

**NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL****PROGRESS IN THE ELIMINATION OF THE SYRIAN CHEMICAL WEAPONS PROGRAMME**

1. In accordance with subparagraph 2(f) of the decision by the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) at its Thirty-Third Meeting (EC-M-33/DEC.1, dated 27 September 2013), the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) reports to the Council on a monthly basis regarding the implementation of that decision. In accordance with paragraph 12 of United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), the report by the Secretariat is also submitted to the Security Council through the Secretary-General. This is the ninth such monthly report.
2. The Council, at its Thirty-Fourth Meeting, adopted a decision entitled “Detailed Requirements for the Destruction of Syrian Chemical Weapons and Syrian Chemical Weapons Production Facilities” (EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013). In paragraph 22 of this decision, the Council decided that the Secretariat should report on its implementation “in conjunction with its reporting required by subparagraph 2(f) of Council decision EC-M-33/DEC.1”.
3. This report is therefore submitted in accordance with both above-mentioned Council decisions and includes information relevant to their implementation during the period from 23 May to 23 June 2014.

**Progress achieved by the Syrian Arab Republic in meeting the requirements of EC-M-33/DEC.1 and EC-M-34/DEC.1**

4. In accordance with subparagraph 1(c) of EC-M-33/DEC.1, the Syrian Arab Republic is required to complete the elimination of all chemical weapons material and equipment in the first half of 2014. Previous reports have described the progress made by the Syrian Arab Republic against intermediate completion dates established under paragraphs 2 and 3 of EC-M-34/DEC.1 for the removal and destruction of Syrian chemical weapons outside its territory. Progress achieved within the current reporting period by the Syrian Arab Republic in fulfilling its obligations is described below:
  - (a) On 22 and 23 June 2014, the final shipments of chemicals identified for removal from the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic took place. A total of 18 containers were removed from one remaining chemical weapons storage facility (CWSF) to which access had not been possible for several months, as reported by the Syrian Arab Republic. Therefore, and in accordance with paragraph 21 of EC-M-34/DEC.1, the Director-General can confirm to the



Council that 100% of the declared Priority 1 and 2 chemicals have been removed from the Syrian Arab Republic. In addition, as previously reported, 100% of the declared isopropanol has been verified as destroyed on Syrian territory;

- (b) As reported previously, pursuant to subparagraph 2(b) of EC-M-34/DEC.1, the target date for the destruction of all of the Syrian Arab Republic's chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) was not later than 15 March 2014. Activities relating to the destruction of aircraft hangars and underground structures at 12 of the CWPFs are awaiting a decision by the Council on the combined plans for destruction and verification. An additional technical meeting between the Secretariat and representatives of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic was conducted in Beirut from 9 to 11 June 2014. The meeting focused on issues pertaining to the five CWPFs (underground structures), and Secretariat officials assisted the Syrian technical experts in drafting a document in response to queries relating to the destruction plan. The document was finalised and submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic to the Secretariat on 11 June 2014 in Beirut. During the meeting, the Secretariat also assisted the technical experts in drafting a supplement to the detailed destruction plan for seven CWPFs (aircraft hangars), which had been submitted to the Secretariat in March 2014, and requested the Syrian representatives to finalise the letter including all relevant inputs. The Syrian Arab Republic submitted the letter to the Secretariat on 16 June 2014, and the Secretariat is currently assessing its contents. The Council encouraged all Parties concerned to continue their consultations with a view to arriving at an agreement on the combined plans for destruction and verification for the 12 CWPFs, and requested that the Syrian Arab Republic initiate, as appropriate, any preparatory work necessary for the destruction of the CWPFs;
- (c) Pursuant to paragraph 19 of EC-M-34/DEC.1, the Syrian Arab Republic is required to submit a monthly report to the Council regarding activities on its territory related to the destruction of its chemical weapons and CWPFs. The seventh such report was submitted to the Secretariat on 16 June 2014 and made available to the Council (EC-76/P/NAT.1, dated 16 June 2014); and
- (d) In accordance with subparagraph 1(e) of EC-M-33/DEC.1 and paragraph 7 of United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), the Syrian Arab Republic shall cooperate fully with all aspects of the implementation of the decision and the resolution. The Syrian authorities have continued to extend the necessary cooperation to the OPCW-UN Joint Mission (hereinafter "the Joint Mission") in the conduct of its activities during the reporting period.

#### **Activities carried out by the Secretariat with respect to the Syrian Arab Republic**

5. Effective cooperation with the United Nations in the context of the Joint Mission has continued with close coordination between the two organisations and between the offices in The Hague, New York, Damascus, and Cyprus. As at the cut-off date of this report, eight OPCW staff members were deployed as part of the Joint Mission in Damascus, and one logistics officer in Beirut.

6. The Director-General and the Special Coordinator of the Joint Mission, Ms Sigrid Kaag, have maintained regular contact. Ms Kaag visited The Hague on 17 June 2014 to brief the Council at its Forty-Second Meeting.
7. The Director-General has continued to meet with senior representatives of the States Parties offering to host a destruction facility or otherwise providing assistance with transport or destruction of Syrian chemical weapons, and to communicate regularly with senior officials from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. As requested by the Council at its Seventy-Fifth Session (paragraph 7.12 of EC-75/2, dated 7 March 2014), the Secretariat has continued to provide weekly information briefings to States Parties in The Hague on behalf of the Director-General.
8. As at the cut-off date of this report, all chemicals identified for removal from the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic had been transported to Latakia and loaded onto cargo ships for subsequent transportation and eventual destruction. At the staging area near Damascus, OPCW personnel together with the Joint Mission verified the contents of the containers from the final CWSF. The packaging was also checked for compliance with the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code by appropriately trained United Nations staff. At Latakia, the contents of the containers were again verified before being loaded onto the Danish cargo ship, Ark Futura.
9. From 11 to 14 June, OPCW experts conducted an inspection of two items declared by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic as abandoned chemical weapons. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic had previously informed the Secretariat that the items did not belong to it. Samples were taken from the items and their subsequent analysis identified the agent contained in them as Sarin. The Secretariat is now assisting the Syrian authorities in preparing a destruction plan for the two items; the plan will be submitted to the Council once it is finalised.
10. The Secretariat has continued to meet with the Syrian authorities as part of continuing efforts to streamline and complete the data regarding the initial declaration submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic in October 2013, and subsequent amendments. A team of technical experts from the Secretariat deployed to Damascus for a second mission from 21 to 28 May 2014 in order to engage in consultations with the Syrian National Authority on any outstanding issues and to seek clarifications with regard to its Article III declaration. A briefing on the visit was provided to the Council at its Forty-Second Meeting. The Syrian National Authority agreed to submit a national paper providing a historical overview of its chemical weapons programme. Consultations on this issue will continue.
11. In accordance with paragraph 2 of EC-M-42/DEC.3, and without prejudice to the responsibility of the Syrian Arab Republic for the destruction of its CWPFs, the Director-General has initiated preparatory work to conclude a contract, without calling for tenders, quotations, or proposals, with a commercial company for the provision of expertise and equipment, as appropriate, for the destruction of the Syrian CWPFs. In accordance with paragraph 3 of EC-M-42/DEC.3, the Director-General has requested the United Nations to provide, to the extent possible, any further equipment and logistical support identified as necessary for assisting the Syrian Arab Republic in the destruction of its CWPFs. The Director-General wrote to the Special Coordinator of the Joint Mission in this regard on 20 June 2014.

12. As reported previously, the Secretariat, consistent with paragraph 13 of EC-M-34/DEC.1, has developed a draft facility agreement for Syrian CWSFs and submitted the draft to the Syrian authorities for their comments, which are still pending.
13. OPCW personnel have carried out pre-operational visits to commercial facilities selected pursuant to paragraph 24 of EC-M-34/DEC.1 or sponsored by States Parties pursuant to paragraph 7 of decision EC-M-36/DEC.2, dated 17 December 2013. These facilities are located in Finland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. A pre-operational visit will also take place at the GEKA facility in Germany which, through an in-kind contribution from the Government of Germany, will destroy the effluent from the neutralisation of the sulfur mustard on board the United States vessel MV Cape Ray.
14. During the period under review, the facility agreement negotiated between the Secretariat and representatives of the United States of America specifying the arrangements governing on-site inspections at Veolia ES Technical Solutions, LLC was approved by the Council at its Forty-Second Meeting (EC-M-42/DEC.2, dated 17 June 2014). The text of the arrangement that will govern verification activities to be conducted by OPCW inspection teams at the port of disembarkation in Port Arthur, Texas, to be entered into between the OPCW and the United States of America, has also been made available to delegations.
15. On 19 June 2014, the Secretariat facilitated a telephone conference between experts from the Secretariat and representatives of civil society, in particular from the Mediterranean region. The conference call allowed for an exchange of views on the environmental aspects of the removal and destruction of Syrian chemical weapons, and also enabled the participants to receive more information about the operations and to pose questions to the experts from the Secretariat.

### **Fact-Finding Mission**

16. As previously reported, in early May 2014 the Director-General dispatched an OPCW Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) to the Syrian Arab Republic to establish the facts surrounding allegations of the use of toxic chemicals, reportedly chlorine, for hostile purposes in the Syrian Arab Republic. On 27 May 2014, as the team was travelling for a site visit, its convoy came under attack, resulting in a denial of access to the site. A summary report of the work of the FFM covering the period from 3 to 31 May 2014 has been circulated (S/1191/2014, dated 16 June 2014). The report concludes that that available information, inter alia, “lends credence to the view that toxic chemicals, most likely pulmonary irritating agents such as chlorine, have been used in a systematic manner in a number of attacks”. The Director-General has decided that the work of the FFM will continue.

### **Supplementary resources**

17. As reported in the previous monthly reports, several States Parties are providing assistance and resources for the purposes of the transportation, removal, and destruction of Syrian chemical weapons.

18. On 8 June 2014, the Norwegian cargo ship Taiko left the area of operations. The ship, carrying Priority 2 chemicals, departed for Finland and the United States of America to deliver chemicals for disposal in those countries. This was in accordance with the schedule of the Taiko, which was notified to the OPCW at an earlier stage. The Taiko arrived at the port of Hamina Kotka in Finland on 21 June 2014 and offloaded the chemicals destined for destruction at the Ekokem Riihimäki waste treatment and disposal facility. A team of OPCW inspectors was present during the offloading at the port to verify the receipt and arrangements for transportation of chemicals and related materials to the facility, and to provide assurance against diversion. The Taiko is expected to arrive at Port Arthur, Texas, United States of America, in early July to offload the remaining chemicals. Subsequent monthly reports will contain information on the activities relating to the destruction of the chemicals and related materials at commercial facilities in accordance with paragraph 4 of decision EC-M-38/DEC.1, dated 30 January 2014.
19. The Danish cargo ship Ark Futura took on board the remaining 8% of chemicals on 22 and 23 June 2014 for transportation to their destination. The Ark Futura will then sail to Gioia Tauro in Italy to offload certain Priority 1 chemicals to the United States vessel MV Cape Ray for neutralisation at sea, after which it will take the remaining Priority 1 chemicals to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for disposal.
20. As at the cut-off date of this report, the balance in the Syria Trust Fund for the Destruction of Chemical Weapons stood at EUR 50.3 million, with the recent receipt of a contribution of EUR 2 million from Italy. Contributions have been received from Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, the Czech Republic, the European Union, Finland, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. This includes the contributions that were originally made to the first OPCW Trust Fund for Syria and which have, at the request of the donor, subsequently been transferred, in part or in whole, to the Syria Trust Fund for the Destruction of Chemical Weapons.

### **Conclusion**

21. As requested by the Council at its Forty-Second Meeting (EC-M-42/DEC.1, dated 17 June 2014), the Secretariat is preparing, for submission to the Seventy-Sixth Session of the Council, an overall report on the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme. The report will include information on whether or not the elimination of all chemical weapons material and equipment was completed in the first half of 2014 and, as appropriate, which requirements of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the relevant decisions of the Council remain to be implemented by the Syrian Arab Republic. The report will also provide the Council with any recommendations the Director-General deems appropriate for its consideration.
22. The removal from the Syrian Arab Republic of all declared chemicals identified for destruction outside its territory marks a major milestone in the mission to eliminate its chemical weapons programme. While the OPCW's work in the Syrian Arab Republic will continue, what has been achieved thus far is highly significant and is the result of

close international cooperation and the assistance of States Parties, as well as cooperation between the OPCW and the United Nations. It is hoped that certain aspects of the Syrian Arab Republic's declaration will soon be clarified and that the destruction of the 12 remaining CWPFs can commence. Furthermore, the FFM requires the cooperation of all parties to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic in order to complete its work.

--- 0 ---