

**NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL****OVERALL PROGRESS WITH RESPECT TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE
REMAINING CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKPILES****Introduction**

1. In its decision entitled the “Final Extended Deadline of 29 April 2012” (C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011), the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) requested that the Director-General provide a written report at each regular session of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) on the overall progress being made by possessor States Parties in regard to the destruction of their remaining chemical weapons stockpiles. The Council further requested that these reports be based on the independent information that is received by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) from the Organisation’s inspectors, who undertake verification in accordance with section D of Part IV(A) of the Verification Annex to the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Verification Annex”), and that they include information on the progress achieved to meet the planned completion date(s) and a statement as to the effectiveness of any specific measures that have been undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes.
2. The information included in this report relates to the cut-off date of 31 May 2015, with the exception of that pertaining to Libya, which has 18 June 2015 as the cut-off date.

LibyaProgress achieved to meet the planned completion date

3. Libya has declared 26.345 metric tonnes (MTs) of Category 1 chemical weapons (a blister chemical agent).
4. To date, the Secretariat has verified the complete destruction by Libya of the Category 1 chemical weapons declared by this State Party. No withdrawals pursuant to Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) and subparagraph 2(d) of Part VI of the Verification Annex have taken place in this State Party. Libya has also completed the destruction of all its Category 3 chemical weapons.

* Reissued for technical reasons.



5. With respect to the remaining Category 2 chemical weapons stockpiles, as at 18 June 2015, Libya had destroyed 669.813 MTs, or 47.78%, of its Category 2 chemical weapons.
6. Libya recently submitted a national paper, “Concept Plan for Destruction of the Remaining Category 2 Chemical Weapons in Libya” (EC-79/NAT.1, dated 1 June 2015), in which it outlines its plans for the destruction of the remaining Category 2 chemical weapons using a phased approach, which allows for the destruction of some of the chemicals in a relatively short time frame and provides for continued storage of the remaining chemicals until their destruction, without posing any safety or environmental risks.
7. The concept plan referred to above notes that its implementation “requires the application of verification measures as well as national oversight” and that “the Technical Secretariat and Libya will agree on an appropriate verification approach, which may include to the extent possible, remote monitoring of operations.”
8. Libya informed the Secretariat that, based on its concept plan (EC-79/NAT.1), it will commence the destruction of isopropanol on 1 June 2015 by dilution with water to a concentration of isopropanol of less than 75% by weight.
9. In view of the current security situation in Libya, the Secretariat decided that it was not in a position to send an inspection team to physically verify the destruction of the isopropanol at the Ruwagha facility. Accordingly, the Secretariat and Libya have agreed on a set of measures to allow for remote verification measures, namely:
 - (a) video recording by the Libyan National Authority of the various steps of the destruction process, including the collection of samples prior to and after destruction;
 - (b) the review *ex post facto* of such video recordings, along with other records documenting the destruction activities to be provided by the Libyan National Authority; and
 - (c) the future transfer of samples to the OPCW Laboratory and their analysis to verify the identity of the agent destroyed.
10. In its latest progress report (EC-79/NAT.4, dated 26 June 2015), Libya informed the Secretariat that it had completed the destruction of isopropanol on 18 June and that the measures agreed upon for the remote verification of isopropanol destruction were fully implemented during these operations, and Libya would provide all required documentation for the review of the Secretariat during the forthcoming session of the Council.
11. Libya also informed the Secretariat in the aforementioned report that, during the recent operations, 114.103 MTs of isopropanol or 100% of the declared quantity of this Category 2 chemical had been destroyed. The destruction of this amount of isopropanol is still to be verified by the Secretariat.
12. In accordance with the “Detailed Plan for the Destruction of Chemical Weapons Remaining After the Final Extended Deadline of 29 April 2012 (as per

C-16/DEC.11)” submitted by Libya (EC-68/NAT.4, dated 18 April 2012), the destruction of the remaining Category 2 chemical weapons is scheduled for completion by December 2016.

The effectiveness of any specific measures that have been undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes

13. In its latest report submitted pursuant to the decision of the Conference on the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 (EC-79/NAT.1), Libya reported that it has taken the necessary measures to proceed with the disposal of the isopropanol in line with its concept plan and subsequently informed the Secretariat that it intends to commence the destruction of the isopropanol on 1 June 2015. Libya reported the destruction of 114.103 MTs of isopropanol as at 18 June 2015.
14. The Director-General, on the basis of the information he received from Libya, is in a position to confirm that Libya has initiated the necessary steps for the implementation of the concept plan presented in EC-79/NAT.1 in order to meet the planned completion date for the destruction of its remaining chemical weapons. The Secretariat, in a timely manner, shall inform the policy-making organs of any further developments in this regard, in accordance with C-16/DEC.11.

Russian Federation

Progress achieved to meet the planned completion date

15. The Russian Federation has declared 39,966.586 MTs of Category 1 chemical weapons (nerve and blister chemical warfare agents).
16. As at 31 May 2015, the Secretariat had verified the destruction by the Russian Federation of 35,453 MTs, or 88.7%, of the Category 1 chemical weapons stockpile. This includes 0.026 MTs of chemical warfare agents withdrawn from Category 1 chemical weapons stocks pursuant to Article VI of the Convention and subparagraph 2(d) of Part VI of the Verification Annex for purposes not prohibited under the Convention. In addition, the Russian Federation has destroyed all of its Category 2 and Category 3 chemical weapons.
17. In the period under review, all of the five remaining chemical weapons destruction facilities (CWDFs)—in Kizner, Leonidovka, Maradykovsky, Pochev, and Shchuchye—have been operating in the Russian Federation.
18. The Maradykovsky facility has continued the destruction of Vx filled aerial bomb blocks, while Shchuchye has continued the destruction of 650-mm missile warheads filled with Vx. The facility at Leonidovka completed the destruction of 9-A-3109 aerial bomb blocks filled with soman in April 2015 and began the destruction of the Vx filled 9-A-3052 aerial bomb blocks.
19. In April 2015, Pochev completed the destruction of spray tanks filled with viscous soman and subsequently, in May, completed the destruction of 150 kg aerial bombs also filled with viscous soman. Pochev is currently destroying its final munition type, namely, 250 kg aerial bombs containing viscous soman.

20. The destruction of 9H57 122-mm artillery munitions filled with sarin continues at Kizner, with 361,092 of the 514,151 items having been completed.
21. In accordance with the Detailed Plan for the Destruction of Category 1 Chemical Weapons Remaining After the Extended Deadline of 29 April 2012 and its addendum submitted by the Russian Federation (EC-68/P/NAT.1, dated 3 April 2012 and Add.1, dated 6 October 2014), the destruction of the remaining Category 1 chemical weapons at Maradykovsky, Leonidovka, Pochep, and Shchuchye is planned to be completed by December 2015, whereas at the Kizner facility, destruction operations will be carried on until December 2020.

The effectiveness of any specific measures that have been undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes

22. In its latest report on the progress it has made towards the complete destruction of its remaining stockpiles of chemical weapons (EC-79/P/NAT.4, dated 10 June 2015), the Russian Federation informed the Secretariat that, as at 31 May 2015, the indicators for the destruction of Category 1 chemical weapons stockpiles at the Maradykovsky, Leonidovka, Shchuchye, Pochep, and Kizner CWDFs corresponded to those specified in the “Detailed Plan for the Destruction of Category 1 Chemical Weapons Remaining After the Extended Deadline of 29 April 2012” (EC-68/P/NAT.1), taking into account the addendum concerning the activity at the Kizner facility from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2020 (EC-68/P/NAT.1/Add.1). In addition, the Russian Federation specified that “at Kizner the destruction indicators have reached 29.0% or 1,700 tonnes, in line with the scheduled pace of Category 1 chemical weapons destruction progress at this facility”.
23. The Director-General—on the basis of independent information that he received from the Organisation’s inspectors undertaking verification in accordance with Part IV(A) of the Verification Annex, as well as the information he received from the Russian Federation, is in a position to confirm that the Russian Federation has taken the necessary measures to complete the destruction of the chemical weapons stockpiles at four facilities, namely, Leonidovka, Maradykovsky, Pochep, and Shchuchye, by the planned completion date of 31 December 2015 and at Kizner by 31 December 2020. The Secretariat will continue to receive regular evaluations from its experts, as well as updates from the Russian Federation. Should the situation change, the Secretariat, in a timely manner, shall inform the policy-making organs, in accordance with C-16/DEC.11.

United States of America

Progress achieved to meet the planned completion date

24. The United States of America has declared 27,769.188 MTs of Category 1 chemical weapons (nerve and blister chemical agents, as well as binary weapons components).
25. As at 31 May 2015, the Secretariat had verified the destruction by the United States of America of 24,923.986 MTs, or 89.75%, of the total amount of Category 1 chemical weapons declared by this State Party. This includes 2.682 MTs of chemical-warfare agents withdrawn from Category 1 chemical weapons stocks pursuant to Article VI of the Convention and subparagraph 2(d) of Part VI of the Verification Annex for

purposes not prohibited under the Convention. The United States of America has also destroyed all of its Category 2 (0.010 MTs) and Category 3 chemical weapons.

26. During the period under review, the United States of America informed the Secretariat regarding the destruction of 0.0127 MTs of unknown agent at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Chemical Transfer Facility/Munitions Assessment and Processing System, Aberdeen, Maryland, and 0.02653 MT of unknown agent at the Recovered CWDF, Schofield, Hawaii, totalling 0.03923 MT. This activity will be verified by the Secretariat in December 2015, in accordance with existing agreements on verification after the fact of limited chemical weapons destruction activities.
27. Additionally, during this period the United States of America began destruction operations at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Explosive Destruction System (PCAPP EDS). Destruction operations commenced on 18 March 2015. The Secretariat verified the destruction of two HT and eight HD samples in Department of Transportation bottles, as well as 147 HD M60 105-mm projectiles.
28. In accordance with the detailed plan submitted by the United States of America for the destruction of remaining chemical weapons (EC-68/NAT.2, dated 13 April 2012), this State Party plans that the destruction of its remaining Category 1 chemical weapons will be completed by September 2023.

The effectiveness of any specific measures that have been undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes

29. The United States of America has stated in a recently submitted progress report (EC-79/NAT.2, dated 11 June 2015) that it “continues to act on opportunities to accelerate the completion of chemical weapons destruction”, and that, by the use of “a combination of new technologies, contract incentives, and the transfer of experienced personnel”, it is “working to complete destruction before the scheduled timelines”.
30. The United States of America also informed the Secretariat that it intends to use contract incentives “similar to those used successfully in accelerating the destruction efforts at six other chemical weapons destruction facilities (CWDFs). These contract incentives will be applied to the operations and closure phases of both PCAPP and the BGCAPP to accelerate the destruction of the remainder of the US chemical weapons stockpile”. Furthermore, “[e]xperienced and trained personnel from former CWDFs were hired to facilitate the transition from construction to systemisation and from systemisation to destruction operations at PCAPP and BGCAPP. By virtue of their familiarity with safety and environmental compliance requirements, these workers will assist the programme in avoiding problems or delays during systemisation and operations.”
31. The United States of America stated in its latest progress report that it has completed construction work for the major buildings at the PCAPP and that systemisation at this facility is 77% complete. This State Party has also informed the Secretariat that it has completed 94% of the construction work for the BGCAPP and that this facility has reached 30% systemisation. The United States of America has selected the Static Detonation Chamber as the preferred technology to destroy problematic munitions at BGCAPP. Construction is currently 37% complete and destruction operations at the

BGCAPP SDC are scheduled to begin in 2017. Destruction at the main destruction facilities remains on schedule to begin at Pueblo in December 2015 and at Blue Grass in April 2020.

32. The United States of America has informed the Secretariat that “[n]o problems have been encountered since the last report” and that it “continues to anticipate and address potential issues and will use risk mitigation strategies to address and eliminate concerns as early as possible to facilitate the safe and environmentally sound destruction of the remaining US chemical weapons stockpile”. Moreover, “[p]ersonnel at both facilities continue to share and apply their broad knowledge and technical experience to address emerging challenges”. Finally, the United States of America stated that it is on track to meet its planned completion date.
33. During this period, the United States of America hosted a Council visit in accordance with C-16/DEC.11 to increase understanding of the issues surrounding chemical weapons destruction operations at Pueblo, Colorado and future planning for destruction operations at the Blue Grass, Kentucky facility (EC-79/1, dated 1 June 2015).
34. The Director-General, on the basis of information he has received from the United States of America, is in a position to confirm that this State Party has taken the necessary measures to meet the planned completion date for its destruction activities and that measures have been put in place to shorten the construction, systemisation and operation schedule at both the PCAPP and BGCAPP by, inter alia, using a combination of new technologies and equipment, contract incentives, and transfer of experienced personnel from former CWDFs. Should the situation change, the Secretariat, in a timely manner, shall inform the policy-making organs, in accordance with C-16/DEC.11.