Executive Council



Seventy-First Session 19 – 22 February 2013 EC-71/DG.5 21 December 2012 Original: ENGLISH

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

SCHEDULE FOR SUBMISSION BY CHEMICAL WEAPONS POSSESSOR STATES OF THE REPORTS ON THEIR DESTRUCTION ACTIVITIES AFTER THE EXTENDED DEADLINE OF 29 APRIL 2012

BACKGROUND

- 1. At its Sixteenth Session, the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter "the Conference") decided that, if the final extended deadline established by previous decisions (C-10/DEC.10, dated 10 November 2005; and C-11/DEC.17 and C-11/DEC.18, both dated 8 December 2006) would not be fully met, "the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons in the possessor States concerned shall be completed in the shortest time possible in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and its Verification Annex and under the verification of the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation as prescribed under the Convention and its Verification Annex." (C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011).
- 2. In the same decision, the Conference requested that each possessor State concerned is "to report, and provide a briefing in a closed meeting, at each regular session of the Executive Council on the progress achieved towards the complete destruction of remaining stockpiles, including information on measures to accelerate such progress, and identifying progress made since the last briefing in order to meet the planned completion date" (subparagraph 3(d) of C-16/DEC.11).
- 3. Furthermore, an annual report on the progress in the destruction of its remaining stockpiles of chemical weapons is to be provided to the Conference by each possessor State concerned (subparagraph 3(f) of C-16/DEC.11).
- 4. Finally, the Third Review Conference¹ is to conduct a comprehensive review on the implementation of the decision on the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 (C-16/DEC.11) based, inter alia, on "reports by the possessor States concerned on the progress achieved to meet the planned completion date" (subparagraph 3(h) of C-16/DEC.11).

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

SCHEDULE

- 5. In summary, in accordance with the decision of the Conference on the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 (C-16/DEC.11), the remaining possessor States are to report at each regular session of the Executive Council (hereinafter "the Council"), Conference, and at the Third Review Conference, on the progress achieved towards the complete destruction of remaining stockpiles since the last briefing, including measures to expedite such progress and to overcome any problems in the destruction programme.
- 6. The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") has considered the reporting obligations as contained in the decision of the Conference (C-16/DEC.11) and in light of the schedule of meetings and programme of work of the Council, Conference, and Third Review Conference, respectively, and offers the following views on how these reporting requirements could be met by the possessor States concerned in 2013.
- 7. Considering that the reports submitted by the possessor States should clearly provide continuous coverage of the progress of destruction, and bearing in mind the time required for a State Party to compile the information for each report, an inevitable time-lag between the collection of information and its reporting to the Secretariat will occur. Therefore, the Secretariat proposes that each report will cover the period until the last day of the month prior to the date on which the report is to be submitted.
- 8. Further to this, the end-of-month cut-off date is consistent with the site reporting periods used by OPCW inspection teams and the possessor States concerned and would involve similar cut-off dates for their reporting.
- 9. The Secretariat proposes the following reporting schedule for 2013:
 - (a) The destruction progress report for the Seventy-First Session of the Council is to be submitted to the Secretariat by 11 January 2013 (the cut-off date for the information contained in the report is 31 December 2012).
 - (b) The destruction progress report for the Third Review Conference is to be submitted to the Secretariat by 8 March 2013 (the cut-off date for the information contained in the report is 28 February 2013).
 - (c) The destruction progress report for the Seventy-Second Session of the Council is to be submitted to the Secretariat by 8 April 2013 (the cut-off date for the information contained in the report is 30 March 2013).
 - (d) The destruction progress report for the Seventy-Third Session of the Council is to be submitted to the Secretariat by 10 June 2013 (the cut-off date for the information contained in the report is 31 May 2013).
 - (e) The destruction progress report for the Seventy-Fourth Session of the Council is to be submitted to the Secretariat by 9 September 2013 (the cut-off date for the information contained in the report is 31 August 2013).

- (f) The destruction progress report for the Eighteenth Session of the Conference is to be submitted to the Secretariat by 7 November 2013 (the cut-off date for the information contained in the report is 31 October 2013).
- 10. The Secretariat is of the view that the proposed reporting schedule takes into account the practical issues relating to the gathering of information and the 2013 programme of work of the Council, Conference, and Third Review Conference and would allow the implementation of the reporting requirements in a manner that is fully consistent with Conference decision C-16/DEC.11.

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