



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

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ARABIC and ENGLISH only

## **LIBYA**

### **REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS DESTRUCTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN LIBYA**

#### **STATEMENT BY THE LIBYAN DELEGATION AT THE SEVENTIETH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

During the previous session of the Executive Council, and as part of its review of the progress made towards the destruction of chemical weapons in Libya, the Libyan delegation highlighted in particular the results of the technical studies on destruction technologies options available for the disposal of chemical weapons recently discovered in Libya, and addressed the ongoing preparations for resuming destruction of the remaining bulk sulphur mustard at the Ruwagha site.

The Libyan delegation has the honour to inform the current session of Executive Council of the latest developments concerning the activities undertaken by Libya with regard to its chemical weapons as well as of the progress made towards destruction of the remainder of these weapons.

#### **I. Preparation for the resumption of disposal of the remaining quantity of the bulk sulphur mustard at the Ruwagha site**

On 7 June 2012, the Libyan National Authority for the Chemical Weapons Convention informed the Technical Secretariat that Libya intends to resume the disposal of the remaining quantity of the bulk sulphur mustard at the Ruwagha site, and called upon the Technical Secretariat to identify the requirements for that purpose. The sulphur mustard hydrolysis system at the Ruwagha site has been already maintained and prepared for use, and is now ready for use. Therefore, the resumption of disposal operations is solely dependent on meeting these requirements and completing the relevant arrangements, and consequently on agreeing with the Technical Secretariat on a date for resuming these activities as of mid-November 2012.

#### **II. Measures for the destruction of chemical weapons recently discovered in Libya**

Libya has completed technical studies on destruction technologies options available for the destruction of chemical weapons recently discovered in Libya. That came after the Libyan National Authority had carried out comprehensive technical discussions coupled with external visits to explore appropriate technologies that suit the nature and items of the



chemical stockpile to be handled, and that are also consistent with the imperatives of public safety and environment protection. Having identified Static Detonation Chamber as the most suitable option, the Libyan Authority is considering with States Parties the means to secure the funds necessary for the procurement of this technology. So far, no concrete results have been achieved.

### **III. Concerning collection of information relating to chemical weapons recently discovered in Libya**

The Ministry of Defence has been officially called upon to take all necessary measures to fully ascertain that all sites across the country are free of any materials related to the Chemical Weapons Convention, and notify the National Authority of any suspicion of the existence of such materials. In this respect, no signs pointing to the existence of the said materials have been confirmed to the Ministry of Defence.

In accordance with the note submitted by the National Authority to the Technical Secretariat on 9 May 2012, on conducting a study to better identify munitions filled with mustard gas and explore ways to destroy them; and pursuant to the note issued by the Technical Secretariat on that matter, a specialised task force of the National Authority last week dismantled two 130-mm artillery projectiles and took a sample of their mustard gas, as well as a similar sample of one mustard-filled aerial bomb, using the Drill and Drain method.

On the basis of the initial observation, the physical condition of the shell and its content confirm that the destruction technology (Static Detonation Chamber) that had previously been selected is the most efficient for dealing with the nature of the content of this shell. Identification of the chemical agent will finally be confirmed through samples analysis using CG-MS, which is currently being conducted at the principal chemical laboratory. The Technical Secretariat will be informed of the summary of results at a later stage.

While the Libyan authorities are continuing their efforts to gather information and determine the circumstances surrounding the chemical weapons recently discovered in the Libyan territories, the Libyan Authority reiterates its call to the Technical Secretariat to request the States Parties to provide assistance in this respect, by providing any relevant additional information that they may have. Such information could be helpful in shaping a full picture in this regard. Furthermore, the above-mentioned clarifications are included in the Libyan Authority's response to the note of the Technical Secretariat dated 13 September 2012 concerning the collection of information.

### **IV. Chemical weapons destruction facility at Rabta**

The Libyan Authority, while receiving the equipment for the destruction station at the Rabta facility, and making arrangements for the transport of these equipments and their storing at warehouses near the region, is pursuing its efforts to solve problems and dispel the local community's fears of potential negative impact on the region due the establishment of the project. These efforts are conducted in coordination with qualified specialists with a view to reassessing the environmental impact and reviewing other procedures relating to the establishment of the aforementioned destruction facility.

**V. Cooperation with the Technical Secretariat**

As part of continued consultation with the Technical Secretariat on various issues relating to the preparations for the launch of destruction operations of the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles in Libya, the Libyan Authority continues to work with the Technical Secretariat to identify the Libyan actual requirements and needs to be fulfilled through the Canadian assistance provided to that purpose.

Libya, in line with the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention, remains determined to move ahead with its commitment to these provisions. The Libyan National Authority will continue to inform the Technical Secretariat and the Executive Council of all actions it takes with regard to the destruction programme of the remaining chemical weapons in Libya.

Thank you for your kind attention.

I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the current session.

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