which urged States Parties that have yet to designate or establish a National Authority to do so, and to notify the OPCW thereof. The decision also requested States Parties to take the necessary steps to enact legislation and/or adopt administrative measures to implement the Convention, and to notify the OPCW of such steps.

Status of implementation of Article VII obligations

OBLIGATIONS	As at 24 Oct 2003 (155 States Parties)	As at 18 August 2008 (184 States Parties)
National Authority designated or established	126 (81%)	177 (96%)
Article VII(5) submission received	94 (61%)	126 (68%)
Legislation covers all key areas	51 (33%)	82 (45%)
Text of adopted measures provided	62 (40%)	112 (61%)
Confirmation regarding Article XI(2e) Review	39 (25%)	59 (32%)

Achievements since the last update on 19 May 2008:

- In August 2008, Bangladesh informed the Secretariat that it had drafted and adopted a National Authority Decree.
- In August 2008, Guinea informed the Secretariat that the draft of its implementing legislation had been submitted to the National Assembly.
- In July 2008, Liberia informed the Secretariat that the Parliament had adopted the national implementing legislation, which had been forwarded to the President for signature.
- In July 2008, Montenegro informed the Secretariat that it had adopted additional national implementing measures (a Law on Chemicals and a Law on the Transport of Dangerous Goods).
- In June 2008, Peru submitted to the Secretariat the text of its recently adopted national implementing legislation. This legislation is to enter into force 120 days after the publication of the implementing regulations that are to be adopted within 120 days after publication of the law.
- In May 2008, Indonesia submitted to the Secretariat the text of its implementing measures that had recently entered into force.

Advanced Course for Spanish-Speaking National Authorities

The OPCW and the National Authority of Spain jointly organised an advanced course on preparing declarations under the CWC for personnel from Spanish-speaking National Authorities in Madrid, Spain from 16 to 20 June 2008.



The course provided practical hands-on training to the participants, who are responsible for preparing national Article VI declarations. Participants from 15 States Parties attended the meeting: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador,

Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela.

In her opening remarks Ms Kalimi Mworira, the OPCW Director of International Cooperation and Assistance, emphasised the importance of providing clear and timely declarations to the Secretariat as the foundation for successful implementation of the Article VI industry verification regime. Ms Mworira expressed her appreciation to the Spanish National Authority for their continued support to a number of OPCW international cooperation and assistance activities.

Mrs. Nieves Gómez Sainz de Aja, Secretary-General of

the Spanish National Authority, recalled the earlier courses and seminars held in Spain and said the National Authority of Spain would continue to provide financial support and assistance for such activities in the future. Mrs. Gómez expressed her hope that the participants would apply the knowledge acquired and also train key stakeholders of their respective National Authorities in the implementation of the CWC's declaration provisions.

During the course, round-table discussions were held on the implementation of the provisions relating to Article VI declarations, as well as on the decisions adopted by the Conference of the States Parties.

Participants also took part in table-top exercises that included use of the Internet and other electronic tools to identify and assess declarable activities as well as procedures on receiving, evaluating, and submitting declarations to the Secretariat. The Secretariat also gave presentations on the electronic submission of declarations (e-declarations).

Subregional Seminar on the Implementation of Article VI of the CWC in Central America

The Government of Mexico, in conjunction with the OPCW, organised a subregional seminar for National Authorities on the implementation of Article VI of the CWC. The seminar took place in Mexico City, Mexico, from 25 to 27 August 2008.

Seventeen participants from the following eight States Parties attended the seminar: Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama. The objective was to increase the national capacity of States Parties to comply with the obligations assumed under the CWC. The seminar addressed the following:

- the CWC and its status of implementation;
- import and export provisions;
- Article VI declarations requirements;
- Article VI industry verification;
- international cooperation and assistance activities; and

- implementation support programmes of the OPCW.

The seminar provided an opportunity for experience sharing on the implementation of Article VI requirements amongst the participants. During the seminar, table-top exercises were conducted to familiarise participants with the procedures for the identification of declarable Article VI activities and the inspections regime.

A two-day national course for members of the chemical industry was also held with more than 40 participants in attendance.

Basic Course for National Authority Personnel

The OPCW and National Authority of France conducted a five-day training course for personnel of National Authorities involved in receiving inspections under the CWC. This was the sixth such training course given by the French Training Centre for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (CEFFIAC) in Paris and was held from 22 to 26 September 2008.



This course is primarily intended for personnel of National Authorities who have little or no previous experience with the Convention but are responsible for implementing it at the national level. The course includes both instruction and practical exercises

and covers a wide range of issues relating to the administrative, legal, and verification provisions of the CWC. During the basic course, presentations were delivered on:

- history of the CWC and OPCW;
- status of CWC implementation;
- rights and obligations of States Parties under the CWC;
- legislative and administrative measures to be adopted by States Parties to ensure

appropriate implementation of the CWC;

- establishment or designation of a National Authority;
- National Authority tasks;
- CWC verification regime and different types of inspections;
- old and abandoned chemical weapons;
- identification of declarable facilities under the CWC;
- Declarations Handbook and Handbook on Chemicals;
- transfer provisions of the CWC;
- assistance and protection under the CWC;
- international cooperation in the peaceful uses of chemistry; and
- implementation support programmes of the OPCW.

Regional Basic Training Course for National Authorities of African States Parties

The OPCW and Government of the Republic of South Africa hosted a five-day basic course for personnel of National Authorities in Africa involved in the national implementation of the CWC, which was held in Tshwane from 22 to 26 September 2008.



The training course was intended to assist regional States Parties to effectively comply with their obligations under the Convention, and designed to increase national capacities for fulfilling the objectives set out in the Article VII action plan. It was conducted

under the aegis of the OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa and as such was the first to be held at a regional level in Africa.

Presentations were given on the CWC's history, general obligations and status of implementation. Participants were provided information on the role of the National Authority in implementing the Convention, on the rights and obligations of States Parties, and on the elements of comprehensive national implementing legislation. Several table-top

exercises on Article VI declarations and other hands-on training activities were included. The full programme covered:

- drafting and enactment of national implementing legislation;
- declarations and verification provisions of the CWC;
- classification of chemical weapons;
- scheduled chemicals;
- Declaration Handbook;
- identification of declarable Article VI facilities;
- monitoring of the import and export of Scheduled chemicals; and
- role of specialised authorities in implementing the CWC.

Subregional Training Course for Customs Authorities in Southeast Asia on Technical Aspects of the Transfers Regime

The Government of Malaysia and OPCW jointly conducted a technical training course on the CWC transfers regime for customs officials of the National Authorities of Southeast Asian States Parties. Customs authorities play a vital role in diminishing and eliminating discrepancies between the quantities of Scheduled chemicals declared by importing and exporting States Parties.



The training course was held at the Royal Malaysian Customs Academy (AKMAL) in

Malacca, Malaysia from 6 to 9 October 2008. It provided comprehensive information on the CWC, the transfers regime in particular, and sought to enhance States Parties' capacities to effectively track the import and export of Scheduled chemicals. Customs officials took part in scenario discussions on different aspects of the transfers regime. The course covered the following topics:

- overview of the CWC and OPCW;
- rights and obligations of States Parties under the CWC;
- role of National Authorities and need for

effective interaction with stakeholders;

- identification of chemicals relevant to the CWC including the Harmonised System, current recommendations of the World Customs Organization (WCO), and potential changes to the system and recommendations as they concern Scheduled chemicals;
- sources of information for customs officials and customs laboratories such as the Handbook on Chemicals, OPCW Central Analytical Database and others; and
- customs-related matters such as discrepancies in the reporting of transfers of Scheduled chemicals, free ports and free zones, risk assessments, transshipments, and software for customs services.

The Republic of Korea provided a voluntary contribution to support the hosting of this training course.

Regional Basic Training Course for National Authorities of Asian States Parties

19/Oct/2008 – 23/Oct/2008

Doha, Qatar

The OPCW and Government of the State of Qatar are co-hosting a five-day basic course for personnel of National Authorities in Asia involved in the national implementation of the CWC, in Doha, Qatar from 19 to 23 October 2008. The training course aims to assist States Parties in the region to effectively comply with their obligations under the Convention, and is designed to increase national capacities for fulfilling the objectives set out in the Article VII action plan.

The course includes presentations on the CWC's history, general obligations and status of implementation. Participants are provided information on the role of National Authorities in implementing the Convention, on the rights and obligations of States Parties, and on the elements of comprehensive national implementing legislation will also be given. Several table-top exercises on Article VI declarations

and other 'hands-on' training activities are included in the programme. The full agenda covers:

- drafting and enacting national implementing legislation;
- declarations and verification provisions of the CWC;
- classification of chemical weapons;
- Scheduled chemicals;
- Declaration Handbook;
- identification of declarable Article VI facilities;
- monitoring of the import and export of Scheduled chemicals; and
- role of specialised authorities in implementing the CWC.

The State of Qatar has provided a voluntary contribution to support the hosting of this basic course.

Subregional Training Course for Customs Authorities of Member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council

26/Oct/2008 – 28/Oct/2008

Doha, Qatar

The OPCW and State of Qatar will jointly conduct a technical training course on the CWC transfers regime for National Authorities of Member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), from 26 to 28 October 2008. The training course will provide comprehensive information on the CWC, in particular on the transfers regime, to customs officials from participating GCC Member States.

Customs authorities have emerged as important stakeholders in national implementation efforts. They play a crucial role in diminishing and eliminating discrepancies between the quantities of Scheduled chemicals declared by importing and exporting States Parties.

This course aims to increase States Parties' capacities to effectively track the import and export of Scheduled chemicals and ensure that accurate reporting is provided to the National Authority. Customs officials will take part in scenario discussions on different aspects of the transfers regime. This course covers:

- overview of the CWC and OPCW;

- rights and obligations of States Parties under the CWC;
- role of National Authorities and need for effective interaction with stakeholders;
- identification of chemicals relevant to the CWC, including the Harmonised System, current recommendations of the World Customs Organization (WCO), and potential changes to the system and recommendations as they concern Scheduled chemicals;
- sources of information for customs officials and customs laboratories such as the Handbook on Chemicals, OPCW Central Analytical Database and others; and
- customs-related matters such as discrepancies in the reporting of transfers of Scheduled chemicals, free ports and free zones, risk assessments, transshipments, and software for customs services.

The State of Qatar has provided a voluntary contribution to support the hosting of this training course.

Sixth Regional Meeting of Asian National Authorities

04/Nov/2008 – 06/Nov/2008

Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Government of Bangladesh, in conjunction with the OPCW, will host the Sixth Regional Meeting of Asian National Authorities in Dhaka from 4 to 6 November 2008. The meeting provides a platform for representatives of Asian National Authorities to confer with each other, and with Secretariat staff, to encourage cooperation for implementation of the CWC among States Parties at the regional and subregional levels. The specific issues to be covered include:

- effective outreach programmes to chemical

industry that focus on identification of declarable activities;

- the Technical Secretariat's recent initiatives to further improve existing approaches and methodologies for Article VI inspections;
- review of existing methods to collect data on the import and export of Scheduled chemicals; and
- Verification Information System (VIS) and submission of Article VI declarations in electronic form.

Sixth Regional Meeting of National Authorities of African States Parties

11/Nov/2008 – 13/Nov/2008

Kampala, Uganda

The Sixth Regional Meeting of National Authorities of African States Parties will take place in Kampala, Uganda, from 11 to 13 November 2008 and is being jointly organised by the OPCW and Government of Uganda. It will provide an opportunity for regional States Parties to consult with the Secretariat, and with each other, to coordinate and improve assistance for implementing the provisions of Article VII of the CWC. Participating States Parties will be encouraged to indicate the nature and type of assistance they can offer to other States Parties. Panel discussions on practical national implementation measures will be

held on:

- OPCW's Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa and discussions on implementation-support activities for the region and subregions;
- outreach to industry and identification of declarable Article VI activities;
- common problems in reporting imports and exports and progress regarding solutions;
- implementation by National Authorities of the provisions regarding import and export of Scheduled chemicals; and
- OPCW recruitment policies and requirements.

ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION

Fourth Regional Assistance and Protection Course for Asian States Parties

The Government of the Republic of Korea and the OPCW organised the Fourth Regional Assistance and Protection Course for Asian States Parties in Seoul from 22 to 26 September 2008. The course trained some 30 participants to plan for and build support teams in civil protection, civil defence, and decontamination operations in contaminated areas in the event of the use or threat of use of chemical weapons.



In addition, the course provided information and training for appropriate responses

and countermeasures in incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals. Participants received a basic introduction to the use of individual and collective protective equipment,

monitoring, detection, and decontamination techniques against chemical weapons. The course also contained a practical emergency response exercise.

The course provided participants an opportunity to exchange information and experiences regarding implementation of Article X of the CWC. The agenda included discussions on the type of assistance the OPCW, host country and Member States in Asia can provide during an emergency situation resulting from the threat or use of chemical weapons.

Regional Emergency Chemical Response Training Course

13/Oct/2008 – 17/Oct/2008

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

The second Regional Emergency Chemical Response Training Course for Caribbean States Parties will take place from 13 to 17 October 2008 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The OPCW and Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are jointly organising the event as a follow-up to an initial training conducted by the OPCW in early 2007.

The Security Studies Institute of the Special Anti-Crime Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (SAUTT) is the venue for the course and participants from nine States

Parties are planning to attend: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. During the training, the core group of the regional emergency response team that was established in January 2007 will continue to enhance their skills in emergency response to a possible chemical threat or attack.

The focus of the training course is to enhance both the individual and team skills related to response in case of use of toxic chemicals. The participants will be part of their national emergency response team and will also be the contact points for the OPCW in case of a request for assistance under Article X of the CWC.

Course on the Medical Aspects of Defence against Chemical Weapons

01/Nov/2008 – 05/Nov/2008

Tehran, Iran

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran will conduct the Ninth Course on Medical Aspects of Defence against Chemical Weapons in Tehran from 1 to 5 November 2008. The event is being jointly organised with the OPCW and will be held at the International Medical Centre for Training and Treatment against Chemical Weapons (IMCTTCW).

The main objective of the course is to provide relevant information to medical personnel on how to treat victims of exposure to toxic chemicals. Participants will benefit from interaction with Iranian physicians who have personally treated victims of chemical weapons. Discussions will be held on the nature of chemical weapons and their effects on human beings, with case studies involving patients suffering from the chronic effects of exposure to chemical weapons.

The course enables medical personnel to gain an

understanding of the problems they may encounter in national or international responses to incidents involving chemical weapons. Participants will also receive information on assistance and further training that are available through the OPCW. The programme consists of four sections:

General introduction

- overview of the nature of chemical weapons and their effects;
- introduction to protection against chemical weapons, including detection, personal and collective protection, and contamination control;
- performance reduction and ergonomic problems of using chemical defence equipment.

Medical aspects of exposure to chemical agents

- nerve agents (pathology, signs and symptoms,

diagnosis and treatment);

- blister agents (pathology, signs and symptoms, diagnosis and treatment);
- other agents.

Iranian experience of chemical weapons

- review of the experiences and lessons learned by Iranian physicians when confronted with mass chemical casualties during the 1980s;
- organisation of the medical response to a chemical attack in the field;
- organisation and treatment of chronic effects

of poisoning by chemical weapons, with an overview of the work of the Janbasan Iranian Veterans' Foundation and the IMCTTCW;

- chronic effects of exposure to mustard including

International efforts against chemical weapons

- update on implementation of the CWC and role of medical personnel in chemical defence and disarmament;
- medical aspects of investigations of alleged use of chemical weapons.

Third Assistance and Protection Course for Latin American and Caribbean States Parties

10/Nov/2008 – 19/Nov/2008

Madrid, Spain

The Government of Spain and OPCW will jointly organise the Third Assistance and Protection Course for Latin America and Caribbean States Parties from 10 to 19 November 2008 in Madrid, Spain.

Participants will receive training to plan and build support teams in civil protection, civil defence, and rescue operations in contaminated areas. Information and advice will be provided on appropriate responses

and countermeasures to be taken as a result of such incidents involving chemical warfare agents.

The meeting will facilitate an exchange of information and experiences regarding implementation of Article X of the CWC. It will also provide a forum to facilitate cooperation among participating Member States and the OPCW under Article X. Participants will visit the National School of Civil Protection to learn about the Spanish national system for civil protection emergency plans.

NEW PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES

H.E. Mr Francisco Lloreda (Colombia)



H.E. Mr Francisco Lloreda, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Colombia to the OPCW, presented his credentials to the Director-General on 6 June 2008. Ambassador Lloreda is concurrently accredited as his country's Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Ambassador Lloreda is a lawyer by profession. Prior to his current appointment he was Editor-in-Chief of the El País newspaper in Cali, Colombia in 2006 and 2007 and held the same position from 1998 to 2002.

In 2005 and 2006 he was Director of the Public Policy Observatory and simultaneously held the position of Professor at the Universidad Icesi in Cali, Colombia. He was the Minister of National Education from 2000 to 2002.

Ambassador Lloreda was Director of the Local

Planning Department of the Municipal Government of Cali from 1995 to 1997. He was Chief of Staff of the Mayor of Cali and the Municipal Secretary for Public Finances from 1994 to 1995.

Ambassador Lloreda held the position of Executive Director for the Colombian Federation of Local Governments from 1989 to 1991. He was Private Secretary to the Mayor of Bogotá in 1988 and 1989.

Ambassador Lloreda received a degree in law from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá, Colombia (1989) and a master's degree in public administration from Columbia University in New York (1994). He obtained a second master's degree in public policy in Latin America from Oxford University in the United Kingdom (2003) and is a Ph.D. candidate in politics from the same university.

In addition to Spanish, Ambassador Lloreda is fluent in English.

H.E. Mr Avirmed Battur (Mongolia)



H.E. Mr Avirmed Battur, the Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the OPCW, presented his credentials to the Director-General on 4 July 2008 and is concurrently accredited as his country's Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands. He is also at present a

Director of the Mongolia-Singapore Joint Company, SATMON.

Ambassador Battur is a career diplomat. He entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia in 1989 and from 1992 to 1996 was the Attaché in the Embassy of Mongolia and Secretary to the Permanent Mission of Mongolia, UNESCO, Paris.

Ambassador Battur has held a number of important positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Mongolia, including that of Vice Minister from 2004 to 2006. From 1999 to 2000 he was the Minister for Education, Culture, Science and Technology and Director of the Public Administration and Management Department from 1998 to 1999. Prior to this Ambassador Battur was Director of the Administration Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1996 to 1998.

Ambassador Battur received a master's degree in 1989 from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations. He attended the Institute of Public Administration in Paris in 1998 and Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand in 2000. Ambassador Battur speaks English, French and Russian.

H.E. Mr Arif Ayub (Pakistan)



H.E. Mr Arif Ayub, the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the OPCW, presented his credentials to the Director-General on 9 July 2008. He is concurrently accredited as his country's Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Ambassador Ayub is a career diplomat who joined the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1973. Prior to his current appointment Mr Ayub held a number of important positions within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad, including Director General (Afghanistan) and Director General (Africa). From 2002 to 2003, Ambassador Ayub was Director General (United Nations) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ambassador Ayub has served as Ambassador in Italy from 1997 to 2000, in Afghanistan from 2000 to 2001, and in Egypt from August 2003 to May 2008.

From 1991 to 1993, Ambassador Ayub was Director of the SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu, Nepal. Prior to this Ambassador Ayub was Counsellor in the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations in New York from 1987 to 1990.

Ambassador Ayub was posted to the Embassy of Pakistan in Bucharest as Second Secretary from 1977 to 1979. He was the First Secretary in the Embassy of Pakistan in Rome from 1979 to 1983.

Ambassador Ayub has a bachelor's degree in economics from the London School of Economics in the United Kingdom. He received his master's degree in economics from Islamabad University.

H.E. Mr Pramesh Kumar Hamal (Nepal)



H.E. Mr Pramesh Kumar Hamal, the Permanent Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal to the OPCW, presented his credentials to the Director-General on 16 July 2008. He is concurrently accredited as his country's Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Belgium and Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Ambassador Hamal is presently also the Head of Mission of Nepal to the European Communities and Governor for Nepal to the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) in Amsterdam.

Prior to his current appointment, Ambassador Hamal was Vice President of the Vision Nepal Project from 2003 to 2007. In 2006 he was selected as a member of the Foreign Policy High Level Task Force in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal.

Ambassador Hamal was the Deputy Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations from February to December 1995. He has held various

important positions in Nepal including Executive Director of the Agricultural Project Services Centre in the Ministry of Agriculture from 1990 to 1991. He was also Advisor to the Minister for Agriculture, Forest and Soil Conservation, Land Reform and Management from May to October 1990. Ambassador Hamal was Institutional Development Advisor for the Forestry Sector Institutional Strengthening Programme/FINNIDA in Kathmandu from March to May 1990. During this period he was team coordinator for the Study on the Status of the Forestry Sector Master Plan.

Ambassador Hamal has participated in the democratic and peace process of Nepal. He was a member of the Task Force of Democratisation of CPN-UML and was a member of the delegation that initiated the dialogue between the Seven Party Alliance and CPN-Maoist Party. Mr. Hamal also served as the President of the Central Audit Committee of CPN-UML, an independent body.

Ambassador Hamal has a master's degree in business administration and commerce.

H.E. Mr Pieter J.P. de Savornin Lohman (the Netherlands)



H.E. Mr Pieter J.P. de Savornin Lohman, the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the OPCW, presented his credentials to the Director General on 21 August 2008.

Prior to his present appointment, Ambassador Lohman was an Advisor in National Security and from 2000 until 2007 held the post of Director of Protocol, both within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

From 1994 to 2000, Ambassador Lohman was the

Deputy Director in the Cabinet of Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands. From 1980 to 1994 he was with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and involved with the department dealing with NATO affairs.

In his early years as a civil servant, Ambassador Lohman was with the Ministry of Culture, Recreation and Social Work. He has also worked in the Ministry of General Affairs in The Hague as the Assistant Secretary to the Council of Ministers.

Ambassador Lohman received a degree in law from Leiden University in 1972.

H.E. Mr Jean-Francois Blarel (France)



H.E. Mr Jean-Francois Blarel, the Permanent Representative of France to the OPCW, presented his credentials to the Director-General on 12 September 2008. He is concurrently accredited as France's Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Ambassador Blarel is a career diplomat. Prior to his current appointment he worked in the General Secretariat of the Commission on the White Paper on Foreign and European Policy of France. From 2004 to 2007 he was France's Ambassador to Viet Nam, and from 1998 to 2004 the Chief of Service of Information and Communication Systems in the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs.

He served with the rank of First Counsellor in the French embassies in Madrid from 1995 to 1998 and Washington from 1993 to 1995, and with the rank of Second Counsellor in Washington from 1991 to 1993 and Buenos Aires from 1988 to 1991.

From 1983 to 1988 he served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Industry, and from 1980 to 1983 he served in the French embassy in New Delhi as Second and then First Secretary.

Ambassador Blarel has a diploma from l'Institut d'études politiques in Paris and graduated from l'Ecole nationale d'administration. He holds the honours of Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur and Chevalier de l'ordre national du mérite.

H.E. Pengiran Alihashim Yussof (Brunei Darussalam)



H.E. Pengiran Alihashim Yussof, the Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the OPCW, presented his credentials to the Director-General on 16 September 2008. He is concurrently accredited as his country's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of

Belgium.

Prior to his current appointment Ambassador Yussof was Director of Politics II Department of the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs from 2005 to 2007. From 2001 to 2003 he was the Acting Deputy Director of the Policy Planning Department, prior to which he was Assistant Director of the same department for six years.

From 1992 to 1996 Ambassador Yussof was posted to the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam in Bonn, Germany. He was an Administrative Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1987 to 1994, and an Education Officer in the Ministry of Education in 1986 and 1987.

Ambassador Yussof has a bachelor's degree in the Humanities.

H.E. Dr Christian Kargbo (Sierra Leone)



H.E. Dr Christian Kargbo, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the OPCW, presented his credentials to the Director-General on 16 September 2008. He is concurrently accredited as his country's Ambassador Extraordinary to Belgium, the Netherlands, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, France, the European Union and the Holy See. He is also his country's Permanent Delegate to UNESCO and to the World Trade Organization.

From 2000 to 2007, Ambassador Kargbo was an economic consultant to the World Bank where he supervised projects and programmes implemented by UNOPS, the EU and ADF in many developed and

developing countries. From May 1997 to February 1998 he served as the Governor of the Central Bank of Sierra Leone and briefly as Secretary of State for Development and Economic Planning in 1996. He was a Sector Service Manager for Sierra Leone's Structural Adjustment Support Programme (SASP) for seven years from 1989 to 1996.

Ambassador Kargbo has a Ph.D. in Management Economics and Economic Analysis from the University of Illinois (USA), a master's degree in Agribusiness Economics from Southern Illinois University (USA), and a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education and Extension from the University of Sierra Leone.

He is fluent in English with working knowledge of French.

H.E. Mrs Sanita Pavļuta-Deslandes (Latvia)



H.E. Mrs Sanita Pavļuta-Deslandes, the Permanent Representative of Latvia to the OPCW, presented her credentials to the Director-General on 18 September 2008. She is concurrently accredited as her country's Ambassador to the Netherlands.

She has been a diplomat since 1995. Prior to her current appointment she was Counsellor in the 1st Political Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2005 to 2007 she was Adviser on EU Affairs to the Prime Minister and in 2006 Adviser to the Ministry of Education and Science. In 2004 and 2005 she was Head of the European Affairs Office in the State chancery.

From 1995 to 2004 Ambassador Pavļuta-Deslandes held a series of appointments in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including as Director of the EU Co-ordination Department (2003-04); as Second and then First Secretary, Task Force for EU Accession Negotiations, and Head of the EU Co-ordination Division (1998-2003); Assistant on economic issues in the Embassy of Latvia in France (1995-98); and Senior Desk Officer in the Western European Division (1995).

Ambassador Pavļuta-Deslandes holds a diploma in political science from l'Institut d'études politiques de Paris, and a bachelor's degree in fine arts from the Academy of Culture of Latvia, in addition to studying art history for two years at the Université de Provence. She is fluent in English, French and Russian and conversational in German.

H.E. Dr. Fauziah Mohamad Taib (Malaysia)



H.E. Dr. Fauziah Mohamad Taib, the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the OPCW presented her credentials to the Director-General on 19 September 2008. She is concurrently accredited as her country's Ambassador to the Netherlands.

Dr Fauziah studied international relations at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, IAP/Université de Paris 1 (Sorbonne), and at the University of Kent in Canterbury, UK.

Her last appointments included High Commissioner of Malaysia to Fiji in 2003 and 2004; Director General of the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) from 2005 to 2007, and Director General (Policy & Strategy Planning Department), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia.

Dr Fauziah is a published author and editor of several publications. Her books include *Malaysia and UNCED: An Analysis of a Diplomatic Process* (1997); *A Diplomat Arrives in Washington* (2003); *The Making of the ASEAN Summit* (2005); *Number One Wisma Putra* (2006).

H.E. Mr Jean-Marc Hoscheit (Luxembourg)



H.E. Mr Jean-Marc Hoscheit, the Permanent Representative of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to the OPCW, presented his credentials to the Director-General on 19 September 2008. He is concurrently accredited as his country's Ambassador to the Netherlands.

Prior to his appointment, from 2003 to 2008 Ambassador Hoscheit was Luxembourg's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, where among other roles he served as Vice-President of the General Assembly (58th Session) and Vice-President of ECOSOC.

From 1998 to 2003 he held a series of posts in Paris, including Ambassador to France, Permanent Representative to the OECD, and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO. From 1989 to 1998 he worked in the Permanent Representation of the European Union in Brussels. From 1985 to 1989 he worked in several capacities in the Political Directorate of the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ambassador Hoscheit has published articles on European political and institutional issues and on the diplomatic history of Luxembourg. He speaks French, German, English and Italian and has working knowledge of Dutch.

Disarmament Calendar

September-December 2008

OPCW Events

- 8 - 12 September 2008 Course on Assistance and Protection Against Chemical Weapons
Kuopio, Finland
- 8 - 26 September 2008 Course on Analysis of Chemicals Related to the CWC in the Framework of OPCW Proficiency Testing
Helsinki, Finland
- 22 - 26 September 2008 Regional Basic Training Course for Representatives of National Authorities of States Parties in Africa Involved in the National Implementation of the CWC, Tshwane, South Africa
- 22 - 26 September 2008 Basic Course for National Authority Personnel
Paris, France
- 22 - 26 September 2008 Fourth Regional Assistance and Protection Course for Asian States Parties
Seoul, Republic of Korea
- 6 - 9 October 2008 Subregional Training Course for Customs Authorities in Southeast Asia on Technical Aspects of the Transfers Regime
Malacca, Malaysia
- 13 - 17 October 2008 Regional Emergency Chemical Response Training Course
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
- 19 - 23 October 2008 Regional Basic Training Course for National Authorities of Asian States Parties
Doha, Qatar
- 26 - 28 October 2008 Subregional Training Course for Customs Authorities of Member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council on Technical Aspects of the Transfers Regime, Doha, Qatar
- 1 - 5 November 2008 Medical Aspects Of Defence Against Chemical Weapons
Tehran, Iran
- 4 - 6 November 2008 Sixth Regional Meeting Of National Authorities in Asia
Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 11 - 13 November 2008 Sixth Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Africa
Kampala, Uganda
- 10 - 19 November 2008 Third Assistance and Protection Course for Latin American and Caribbean States Parties
Madrid, Spain
- 2 - 5 December 2008 Thirteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the CWC
The Hague, the Netherlands

Editorial Team

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