

**NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL****STATUS REPORT ON THE TIMELY SUBMISSION BY STATES PARTIES OF DECLARATIONS UNDER ARTICLE VI OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 MAY 2017****1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This Note, which is being submitted to the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) for consideration at its Eighty-Fifth Session, provides an update on the information and analysis related to the implementation by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) and States Parties of the decision “Timely Submission by States Parties of Declarations under Article VI of the Convention” (EC-51/DEC.1, dated 27 November 2007); it covers the period from 1 January to 31 May 2017.¹
- 1.2 In response to the above-mentioned decision, which requests all States Parties to meet their obligations regarding annual declarations in a timely manner, the Secretariat sent a further note verbale to all Member States (NV/VER/DEB/208254/17, dated 1 February 2017) reminding them of the requirements of the decision and of the deadline for the submission of annual declarations on past activities (ADPA) for the year 2016.
- 1.3 In the decision the Council also requests the Secretariat “to make its requirements known at regional meetings and at any other venues that the Secretariat deems effective”. During the reporting period, the decision was highlighted at two regional meetings of National Authorities (in Asia and Eastern Europe). Furthermore, the Secretariat has held several bilateral meetings with Permanent Representatives and National Authorities to highlight the importance of the timely submission of declarations.

2. Submission of initial declarations under Article VI

During the reporting period, the Secretariat did not receive any initial declarations. As at 31 May 2017, only one State Party, Tonga, had yet to submit its initial

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Previous Notes on this topic are EC-53/DG.8, dated 5 June 2008; EC-55/DG.12, dated 5 February 2009; EC-57/DG.8, dated 11 June 2009 and Corr.1, dated 18 June 2009; EC-59/DG.8, dated 29 January 2010; EC-61/DG.11, dated 11 June 2010; EC-63/DG.5, dated 18 January 2011; EC-65/DG.8*, dated 27 June 2011; EC-67/DG.4, dated 19 January 2012; EC-69/DG.7, dated 18 June 2012 and Corr.1, dated 10 July 2012; EC-71/DG.7, dated 23 January 2013; EC-73/DG.6, dated 24 June 2013; EC-75/DG.1, dated 15 January 2014; EC-76/DG.10*, dated 11 June 2014; EC-78/DG.4, dated 12 January 2015; EC-79/DG.13, dated 11 June 2015; EC-81/DG.4, dated 14 January 2016; EC-82/DG.14, dated 13 June 2016; and EC-84/DG.8, dated 17 January 2017.



declaration under Article VI. The Secretariat will continue to work with this State Party towards the submission of its outstanding initial declaration.

3. Submission of annual declarations under Article VI

- 3.1 The deadline for the submission of ADPA 2016 was 31 March 2017. As at that date, the Secretariat had received ADPA 2016 from 82 States Parties, including six States Parties that notified the Secretariat that they had no declarable facilities or activities (“nil declarations”).² An additional 10 States Parties submitted information on declarable facilities or activities for ADPA 2016 after 31 March 2017, and two more States Parties notified the Secretariat that they had no declarable facilities or activities under the Verification Annex to the Convention (hereinafter “the Verification Annex”).
- 3.2 As at 31 May 2017, a total of 86 States Parties had submitted declarations for declarable facilities or activities for 2016. Of the 86 States Parties, 76 (88%) were on time in submitting at least part of their declaration. The current status of submissions of ADPA 2016 is detailed in Annexes 1 and 2 to this report.
- 3.3 The deadlines for the submission of ADAA 2017 were 2 October 2016 (for Schedule 1 facilities) and 1 November 2016 (for Schedule 2 and 3 plant sites). Since the Eighty-Fourth Session of the Council, there has been no change in the number of States Parties that have declared activities and facilities for 2017. However, during the reporting period, one additional State Party submitted a nil ADAA 2017 for Schedule 2 and 3 facilities.
- 3.4 In paragraph 4 of EC-51/DEC.1, the Council requests “States Parties that anticipate difficulties in regard to the timely submission of their declarations in accordance with the deadlines in the Convention to inform the Secretariat at the earliest possible date of the circumstances of such difficulties”. Of the 12 States Parties that submitted at least part of their ADPA after the deadline (excluding nil declarations), two States Parties submitted information to that effect. One cited difficulties with establishing legislation or implementing measures; the other cited logistical difficulties as the reason for its late submissions. The remaining 10 States Parties did not inform to the Secretariat.

4. Ongoing efforts to assist States Parties

- 4.1 The Secretariat has held bilateral meetings with representatives of States Parties that submitted their annual declarations late in the previous ADPA rounds to offer advice and assistance where needed. Furthermore, the Secretariat has provided customised support to those States Parties that encountered difficulties in identifying declarable activities, collecting data for declaration, and preparing and submitting their annual declarations, through bilateral consultations with National Authorities and the training of National Authority personnel. The Secretariat continues to work with concerned States Parties towards the submission of complete and accurate annual declarations on time.

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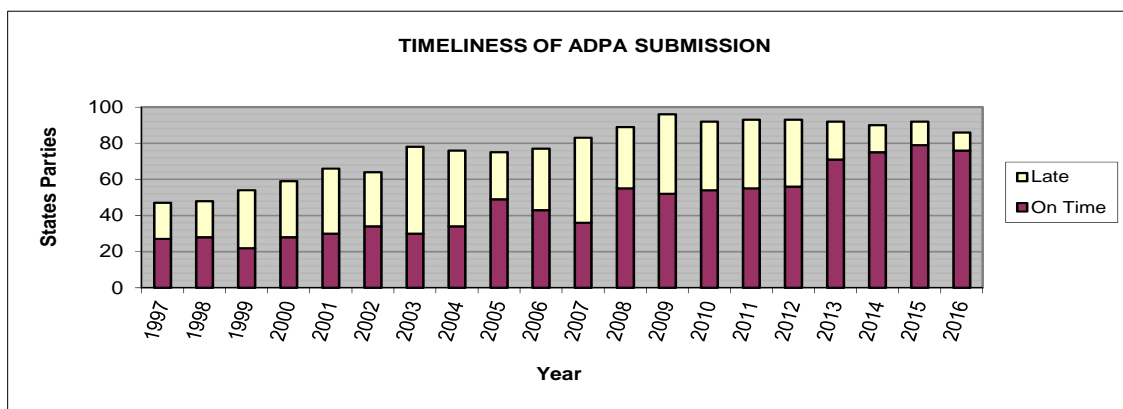
Although the submission of nil declarations is not a requirement of the Convention, a number of States Parties choose to provide the Secretariat with such information voluntarily.

4.2 The Secretariat continued to support States Parties in using the new Secure Information Exchange (SIX) system for the exchange of confidential information, in particular declarations. Currently 70 users from 42 States Parties are registered for SIX. In 2017, the system has been used by 35 States Parties for the submission of ADPA 2016. Further details and updates regarding the system are available in the Note by the Secretariat S/1407/2016 (dated 16 August 2016). The SIX project team is available for questions from States Parties and can be contacted via email (six@opcw.org).

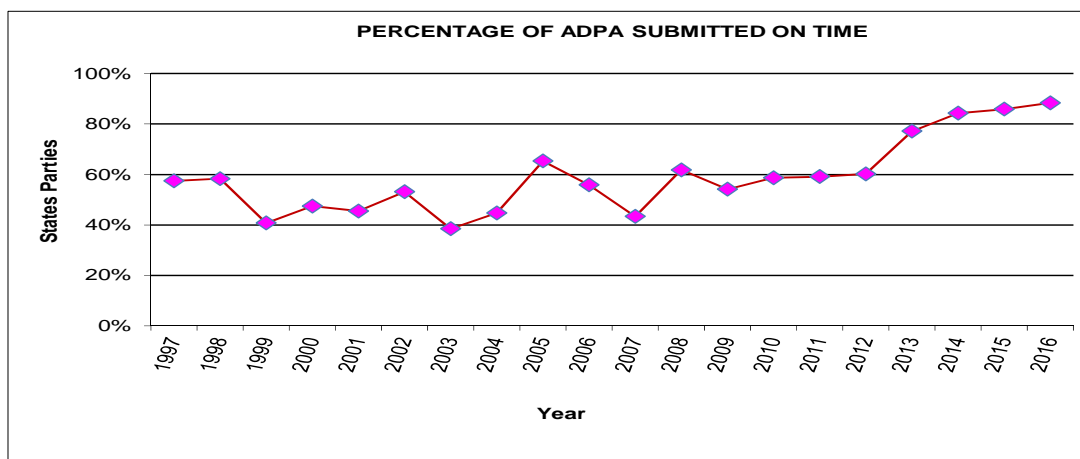
5. Analysis of trends in the timeliness of past ADPA³

5.1 Although there was a decrease in the number of submissions received on time for ADPA 2007 (the first declaration submitted after the approval of EC-51/DEC.1) in comparison to the previous year, for ADPA 2008 there was a significant improvement in the number and percentage of submissions received on time, which was maintained for all subsequent ADPA up to and including ADPA 2016. For ADPA 2016, there was a slight decrease in the number of submissions received on time, with 76 out of 86 States Parties submitting on time, compared to 79 out of 92 for ADPA 2015. The Secretariat will continue to work with States Parties towards the timeliness of submission of annual declarations. A timeline of ADPA submissions from 1997 to 2016 is shown in Figure 1 below.

FIGURE 1: OVERVIEW OF SUBMISSIONS OF ADPA 1997 – 2016

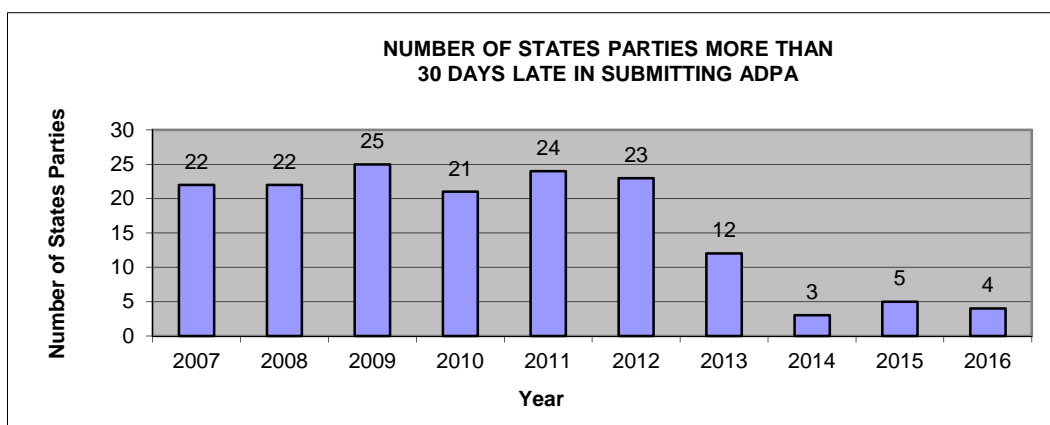


³ The numbers and percentages of States Parties in this section do not include submissions of nil declarations.



- 5.2 Although many States Parties are occasionally one or two days late in submitting their declarations, a number of States Parties are regularly several weeks or months late.
- 5.3 The Secretariat has held bilateral meetings with representatives of States Parties that have submitted their annual declarations more than 30 days late. These meetings were held specifically to stress the importance of timely submissions and to offer advice and assistance. As a result of this initiative, the number of States Parties submitting their ADPA more than 30 days late has decreased since 2012.
- 5.4 As at 31 May 2017, four States Parties had submitted declarable activities for ADPA 2016 more than 30 days late. Of the five States Parties that submitted ADPA 2015 more than 30 days late, one State Party submitted ADPA 2016 within 30 days after the deadline. An overview of submissions of ADPA 2007 to ADPA 2016 that were more than 30 days late is given in Figure 2 below.

FIGURE 2: OVERVIEW OF SUBMISSIONS OF ADPA 2007 TO ADPA 2016 THAT WERE MORE THAN 30 DAYS LATE



Annexes:

- Annex 1: Timely Submissions of Annual Declarations on Past Activities for 2016
(as at 31 March 2017)
- Annex 2: Additional Submissions of Annual Declarations on Past Activities for 2016
(as at 31 May 2017)

Annex 1

**TIMELY SUBMISSIONS OF ANNUAL DECLARATIONS ON PAST ACTIVITIES FOR 2016
(AS AT 31 MARCH 2017)⁴**

	State Party	Schedule 1 Facilities	Schedule 1 Transfers	Schedule 2 Plant Sites	Schedule 2 AND	Schedule 3 Plant Sites	Schedule 3 AND	OCPE Update
1.	Algeria						31-Mar-17	31-Mar-17
2.	Andorra*	23-Feb-17 *		23-Feb-17 *		23-Feb-17 *		23-Feb-17 *
3.	Argentina					30-Mar-17		30-Mar-17
4.	Australia	30-Mar-17		30-Mar-17	30-Mar-17	30-Mar-17	30-Mar-17	30-Mar-17
5.	Austria			31-Mar-17			31-Mar-17	31-Mar-17
6.	Bangladesh						16-Mar-17	16-Mar-17
7.	Belarus					29-Mar-17	29-Mar-17	29-Mar-17
8.	Belgium	28-Mar-17		28-Mar-17	28-Mar-17	28-Mar-17	28-Mar-17	28-Mar-17
9.	Bosnia and Herzegovina						28-Mar-17	28-Mar-17
10.	Brazil					15-Mar-17	15-Mar-17	15-Mar-17
11.	Bulgaria			21-Mar-17	21-Mar-17		21-Mar-17	21-Mar-17
12.	Canada	01-Feb-17		02-Mar-17	02-Mar-17		02-Mar-17	02-Mar-17
13.	Chile						29-Mar-17	29-Mar-17
14.	China	23-Mar-17		23-Mar-17	23-Mar-17	23-Mar-17	23-Mar-17	23-Mar-17
15.	Colombia						31-Mar-17	31-Mar-17
16.	Costa Rica						10-Mar-17	10-Mar-17
17.	Croatia						30-Mar-17	30-Mar-17
18.	Cuba						29-Mar-17	29-Mar-17
19.	Cyprus							29-Mar-17
20.	Czech Republic	07-Feb-17		01-Mar-17	01-Mar-17	01-Mar-17	01-Mar-17	01-Mar-17
21.	Denmark			29-Mar-17	29-Mar-17		29-Mar-17	29-Mar-17
22.	Dominican Republic						28-Mar-17	

* Submission of a nil declaration.

⁴ States Parties that submitted ADPA 2016 by the deadline.

	State Party	Schedule 1 Facilities	Schedule 1 Transfers	Schedule 2 Plant Sites	Schedule 2 AND	Schedule 3 Plant Sites	Schedule 3 AND	OCPF Update
23.	El Salvador	28-Mar-17 *		28-Mar-17 *	28-Mar-17 *		28-Mar-17	
24.	Estonia							30-Mar-17
25.	Ethiopia				21-Mar-17		21-Mar-17	
26.	Finland	17-Mar-17		17-Mar-17	17-Mar-17		17-Mar-17	17-Mar-17
27.	France	16-Mar-17	16-Mar-17	24-Mar-17	24-Mar-17	24-Mar-17	24-Mar-17	24-Mar-17
28.	Georgia				22-Mar-17	22-Mar-17	22-Mar-17	22-Mar-17
29.	Germany		30-Mar-17	30-Mar-17	30-Mar-17	30-Mar-17	30-Mar-17	30-Mar-17
30.	Greece			29-Mar-17			29-Mar-17	29-Mar-17
31.	India	23-Mar-17		23-Mar-17	23-Mar-17	23-Mar-17	23-Mar-17	23-Mar-17
32.	Indonesia				31-Mar-17		31-Mar-17	
33.	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	14-Mar-17		14-Mar-17		14-Mar-17	14-Mar-17	14-Mar-17
34.	Iraq							23-Mar-17
35.	Ireland			15-Mar-17	15-Mar-17		15-Mar-17	15-Mar-17
36.	Italy			30-Mar-17	30-Mar-17	30-Mar-17	30-Mar-17	30-Mar-17
37.	Japan	13-Mar-17		31-Mar-17	31-Mar-17	31-Mar-17	31-Mar-17	31-Mar-17
38.	Kazakhstan					30-Mar-17	30-Mar-17	30-Mar-17
39.	Latvia			22-Feb-17	22-Feb-17			22-Feb-17
40.	Lebanon						30-Mar-17	
41.	Liechtenstein*				22-Feb-17 *			
42.	Lithuania							30-Mar-17
43.	Luxembourg*	31-Mar-17 *		31-Mar-17 *	31-Mar-17 *	31-Mar-17 *	31-Mar-17 *	
44.	Malaysia				22-Mar-17	22-Mar-17	22-Mar-17	22-Mar-17
45.	Malta						28-Mar-17	
46.	Mauritius						20-Jan-17	
47.	Mexico			24-Mar-17	24-Mar-17	24-Mar-17	24-Mar-17	24-Mar-17
48.	Morocco						01-Mar-17	01-Mar-17
49.	Namibia*	28-Mar-17 *	28-Mar-17 *	28-Mar-17 *	28-Mar-17 *	28-Mar-17 *	28-Mar-17 *	28-Mar-17 *
50.	Netherlands	29-Mar-17	29-Mar-17	29-Mar-17	29-Mar-17	29-Mar-17	29-Mar-17	29-Mar-17
51.	New Zealand						28-Mar-17	28-Mar-17

	State Party	Schedule 1 Facilities	Schedule 1 Transfers	Schedule 2 Plant Sites	Schedule 2 AND	Schedule 3 Plant Sites	Schedule 3 AND	OCPF Update
80.	United States of America	30-Mar-17		30-Mar-17	30-Mar-17	30-Mar-17	30-Mar-17	30-Mar-17
81.	Uzbekistan					16-Mar-17	16-Mar-17	16-Mar-17
82.	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)						31-Mar-17	31-Mar-17

Annex 2

**ADDITIONAL SUBMISSIONS OF ANNUAL DECLARATIONS ON PAST ACTIVITIES FOR 2016
(AS AT 31 MAY 2017)⁵**

	State Party	Schedule 1 Facilities	Schedule 1 Transfers	Schedule 2 Plant Sites	Schedule 2 AND	Schedule 3 Plant Sites	Schedule 3 AND	OCPF Update
1.	Argentina ⁶			24-May-17				
2.	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	19-Apr-17 *	19-Apr-17 *	19-Apr-17 *	19-Apr-17 *	19-Apr-17 *	19-Apr-17	19-Apr-17 *
3.	Burkina Faso *	01-Apr-17 *		01-Apr-17 *	01-Apr-17 *	01-Apr-17 *	01-Apr-17 *	01-Apr-17 *
4.	Ecuador				10-Apr-17		10-Apr-17	10-Apr-17
5.	Guatemala							10-May-17
6.	Hungary					29-May-17	29-May-17	29-May-17
7.	Jordan						19-Apr-17	19-Apr-17
8.	Kenya						16-May-17	16-May-17
9.	Kuwait						30-May-17	18-May-17
10.	Saudi Arabia ⁶					19-May-17		19-May-17
11.	Serbia	19-Apr-17					19-Apr-17	19-Apr-17
12.	Tunisia*	02-May-17 *	02-May-17 *	02-May-17 *	02-May-17 *	02-May-17 *	02-May-17 *	02-May-17 *
13.	Uruguay						05-Apr-17	05-Apr-17
14.	Viet Nam						13-Apr-17	13-Apr-17

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⁵ States Parties that submitted ADPA 2016 after the deadline.

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⁶ Also listed in Annex 1 in relation to declarations under other parts of the Verification Annex.