



OPCW TODAY

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**16th Session of the Conference of the States
Parties to the CWC**

**IUPAC Workshop to Review Advances in
Science and Technology in Preparation of
the Third CWC Review Conference**

BWC Review Conference

OPCW – EU Partnership



Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Working together for a world free of chemical weapons

Foreword by the Director-General of the OPCW



I am happy to introduce the first issue of the journal, the '**OPCW Today**' which marks the resumption of a regular publication of the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) after a lapse of a few years. This year as we celebrate the 15 years of success of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)

in protecting the humanity against use or threat of use of chemical weapons, it is our bounden duty to create awareness of the utility of the CWC and disseminate its achievement as the most successful international disarmament treaty with a stringent verification regime. Public awareness all around the world is indispensable for the full implementation of all objectives of the Convention.

This quarterly publication will serve as a platform to share views and opinion by all stakeholders with a view to further the knowledge on CWC in terms of its benefits and prohibitions as well as to comprehend the developments in the field of science and technology focusing on the future. The '**OPCW Today**' will also provide an overview of the regular activities of the Organisation on the implementation of the Convention.

The OPCW has been promoting public diplomacy to reach out to the people at large and we firmly believe the '**OPCW Today**' will contribute substantively as an essential tool in this endeavor. We invite your constructive and resourceful contributions to sustain the journey of the publication and to realize the objectives of its mission. The contributions **inter alia** may include key areas of international cooperation, national implementation; and

progress being made by States Parties and National Authorities in respect of assistance and protection with the object of enhancing the effectiveness of their national efforts to implement the Convention.

We will soon begin preparations for the Third Review Conference scheduled to take place early next year. The '**OPCW Today**' could be used as a channel to exchange views on the status of the CWC disarmament regime, have open discussion and debate on the issues impacting the CWC and issues related to future focus in order to create awareness and contribute to an outcome that is consistent with our collective determination to make the Organisation a permanent barrier against chemical weapons.

This first edition of the quarterly journal provides information on important decisions taken at the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, information on important visits and events at the OPCW Technical Secretariat and elsewhere and articles by well known experts and diplomats on issues that are relevant to the work of the Organisation.

There is considerable scope to make the '**OPCW Today**' meet your expectations for information. For that, I look forward to your contributions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'A. Üzümcü', written in a cursive style.

Ahmet Üzümcü
Director-General
Technical Secretariat
OPCW

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Strengthening the OPCW

By Paul Walker¹

The OPCW, now entering its sixteenth year of full operations in The Hague, The Netherlands, has been the most successful multilateral arms control and disarmament regime to date. Established by the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention or CWC) which entered into force in April 1997, the OPCW is now almost universal in membership with 188 States Parties. It has overseen and verified the safe and irreversible destruction of over 50,000 metric tons of deadly chemical agents and millions of munitions stockpiled in six of seven declared possessor countries. It has also carried out some 4,700 inspections of chemical weapons-related and industry sites in 81 countries across the globe. And, perhaps most importantly, it has set an excellent model for multilateral, verified abolition of a whole class of inhumane weaponry and thereby contributed much to enhanced global security.

The Director-General of the OPCW, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, pointed out these many important successes of the international organisation in his opening address at the most recent annual Conference of States Parties (CSP) last November: "The fact that almost three-quarters of all declared chemical weapons stockpiles will be destroyed by April 2012 is an achievement without parallel in disarmament...the Convention remains the singular international legal framework to rid our planet of the menace of chemical weapons."²

But Director-General Üzümcü, also pointed out the many challenges which the Organisation has weathered over the last sixteen years, and which it must continue to address in order to sustain its strength, importance, and relevance to global disarmament and peace-building: "The true value of our Organisation is in its task as a guarantor of security against chemical weapons. This, under the Convention, is an enduring mission...so that the OPCW remains prepared at all times to deal with both contemporary and future security threats, for example, the threat of terrorism."³

Chemical weapons destruction: The primary purpose of the Convention is to rid the world of deadly declared chemical weapons stockpiles. The two largest possessor states, Russia and the United States, have both made excellent progress in safely destroying their stockpiles. The United States began its own destruction process unilaterally in 1990, seven years before the CWC's entry into force, and announced late last year that it had completed 90% destruction of its original 31,500 US tons (28,577 MTs) of stockpiled chemical weapons at seven of its nine declared stockpile sites. Russia, which began its destruction process in December 2002, has eliminated about 60% of its declared stockpile of 40,000 MTs at six of its seven declared sites.

Another three possessor countries – Albania, a State Party, and India – all successfully completed their much smaller chemical weapons destruction programs in 2007, 2008, and 2009 respectively. And a sixth possessor country, Libya, has destroyed about 13 MTs to date.

Yet both the United States and Russia still have a long way to go to finish their destruction programs – some 2,850 MTs in the US, and 16,000 MTs in Russia – and both will miss the mandated 2012 CWC deadline for complete destruction. While Russia may take another five years or more, and the US another decade or more, the important goal will be to complete these enormously burdensome, costly, and complicated processes safely and under full OPCW verification. The agreement reached at the 16th CSP last December sets good precedent for holding both possessor countries fully accountable for finishing their programs in a safe and timely manner.⁴

Universality: Eight countries – Angola, Egypt, Israel, Myanmar, North Korea, Somalia, South Sudan, and Syria – remain outside of the Convention's regime. Although good progress has been achieved in the last few years in bringing laggard States into the Convention, it is important for the sustainability of the Convention to make it truly universal. This will require an all out effort by the OPCW, States Parties, and non-governmental organizations, to encourage these countries to join. The United Nations conference this year or next on a weapons-of-mass-destruction free-zone (WMDFFZ) in the Middle East will no doubt help, but until all countries are regime members, the risk is higher for illicit production and use of deadly chemicals.⁵

Compliance Issues: States Parties take a solemn obligation, upon joining the CWC, to never develop, produce, stockpile, transfer, or use chemical agents and weapons. They must also fully declare all chemical weapons and destroy them safely within treaty timeframes. Article XII addresses compliance and possible sanctions, including "where serious damage to the object and purpose of this Convention may result from activities prohibited under this Convention." Most violations to date, including missed deadlines, have been minor and not undermined trust and compliance.

Strengthening the regime: transparency, national declarations, timely payment of annual assessments, declining organisational budgets, outreach and involvement of industry and civil society, tenure policy and staff expertise, evolution of bio-chemistry, buried and sea-dumped munitions, and international cooperation and assistance, to name a few – must also be addressed to help strengthen and sustain the OPCW. But one can rest assured that

the Convention, and its implementing agency, the OPCW, will continue to be a very positive player in global security and the eventual abolition, and non-reemergence, of all chemical weapons if States Parties continue to support the regime. With some good fortune, we might even be able to replicate this successful abolition regime for all other weapons of mass destruction. That would truly make the world a much safer place for all.

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- 2 OPCW, Opening Statement by the Director-General to the Conference of the States Parties at its Sixteenth Session, November 28, 2011, C-16/DG.18, pages 1-2.
- 3 Opening Statement by the Director-General, page 4.
- 4 See OPCW, Decision Final Extended Deadline of 29 April 2012, December 1, 2011, C-16/DEC. 11.
- 5 For the case of Syria, see Charles P. Blair, "Fearful of a Nuclear Iran? The Real WMD Nightmare is Syria," Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, March 1, 2012.

EUROPEAN UNION

OPCW – EU Partnership to Promote Multilateral Disarmament and Non-Proliferation



On 12 December 2003, the Council of the European Union (EU) adopted the EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. This strategy identified a number of concrete actions to promote and reinforce multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation regimes, such as the Chemical Weapons Convention. More specifically, the EU strategy underlines the crucial role of the Convention and of the OPCW in creating a world free of chemical weapons. The objectives of the EU Strategy are complementary to the ones pursued by the OPCW in fulfilling its mission.

Four sequential Contribution Agreements between the European Commission and the OPCW have been undertaken to provide financial support to different OPCW programmes and activities.

The cooperation between the OPCW and the EU commenced in 2004, with a Joint Action that was implemented during a 12 months period. Subsequently, an additional two Joint Actions (in 2006 and 2007) for a similar duration and a Council Decision¹ (2009) supporting a 24-month programme was approved by the EU and has been successfully implemented.

The total combined budget of the voluntary contributions of the EU amount to over EUR 7.300.000.

The fourth Contribution Agreement was signed in November 2009, under which the European Commission contributed EUR 2.110.00, to further strengthen the multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation measures of the CWC. Under this programme activities included:

- Bilateral technical assistance visits to States Parties
- Training courses for National Authorities, customs officials and national escorts to inspections
- Seminars on OPCW's contribution to international

security dimensions and challenges

- Support to the OPCW Scientific Advisory Board
- Outreach activities promoting universal adherence to the Convention
- Verification activities relating to a Challenge Inspection Exercise in Thailand

A significant part of the voluntary contribution supported OPCW activities that fostered international cooperation in the peaceful uses of chemistry. Courses on analytical skills development for professionals from countries in transition or development as well as industry outreach initiatives on chemical process safety, were conducted.

The grand final of the EU Council decision programme was the Challenge Inspection Field Exercise, which took place in Thailand between the end of October and the beginning of November 2011. This Exercise involved a team of 25 OPCW inspectors to test the preparedness of the Organisation to conduct a Challenge Inspection under Article IX of the Convention.

A unique feature of the Council Decision 2009 was the initiation of the "Support to the OPCW Africa Programme", a project incorporating OPCW activities focusing on the specific needs of the African continent in the implementation of the Convention.

On 10 November 2011 the CODUN – the EU Council Working party on Global Disarmament and Arms Control – endorsed a new Council Decision in support of OPCW and the fifth Contribution Agreement is going to be finalised during the first half of 2012.

1 After the adoption of the Lisbon treaty by all EU Member States in 2009, the term "Joint Action" was replaced by "Council Decision".

The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) organised a workshop on “**Trends in Science and Technology Relevant to the Chemical Weapons Convention**” from 20 to 23 February 2012 at Spiez, Switzerland. The meeting was attended by approximately 80 participants that included scientists, as well as officials from the

OPCW and Members of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAB). The OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü delivered the opening address, which was followed by presentations from well known experts and officials from the OPCW on topics pertaining to the theme of the workshop.

OPCW Director-General’s Address to the IUPAC Workshop^I

20 February, 2012

EXTRACTS:

“Perspectives in the Context of the Third Review Conference of the CWC”

(...)

In 2013, OPCW States Parties will meet for the third time in the framework of a Conference to review the operation of the Convention... In this context, the impact of science and technology on the Convention is an obvious subject of interest. This Workshop devoted to the CWC is, therefore, both timely and essential and I commend IUPAC for its initiative.

(...)

On the side of industry verification, the OPCW will continue its work to ensure that production and consumption of scheduled chemicals and the operations of other chemical production facilities, as defined by the Convention, remain dedicated for peaceful purposes.

(...)

The agenda for the Workshop covers key subjects and your deliberations and their results will be keenly awaited. The outcome of the workshop will also be an important resource for the OPCW Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) which will prepare a report on trends in science and technology for the Third Review Conference.

(...)

The SAB has met seventeen times since entry into force of the CWC. The Board meets once or twice a year. Given the approach of the Third Review Conference and, as agreed in the 2012 budget, the SAB will meet twice this year, in April and September. Meanwhile, the SAB has recently established two temporary working groups: one on the convergence of chemistry and biology and the other on education and outreach.

The working group on convergence will consider a subject that is likely to have a major impact on the Convention from a technical standpoint. The temporary working group on education and outreach, on the other hand, will

deal with the objective of strengthening the normative aspects of the Convention.

Sampling and analysis being an important feature of the CWC verification regime also figures as a topic that SAB keeps under study. The OPCW conducts sampling and analysis at about nine Schedule 2 inspections each year and is continuously trying to streamline the process. As a result, a novel sample preparation technique has been developed in the OPCW Laboratory. This has cut the duration of on-line sampling and analysis to less than 24 hours. The Laboratory is also exploring fast Gas Chromatography to further shorten the analysis time.

(...)

At a time of rapid change and advances in science and technology, we seek to further strengthen cooperative relations with the global chemical industry, scientific and academic communities. Over the years, IUPAC has remained an essential and reliable partner for the OPCW. It is my hope that through this cooperation, we will be able to better understand the changes, trends and advances that take place in science and technology, and to bring them to the attention of our Member States.

(...)

Science will no doubt be a major focus of attention at the Third Review Conference. Taking the broader perspective, I will briefly touch upon other key issues that impact the long term effectiveness of the Convention.

(...)

In fact industry verification constitutes a major confidence building measure and does not in any way reflect a measure driven by suspicion. Here, I must once again praise the willing cooperation of the global chemical industry which has contributed significantly to the success of the CWC. (...)

A related matter and one that I believe is of particular relevance to this forum concerns the promotion of ethical

norms against the misuse of chemistry. The obligations of the Convention extend through national laws to all citizens of a country including the individual scientist and engineer. Many chemists, academics, scientists, engineers, technicians, however, have little or no exposure during their training and professional life to the ethical norms and regulatory requirements of the CWC. At the same time, advances in the life sciences are creating enormous opportunities. While their potential for benefit is undisputed, these could also be prone to abuse. Education and awareness-raising about the norms and principles enshrined in the CWC are therefore becoming increasingly important. There are significant expectations attached to the role of IUPAC and it is my hope that the Third Review Conference will provide impetus to this endeavour.

(...)

Our States Parties have shown a particular interest in the aspect of chemical safety and security evident in the success of the OPCW Conference on International Cooperation and Chemical Safety & Security held in September last year. The Conference was a fitting contribution by the Organisation to the commemoration of the International Year of Chemistry. I have established a Task Force on Chemical Safety and Security to review and strengthen, as appropriate, the role of the Organisation in assisting

States Parties in these vital areas. Here again this Workshop can make a substantive contribution.

(...)

The success of the CWC has been the result of multilateral negotiations that carefully considered the long term durability of the prohibitions that were established. Science was an important factor in shaping the verification regime of the Convention. But it was negotiated nearly two decades ago. During this period, developments in science and technology have been nothing short of transformational.

These developments require close study for determining their relevance to the purposes of the Convention and in this endeavour there is no partner for the OPCW more relevant than IUPAC.

I am confident that you will use this workshop to advance the objectives of the Convention. I look forward to the outcome of your deliberations and wish you every success. (...)

1 http://www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/ODG/uzumcu/IUPAC_DG_Statement_Feb_2012.pdf

IUPAC Workshop to Review Advances in Science and Technology in Preparation of the Third CWC Review Conference

By Ralf Trapp²

From 20 to 23 February 2012, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) held an international workshop at Spiez Laboratory in Switzerland, which brought together some 80 participants from universities, research institutes, chemical industry, National Authorities and the OPCW. The workshop reviewed advances in the chemical and life sciences and discussed how they affect the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. This was a third meeting of its kind after similar reviews had been undertaken by IUPAC in Bergen (2002) and Zagreb (2007). These workshops have become a tradition of OPCW-IUPAC collaboration and aim at providing independent broad-based science advice to the preparations of the Review Conferences of the OPCW. As on previous occasions, the report of this year's meeting will inform the deliberations of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) towards the forthcoming Review Conference. The following are personal reflections on some of the discussions in Spiez.

First: a *deja-vu*. The Spiez meeting concluded again that chemical and biological sciences are evolving very fast;

we are in the midst of a revolution in the life sciences. That was already observed in the run-up to the first and second Review Conferences, and the pace of advances has by no means diminished. But is that changing the external environment within which the Convention operates to a degree that calls for radical change? Or does it instead call for careful monitoring and ready science advice? And what drives these advances?

Some preliminary answers became apparent when the meeting discussed the convergence between chemistry and biology, a subject that the OPCW's SAB has already taken up in a Temporary Working Group. This convergence is more than simply an expanding overlap between chemistry and biology, manifested by the increasing use of chemical methods to synthesize biological systems (DNA, entire genomes, complex biomolecules, viruses and as a next possible step application-oriented synthetic cells) and the use of biological processes (biocatalysis, transgenic organisms) to make chemicals. Work at the interface of chemistry and biology increasingly

uses engineering principles, mathematics (modelling and simulations) and information technology (databases, cloud computing) in the description and investigation of biological systems. Biology may be on the verge of transforming itself from an essentially-descriptive to a predictive science that will eventually be able to work from first principles.

How does this matter for the Convention? These advances by themselves will not produce new chemical warfare agents in the traditional sense of the term. But they will unquestionably lead to better insights into the functioning of biological organisms, and more subtle and targeted ways of interfering with them. That creates a growing potential for the discovery of new medicines and treatments, more effective and sustainable methods of food production and pest control, new sources of energy production – to mention just a few. It also, however, creates a growing potential for possible hostile uses, including in the form of new, more targeted and “safer” forms of manipulating human perception, cognition, functioning and behaviour. These trends are directly relevant to the current discussions of whether or not incapacitating agents are acceptable as means of law enforcement (their development, production, stockpiling and use for war is of course prohibited under the Convention).

A second trend that became apparent in the Spiez meeting is the continuing migration of the chemical industry to new production locations and markets, the increase of highly-specialised and fully-automated manufacturing, and the use of new production technologies. Biotechnology as a means of manufacturing chemicals has become common place. Microreactors have finally left the laboratory bench although their industrial use still remains limited. The industry focus is shifting from selling products to delivering ‘solutions’ and the speed of getting these to the market is increasing. Business models are changing and new alliances are being formed with industries not traditionally associated with the manufacturing of chemicals. All this may affect declarations and verification un-

der the Convention and needs to be carefully reviewed. Thirdly, there was discussion of how the science community itself can contribute to strengthening the Convention and to ensuring its full implementation. A recent paper by Graham S. Pearson, Edwin D. Becker and Leiv K. Sydnnes was made available in Spiez (“Why codes of conduct matter”; Chemistry International, November/December 2011) which reported the results of an IUPAC project initiated in 2005, following a workshop in Oxford organised jointly by IUPAC and the OPCW. This project has developed principles for codes of conduct in the chemical profession. It proposes a layered approach of adopting guiding principles, society codes and workplace codes. The overarching objective of this approach is to ensure that all those engaged in chemistry review existing or enact new codes to promote the safe use of chemicals in the public interest and in the furtherance of science, and encourage compliance with relevant international and national laws and regulations including the norm against chemical weapons.

These efforts in awareness raising, education and outreach to the science and industry communities, and the adoption of self-regulation measures by those communities, will become even more important as the advances in the chemical and life sciences continue. In fact, there is an argument that the Convention is already to an extent operating in a “post-proliferation environment” and that it should seek to develop new governance approaches to prevent the misuse of chemistry for hostile purposes in the future. Traditional top-down (State to State, legislative and verification based) approaches will increasingly have to be tied together with efforts by many other stakeholders, including in science, technology and industry, to form a broader governance system that deepens as well as broadens the basis for compliance with the norm. This will clearly create challenges for the OPCW in its transition to new priorities.

2 Independent Disarmament Consultant, Chessenaz, France

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IUPAC: Trends in Science and Technology Relevant to the CWC

What are the potential ramifications of trends and innovations in the field of chemistry over the past five years for the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention? This was the theme of a workshop conducted by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) in February 2011 at Spiez, Switzerland.

In the run-up to the CWC Third Review Conference, which will take place in April 2013, IUPAC organised a three-day event to elicit an independent view from the scientific community on relevant development in chemical science, and how these might affect the Convention.

The Spiez Workshop was attended by around 85 international experts from chemical science and industry, with varying degrees of familiarity with the Convention, as well as representatives of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAB) and the OPCW. The participants heard a number of interesting presentations on topics such as nano-technology, high-throughput screening, advances in analytical chemistry, convergence of chemistry and biology, micro-reactors, chemical safety and security, and outreach to science and industry. In the course of the workshop, participants were able to exchange views on the presentations, and on critical issues facing the Convention. An opening address was delivered by the OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü.

While the official report from the meeting will be made available later this year, the following reflect some of the discussions held during the workshop:

- Some recent advances in chemistry may have the potential applications for purposes proscribed under the Convention. The fact that there are no known cases of such misuse testifies to the success of the Convention as a bulwark against the development of new types of chemical weapons. Nevertheless, some participants expressed concerns, notably with regard to research into incapacitating agents.
- In chemical safety and chemical security, distribution networks and academic laboratories handling toxic chemicals other than those listed in Schedule 1 of the CWC Annex of Chemicals were identified as potential vulnerabilities. It was noted that the OPCW, through its network of National Authorities and in cooperation

with relevant partners, may be well placed to support States Parties wishing to upgrade safety and security on the national level. It would also be useful to explore ways to reach out to academia worldwide, as well as to small and medium-sized industry – in particular in developing countries – in order to build capacity and to enhance awareness of the risks associated with toxic chemicals.

- There have been important developments in recent years as far as the portability of analytical equipment is concerned. Over the coming years, this might lead to the availability of new and more easily transportable technology for gas-chromatography mass-spectrometry (GC-MS), suitable for the needs of the OPCW. Meanwhile, work undertaken within the OPCW Technical Secretariat to reduce the duration of on-site sampling and analysis has also been an important and promising development over the past five years. There is a need to develop more effective methods for sampling and analysis covering ricin and saxitoxin, and to continue ongoing efforts to access capabilities for biomedical sample analysis.
- As far as the convergence of biology and chemistry is concerned, it is feasible to use bio-mediated synthesis for the production of toxic chemicals. Ricin and saxitoxin are covered under both the CWC and the BWC and thus subject to OPCW verification. Many experts expressed concern over the potential misuse of chemistry to produce biological agents and to deliver such agents in more effective ways.

The report from the Spiez workshop will be circulated by IUPAC to States Parties before and during the Third Review Conference. In addition, it is foreseen that the outcome of the workshop will assist SAB in the development of its report to Director-General prior to the Review Conference. IUPAC had organised similar events prior to the First Review Conference (in Bergen, Norway) and the Second Review Conference (in Zagreb, Croatia).

The IUPAC report, presentations from the workshop and transcripts from interviews conducted in the margins of this event will be available in the near future within the OPCW website dealing with the Third Review Conference, at www.OPCW.org.

Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties

28 November - 2 December 2011, The Hague, the Netherlands



OPCW Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü and Chairman of the Conference, Ambassador Paul Arkwright of the United Kingdom.

The 16th Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention delivered a number of decisions that will position the OPCW to meet new challenges in the years ahead as the destruction of declared chemical weapons stockpiles nears completion.

The Conference took place from 28 November to 2 December 2011 in The Hague and was chaired by Ambassador Paul Arkwright of the United Kingdom. It was attended by representatives of 131 States Parties to the Convention, two Signatory States (Israel and Myanmar), 21 NGOs and chemical industry associations, and several international organisations. Key decisions taken by the Conference were, *inter alia*:

Final extended deadline for destruction of declared chemical weapons

Three possessor States – Libya, the Russian Federation and the United States of America – had notified the OPCW that they will not meet the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012. The Conference decision (C-16/DEC.11) noted the statements by these countries underlining their unequivocal commitment to completing destruction of their stockpiles, and imposed additional measures to be taken by the possessor States. These measures include the preparation of detailed destruction plans with completion dates to be submitted to the Executive Council immediately after expiration of the deadline.

2012 Programme and Budget

For the seventh consecutive year, the Conference adopted a zero-based growth Programme and Budget for 2012, totalling 70.5 million Euros – a 5.35% reduction compared to 2011. Its decision (C-16/DEC/CRP.15) welcomed the continued implementation of result-based budgeting with key performance indicators, which was introduced by the Technical Secretariat in 2011, and underlined the need to further develop this process.

Chemical industrial inspections (Article VI)

The Conference decision on the 2012 Programme and Budget also welcomed new policy guidelines adopted by the Executive Council for determining the number of industrial inspections under Article VI of the Convention, which aim to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons. Under the guidelines, the annual number of industrial inspections will be gradually scaled up from 209 currently, to 241 in 2014, using a revised selection methodology that focuses on industrial facilities of most relevance to the Convention.

International Cooperation (Article XI)

Of the 188 States Parties to the Convention, only seven declared possession of chemical weapons stockpiles and fewer than half have chemical industries that are subject to inspection under Article VI of the Convention. The OPCW's international cooperation programmes, which

promote the peaceful uses of chemistry, provide an important benefit for such States Parties that enhances their engagement with the Organisation and strengthens their sense of ownership. The Conference adopted a decision (C-16/DEC/CRP.14) on the components of an agreed framework for implementing Article XI, and requested the Executive Council to explore additional measures within the framework to ensure the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all Article XI provisions.

Tenure policy

Preserving the continuity of knowledge and expertise in the Technical Secretariat is of vital importance for ensuring the ability of the Organisation to maintain operational effectiveness. The Conference decided (C-16/DEC.9), as a one-time measure, to extend until 2016 the exceptional authority of the Director-General to grant contract extensions or renewals to staff members beyond the seven-year length of service stipulated by OPCW regulations. The exceptional au-

thority applies to the operational requirements of verification and inspection of destruction-related activities. The Conference decision limits the total amount of service to 10 years.

Executive Council membership

The Conference elected 20 States Parties to the Council for 2-year terms starting 12 May 2012 for the following elective places:

- **Africa:** Algeria, Libya, South Africa, Sudan
- **Asia:** Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Pakistan, Qatar
- **Eastern Europe:** Czech Republic, Russian Federation, Ukraine
- **Latin America and the Caribbean:** Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru
- **Western Europe and Other States:** Belgium, Canada, Ireland, Norway, Portugal

The above mentioned States Parties will join 21 other members of the Council that were elected in 2010.

Director-General's Statement to the Conference of the States Parties at its Sixteenth Session¹

28 November 2011

Excerpts:

Mr Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I welcome all delegations to the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. (...)

We meet at a time of change and a time of opportunity. Since the last session of the Conference, the Organisation has stayed firmly on its path of progress. At the same time, we must prepare to deal resolutely with the challenges that lie ahead. The fact that almost three-quarters of all declared chemical weapons stockpiles will be destroyed by April 2012 is an achievement without parallel in disarmament. In total, 71% of Category 1 chemical weapons have been destroyed. This represents an increase of 8% as compared to the level reached last year.

The level of destruction for Category 2 chemical weapons remains unchanged at 52%. However, the major possessor States, the United States of America and the Russian Federation, have indicated they are not able to meet the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 for reasons that were not anticipated during the negotiations of the Convention and which are unrelated to their commitment under Article I. Hence, the States Parties have been engaged in consultations to find a satisfac-

tory solution for almost two years. The time frame of consultations reflects the importance of the issue of destruction deadlines for the Organisation, as well as the difficulties encountered in finding a resolution satisfactory to all concerned.(...)

The constructive and forward-looking decision approved by the Executive Council, and to be recommended to the Conference, affirms that the Convention remains the singular international legal framework to rid our planet of the menace of chemical weapons. Such a decision will also reinforce the importance and the credibility of the Convention as an instrument that remains vital to our collective security interests. Although the Council's decision was taken by vote, States Parties underscored their desire to continue upholding the OPCW's tradition of reaching decisions by consensus, which I very much welcome.

The destruction of existing stockpiles of chemical weapons will remain a priority core objective for OPCW. This is essential for the realisation of the object and purpose of the Convention. The Technical Secretariat will continue to verify these activities. I am confident that they will be completed in the shortest time possible; an undertaking to which the major possessor States have committed themselves.

I also welcome the continued destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China and the close cooperation between China and Japan in this regard.

The significant progress in destruction of chemical weapons means a reduction in the number of Article IV and V inspections and a consequent adaptation of our human-resources requirements. (...)

Progress made in the destruction of chemical weapons is an important—though not the only—factor that defines the transition for the Organisation. The Advisory Panel on future priorities of the OPCW completed its work earlier this year. Reactions to its report have been positive. (...)

A particular highlight of our work during the year has been the OPCW Conference on International Cooperation and Chemical Safety and Security held in September. The conference was organised to mark 2011 as the International Year of Chemistry (IYC), and as a contribution of the OPCW to that celebration. The purpose of the conference was to underscore the critical importance of the use of chemistry for exclusively peaceful purposes and to further strengthen support for the Convention. Over 400 participants from 129 States Parties participated in the conference. Funded entirely through voluntary contributions, the conference was yet further evidence of the strong commitment of our States Parties to the goals of the Convention. (...)

After six years of zero nominal growth budgets, the Secretariat has proposed a draft budget that envisages an expenditure that is 4.7% less than the previous year, corresponding to an expenditure of slightly over EUR 71 million. This level of expenditure will meet all of the core objectives of the OPCW in the most efficient and economical manner possible. (...)

The true value of our Organisation is in its task as a guarantor of security against chemical weapons. This, under the Convention, is an enduring mission. It is best achieved, as our laudable culture of cooperation attests, through investing further in strengthening the Convention. This includes the universality of the Convention's application, its effective national implementation, a more effective Article VI verification regime, and the harmonisation of our actions, so that the OPCW remains prepared at all times to deal with both contemporary and future security threats, for example, the threat of terrorism.

States Parties should rest assured that the Secretariat will move to make the necessary managerial and institutional adjustments. What is equally—if not more—important is an understanding regarding the future strategic direction for the Organisation.

There are, in my view, a number of prerequisites for consolidating the Convention regime in a manner that makes it responsive to future needs and challenges.

The Organisation needs to retain its core capabilities and expertise, especially for verification, paying particular attention to the ability to verify destruction of chemical

weapons and to our preparedness to conduct investigations of alleged use and challenge inspections. We need to bear in mind not only the requirements arising from the continuation of destruction by the possessor States, but possibly additional responsibilities arising from progress towards the universality of the Convention.

Here, while renewing my appeal to all States that are not Party to the Convention, I wish to stress the vital role that States Parties can play to persuade countries that have so far avoided joining the Convention. Without universality, we face a paradoxical situation in which there is the complete elimination of chemical weapons by those that have chosen to join the Convention, without the assurance that chemical weapons have been eliminated from the world. (...)

Universality and effective domestic implementation go hand in hand. One relates to assuming new obligations and the other to fulfilling them. Effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with Article VII not only builds confidence in the community, it truly brings home the security benefits of the Convention. Rather than an imposition, national implementation should be seen as an advantage. A legal framework through legislation and the means to enforce it create the domestic capacity to monitor, to report, and to guide activities involving chemicals along peaceful and productive lines. (...)

An effective industry-verification regime, together with data monitoring, is the bedrock of the Convention's objective of preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons. It is a crucial confidence-building measure that will sustain the long-term viability of the Convention as an instrument of security against chemical weapons. The verification regime must keep pace with the growing number of chemical facilities and capabilities that did not exist at the time the Convention was negotiated.

(...)

I welcome the policy guidelines for determining the number of Article VI inspections and the new site-selection methodology for other chemical production facility (OCPF) inspections, which was adopted recently. (...)

We have recently completed the 2011 challenge inspection exercise in Thailand. This is the first exercise of this type that covered all the main aspects of a challenge inspection, including both Headquarters and field activities. It was also the first such exercise to be held in Asia. I am most grateful to Thailand and Australia for the roles they played, and to the European Union for funding this particular activity. We will carefully study the results of this exercise and draw the necessary lessons in order to improve our capability to conduct a challenge inspection at any time.

Contemporary security threats include the grim possibility of use of chemical weapons or toxic chemicals in acts

of terrorism. From a number of events and seminars that were held during the course of the year, the expectations of States Parties emerge clearly in favour of a more proactive OPCW role in matters of both assistance and protection as well as safety and security against chemical weapons and toxic chemicals. In this respect I wish to highlight that the Secretariat will support the establishment of regional centres for assistance and protection with a view to developing capabilities for effective emergency response.

I participated in the final stages of the consultations on Article XI. I welcome the draft decision on the agreed framework for the full implementation of Article XI which will provide a new impetus to our international cooperation activities and the necessary guidance to make them more effective. (...)

There are features unique to the OPCW. It has a culture and a spirit of consultation and consensus with all stakeholders. To develop these relations further, we have initiated a public-diplomacy action plan. The purpose is to achieve more openness and greater outreach not only to our traditional stakeholders, but also to the relevant civil society institutions and academia, and to NGOs. We will draw upon the knowledge, expertise, and goodwill of all who can participate in our quest to make the Organisation stronger and more valuable. We are using the electronic tools available to us more effectively, including through social media. But there are parts of the world that have connectivity issues. I have therefore instructed the resumption of a quarterly OPCW publication to ensure that we remain in wider contact. The publication will be issued regularly from 2012. (...)

The meeting of National Authorities, which took place here in The Hague during the course of last week, considered a wide range of issues relating to the effective implementation of the various aspects of the Convention. The Technical Secretariat gave presentations on e-learning modules that are being developed and on a new da-

tabase on activities organised by both the Technical Secretariat and States Parties. The outcome of these deliberations was a framework document encompassing the views and opinions of National Authorities on the most significant challenges they face and offering some thoughts on possible future solutions to these challenges. The Technical Secretariat will be studying this document carefully and will use it as a key element of its considerations for future actions to be undertaken in support of National Authorities and their efforts to meet all their obligations under the Convention, in particular in the development of national legislation.

We are facing a time of rapid advances in science and technology. New chemical compounds and production methods are constantly being researched and discovered, affording the global community many benefits but also bringing with them certain risks. The need to understand these changes and to bring them to the attention of our States Parties has never been more pressing. The Convention is a disarmament treaty tied closely to science, and the dynamic nature of science has a direct impact on our own work. It is, therefore, our responsibility to adequately assess and address new developments that may affect the implementation of the Convention. I believe that the Scientific Advisory Board, with its reports on topics related to science and technology has a crucial role to play in this regard.

At this threshold of important change, I am confident that we can bring together all these beneficial links to chart a course for the future that assures the vision of the Convention as expressed in its preamble "to exclude completely the possibility of use of chemical weapons." The States Parties can be proud of the OPCW's achievements and we should continue to work together, as our motto suggests "...for a world free of chemical weapons."

1 Director-General's Statement: Sixteenth Session C-16/DG.18, 28 November 2011 (available on OPCW website: www.opcw.org)

UN Secretary General's Message to the 16th Session of the Conference of the States Parties

28 November 2011, The Hague, the Netherlands

As delivered by Mr Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva

Director-General Mr Üzümcü,
Distinguished delegates:

It is a great honour for me to be with you for this exceptional meeting. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki-moon, pays great attention to the work of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Therefore, he is sending his personal message which I am authorized to read out today.

The message goes as follows:

"As the International Year of Chemistry comes to a close, your conference can add meaning to our commemorations by carrying forward work on the Chemical Weapons Convention, one of the greatest achievements in the history of multilateral efforts to achieve disarmament and non-proliferation.

By ensuring the destruction of these deadly and indiscriminate arms and preventing their re-emergence, this treaty is a fundamental pillar of international peace and security.

The Convention has near-universal membership, with 188 States Parties covering all but 2 per cent of the global population. Under the supervision of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, over 70 per cent of declared chemical weapons have been verifiably destroyed.

This is welcome progress, but we must continue to press for universal adherence. I call on those States that have not yet done so to join the Convention and be part of the effort to build a world free of these indiscriminate arms.

Despite significant investments in human and financial resources, two possessor States will not meet their destruction deadline next year. I count on the Convention's States Parties to find a constructive and forward-looking solution to this matter, building on the OPCW's excellent record of consensus-based decision-making. I am also satisfied that, despite the crisis situation in Libya, the declared chemical weapons stockpiles remained secure, as recently verified by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

The spectre of chemical warfare is receding thanks to your diligent work. But we cannot rest until we destroy all chemical arms and eliminate the possibility that this nightmare scenario will ever be realized.

Your efforts also help to foster international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities. There could be no better way to close out this International Year of Chemistry than to achieve solid progress in advancing your agenda.

In that spirit, I wish you a most successful Conference."

That was the end of the Secretary-General's message.

In my capacity as Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, I would like to stress the importance of the Convention for the ongoing international efforts in the field of disarmament.

The Convention proves that persistence in resolving complex issues can result in an agreement freeing the world from at least one weapon of mass destruction. With patience and determination, the negotiating process, initiated in Geneva in the Committee on Disarmament in 1968, eventually resulted in the text of the Convention being adopted by the Conference on Disarmament in 1992.

Today, the Conference on Disarmament is facing other challenges in the area of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

The previously acquired experience has proven the advantage of a step-by-step approach where each resolved task serves as a basis for dealing with the following one. Negotiations on the establishment of the IAEA, on the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, many of which were conducted in the Conference on Disarmament or its preceding fora, serve as examples.

The Conference has to find a way out of its current deadlock to fulfill its duties. Joint efforts towards these objectives should not be abandoned despite the long-term impasse. The Conference has immense value and our common task is to preserve it as an indispensable mechanism for multilateral negotiations on disarmament issues to pursue undivided security.

To conclude, allow me to join the Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-moon, in extending my best wishes for a successful session.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Official Visits by the OPCW Director-General

Finland

7-8 December 2011

The OPCW Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü visited Helsinki on 7 and 8 December 2011 where he met the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Erkki Tuomioja, and the Minister for International Development, Ms Heidi Hautala. His programme also included a meeting with Mr Jaakko Laajava, Under-Secretary of State for the Foreign Ministry, who has been appointed facilitator for the 2012 conference to establish a WMD-free zone in the Middle East. In their meetings Director-General Üzümcü discussed the WMD-free zone conference and the contribution of the OPCW to the process.

Director-General Üzümcü thanked Finland for its generous support for the OPCW's activities and discussed the decisions taken at the recent 16th Session of the Conference of the States Parties, including on the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles and tenure policy.

While in Helsinki the Director-General delivered the opening address to the Third International Workshop on Chemical Warfare Agents at VERIFIN, in which he highlighted the Institute's excellent cooperation with the OPCW. He noted that VERIFIN was among the first OPCW designated laboratories, and commended the high quality training that it offers to chemists from OPCW States Parties for the purpose of implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Pakistan

9-10 January 2012

During his first official visit to Pakistan on 9 and 10 January 2012, Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü met with H.E. Ms Hina Rabbani Khar, the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, and other senior officials. The Director-General provided Foreign Minister Khar with an update on the status of implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), including the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles.

Director-General Üzümcü also met with Acting Foreign Secretary, H.E. Alamgir Babar, Additional Foreign Secretary, H.E. Munawar Saeed Bhatti, and Chairman of the National Engineering and Scientific Commission, Mr Muhammad Irfan Burney.

Director-General Üzümcü during his stay in Pakistan, delivered the keynote address at a seminar on the CWC at the Institute for Strategic Studies in Islamabad (ISSI) and subsequently visited the Defence Science & Technology Organization (DESTO), where he was briefed by Major General Tariq Jawaed and given a demonstration of protective equipment.

Switzerland

20-21 February 2012

Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü visited Switzerland on 20-21 February 2012 and held bilateral talks with the Swiss State Secretary and Director of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Marie-Gabrielle Ineichen-Fleisch, and with the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Peter Maurer.

Director-General Üzümcü also visited the Spiez Laboratory to deliver an opening speech to a workshop on Trends in Science and Technology Relevant to the CWC, organised by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC). In his remarks, the Director-General highlighted the importance of science to the future development of the OPCW and its ability to adapt to meet future needs and challenges.

United States

27-29 February 2012

Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü met United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 29 February 2012 at the UN Secretariat in New York. Their discussion focused on recent developments in Libya and Syria as they concern the OPCW and implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Director-General Üzümcü also provided an update to the Secretary-General on the status of the Chemical Weapons Convention as well as on important decisions adopted by the Conference of the States Parties at its 16th Session.

During his visit to the United States, Director-General Üzümcü, also visited the renowned Monterey Institute of International Studies in Monterey, California on 27 February 2012 where he discussed potential collaboration with the OPCW and addressed an academic gathering of post-graduate students, visiting fellows and government officials.

Germany

6 March 2012

Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü visited the Evonik Industries site in Wesseling, Germany on 6 March 2012 and met with Dr. Thomas Haeberle, who is a member of the Executive Board of Evonik Industries as well as the Head of the Nord-Rhein Westphalia element of the VCI, the German Chemical Industrialists Association. Mr Roland Grafe, Head German National Authority, along with other senior staff of Evonik Industries were also present at the meeting. In their discussions, the status of the Convention, including the forthcoming Third Review Conference, industry related issues as well as the role of National Authorities adhering to the CWC obligations were addressed.

Brussels
15 March 2012

Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü gave the keynote address to the Royal Society Of Chemistry, (Belgium Section) in

Brussels on 15 March 2012 where he addressed a gathering of senior diplomats and experts in the field of international peace and security, disarmament and academics from the field of Science.

OPCW Deputy Director-General Visits the United Kingdom

The OPCW Deputy Director-General, Ms Grace Asirwatham paid an official visit to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from 18 to 20 January 2012. During this visit she met officials of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, CWC UK National Authority and

the CWC Advisory Committee. The Deputy Director-General visited the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory at Porton Down. She also visited the Royal Society and participated in a civil society round table discussion on the CWC and the work of the OPCW.

Official Visits to the OPCW

15 December 2011

Mr Hubert Mandery, Director General of European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) visited the Technical Secretariat on 15 December 2011 and met with the OPCW Director-General, H.E. Ahmet Üzümcü, and other senior staff members. Mr Mandery was accompanied by Cefic's Executive Director of Industrial Policy, Mr René van Sloten.

During their meeting Director-General Üzümcü commended Cefic for the crucial role it plays in chemical industry to bring about a world where chemicals are used solely for peaceful purposes. He briefed Mr Mandery on the status of implementation of the Chemical Weapons

Convention and the efforts undertaken by OPCW Member States to eliminate all existing stockpiles of chemical weapons.

Mr Mandery reiterated the strong commitment of Cefic to the OPCW in its mission to fully and effectively implement the Chemical Weapons Convention, which contributes to global peace and security. He informed Director-General Üzümcü that Cefic programme like Responsible Care, contributes to achieving the goals of the Convention. Mr Mandery also noted the strong cooperation between the OPCW and Cefic in various fields relating to the implementation of the Convention.

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The 2011 Biological Weapons Convention Review Conference: Reflections from the Podium

5-22 December 2011, Geneva, Switzerland

Ambassador Paul van den IJssel

Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the Conference on Disarmament

President of the Seventh Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention

Throughout our preparations for the Seventh Review Conference (7RC) of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), which took place in Geneva last December, I encouraged States to think in terms of ‘ambitious realism’; as Theodore Roosevelt famously urged us, to ‘keep your eyes on the stars and your feet on the ground’. Both of these elements were important in our work. We had to aim high - to strive to rid the world of weapons the use of which is beyond the conscience of humanity- and must continue to do so in the future. The current international environment, however, is not very conducive to dramatic progress in multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation. In many fora, progress is slow and where forward momentum exists, the global financial situation limits what may be achieved in practice.

In December 2011, it was, and in my view continues to be, important to consolidate progress where it is to be found and to seize every opportunity on offer. The 7RC did witness a continuation and further incremental development of the BWC, albeit without major new initiatives or changes of direction. The main outcomes were:

- A new, re-structured intersessional programme (to run from 2012 to 2015)
- Revised Confidence Building Measures (CBMs)
- Establishment of a database for assistance requests and offers, a sponsorship programme
- Renewal of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) mandate until 2016.

New intersessional programme

The mandate of the BWC’s work over the next five years remains the same as the previous intersessional programmes, i.e. to “discuss, and promote common understanding and effective action on” specific topics related to better implementation. The new programme is built around three “standing agenda items”, to be considered every year, namely: cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X of the BWC; review of developments in the field of science and technology; and strengthening national implementation. In addition, States Parties will also consider how to enable fuller participation in annual exchanges of information through the CBMs and how to strengthen efforts to respond to the

alleged use of a biological weapon. This outcome can lead to more focussed discussions during the intersessional period. Due to differing positions of the States Parties, it was not possible to make progress on the issue of decision making in the intersessional period.

Revised CBM forms

The 7RC updated and simplified annual exchanges of information under the CBM forms to focus on the most relevant information not otherwise available, and thus to encourage participation. One form on background disease information was deleted, as this information is generally reported to, and available from, WHO and OIE. Another form on promotion of contacts was also deleted. The submission procedures and deadline (15 April) remain the same. This was the first change of the CBMs since 1991. Further work will be undertaken on the CBMs in the intersessional programme in 2012 and 2013.

Database for assistance requests and offers

The 7RC established a database to facilitate requests for, and offers to provide, assistance and cooperation among States Parties. States are to provide information for inclusion in the database, and then use the database to match offers with requests and make their own further arrangements, informing the ISU of any matches made. The ISU is to administer the database, and provide an annual report on offers, requests and matches made.

Sponsorship programme

A sponsorship programme was established to “support and increase the participation of developing States Parties in the meetings of the intersessional programme”. The programme is to be funded entirely by voluntary contributions. The programme is to be administered by the ISU in consultation with the BWC Chair and Vice-Chairs. Priority is to be given to those States Parties which have previously not participated in the meetings, or which have been unable to regularly send experts from capital.

Implementation Support Unit (ISU)

The Conference renewed the existing ISU mandate “mutatis mutandis” until 2016, meaning that the ISU will continue to perform its existing tasks, adjusted for any changes made by the Conference in areas affecting the ISU (e.g. the CBMs). In addition, the ISU was given the tasks of establishing and administering the new database for assistance requests and offers and of administering the sponsorship programme. Somewhat contrary to expectations, the Conference did not increase the staff or financial resources of the Unit, deciding to maintain the

existing budget in real terms. The current budgetary crisis made it not possible for countries to agree to a suggested modest increase of the ISU staff.

Moving forwards

This outcome might be less progressive than some, myself included, had hoped. It still represents progress and, given the broader international environment, this remains no mean feat. This output forms a firm foundation for the BWC's continued relevance and will help to consolidate the role it plays in confronting biological weapons. I also believe that it offers some interesting opportunities for working more closely with the OPCW which might be interesting food for thought in advance of the CWC's Third Review Conference:

- We are all being asked to do more with less, so leveraging synergies is increasingly important. The aims of the BWC and CWC are closely aligned and often, in prac-

tice, their implementation at the national level involves similar actors and agencies. Perhaps there is more the two regimes can do 'piggy back' off each others efforts to work with these stakeholders - not only increasing efficiency but reducing the burdens placed on these sectors.

- Whilst the treaties do have a great deal of overlap in terms of membership - there remain important differences. Perhaps contacts in each forum can be used to promote joining the other, allowing both regimes to better engage states currently outside of their purview.
- Finally, the Final Document of the 7RC noted "the increasing convergence of biology and chemistry and its possible challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the Conventions." Given the nature of ongoing advances in chemistry and biology there is an increasing need to work together to address these fields from a disarmament and non-proliferation perspective as a spectrum rather than in isolation.

OPCW Deputy Director-General's Address to the 7th BWC Review Conference

6 December 2011, Geneva, Switzerland

Mrs Grace Asirwatham, the OPCW Deputy Director-General, delivered an address to the general debate session of the Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention, which took place at the United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland from 5 to 22 December 2011. She spoke at the invitation of the conference President, Ambassador Paul van den IJssel of the Netherlands.

The three-week conference was intended to review the implementation of what is formally known as the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC for short) and to take decisions on its future direction. The Convention was opened for signature in 1972 and currently has 165 States Parties.



Mrs Grace Asirwatham, OPCW Deputy Director-General

In her statement, the Deputy Director-General emphasised the shared history of the BWC and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which together represent "a crucial barrier against the use of disease or poison against humanity". She reviewed the current status of CWC implementation and referred to the ongoing debate on the future priorities of the OPCW.

Mrs Asirwatham reported to the conference that three quarters of declared chemical weapons stockpiles will be destroyed by April 2012, which she termed "an achievement without parallel in disarmament." She further noted that the OPCW has conducted more than 2,100 industrial inspections to date, and that the annual number will increase from 209 currently to 241 by 2014, which will help to broaden the geographical distribution of industry inspections and significantly reduce the intervals between inspections.

The Deputy Director-General cited four areas of common interest between the two treaties: full and effective national implementation; the impact of advances in science and technology; assistance and protection; and promoting the peaceful uses of chemistry and biology. She concluded by saying that, in preparing for its own Third Review Conference in April 2013, the OPCW can benefit from the experience of the BWC conference, and that the OPCW stands ready to provide its experience and expertise to BWC States Parties if so requested.

VERIFICATION

OPCW Inspects 1000th OCPF Plant Site

15 March 2012

OPCW inspectors have now inspected 1,000 different sites around the world of "Other Chemical Production Facilities" (OCPFs) as they are classified under Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The 1000th site inspection was conducted at an industrial plant in France.

OCPFs do not produce any of the three Schedules of chemicals listed in the Convention. They are subject to inspection because the configuration and complexity of their production processes enables them potentially to be converted for the manufacture of chemical weapons or related materials. Of the nearly 5,000 chemical plants sites globally that are inspectable by the OPCW, about 85% are currently OCPFs.

Recognising their importance to the Convention, the most recent Conference of the States Parties in December 2011 approved a plan to scale up the OPCW's annual number of industrial inspections from 209 in 2011, to 241 in 2014. All of the additional inspections will be OCPFs.

"This milestone is yet another demonstration of the

shared commitment of the OPCW, its States Parties and the global chemical industry to ensuring that chemistry is only used for peaceful purposes," said OPCW Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü. "By increasing the number of OCPF inspections in the coming years, we will improve our capacity to verify compliance with the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention and thereby raise the level of confidence among all our stakeholders."

Toxic chemicals are used for a variety of peaceful purposes from making ink to producing pharmaceuticals. To allow for verification, States Parties declare legitimate activities involving scheduled chemicals (chemicals that have been used as warfare agents or to make such agents in the past). The OPCW verifies such declarations through a combination of data monitoring and on-site inspections without "undue intrusion into the State Party's chemical activities"

For more information about Scheduled chemicals, OCPFs and the OPCW's industrial verification regime, please visit the OPCW website : www.opcw.org

OPCW's Executive Council Visits Russia

19-23 March 2012

A delegation of OPCW Executive Council members and Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü visited Moscow from 19 to 23 March 2012 for high-level meetings to discuss issues related to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), including Russia's plans for completing destruction of its arsenal of chemical weapons. The delegation comprised the Council Chairman, Ambassador Peter Goosen, accompanied by representatives from each of the five OPCW regional groups as well as the United States and Canada.

"We are very pleased to commend the Russian government for its continuing strong commitment to the Convention, and to have this timely opportunity to review the progress it is making toward the elimination of Russia's remaining chemical weapons," Ambassador Goosen said.

In Moscow, the delegation met with the Chairman of the Federation Council Committee for Defence and Security of the Federal Assembly, Mr V.A. Ozerov; with the Chairman of the State Committee on Chemical Disarmament,

M.V. Babich; and with the Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation, Mr V.G. Kalamonov.

Russia is one of three possessor States, together with the United States and Libya, which will not meet the final extended deadline set by the Convention of 29 April 2012 for completing destruction of their chemical weapons. By decision of the Conference of the States Parties, all three countries must submit detailed plans for eliminating their remaining stockpiles to the OPCW, with firm completion dates, and their destruction activities will be subject to enhanced scrutiny by the Council.

During this visit, the delegation made a day-long visit to inspect a new chemical weapons destruction facility (CWDF) that is under construction at Kizner, Udmurtia oblast. The facility is the seventh and final to be built by Russia to destroy its stockpiles. Two CWDFs at Gorny and Kambarka have already completed operations, while four other facilities at Leonidovka, Maradykovsky, Pohep, and Shchuchye were operating in 2011.

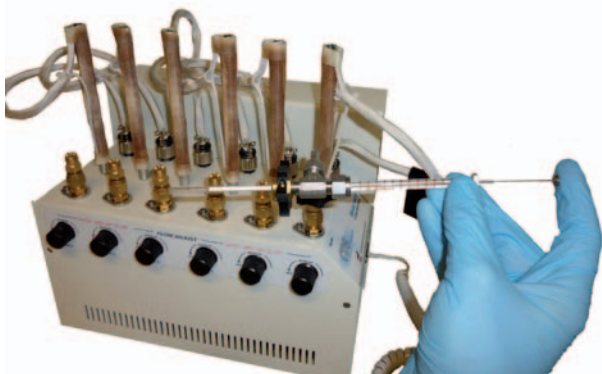
New Sample Preparation Method for Qualitative Analysis of the CWC Related Chemicals

The Verification Annex of the Chemical Weapons Convention provides for the analysis of chemical samples as one of the verification activities conducted by inspection teams. Such analyses can be performed by the inspection team on-site or, alternatively, the inspection team may send the samples off-site to designated laboratories that have been certified by the OPCW Director-General for conducting such analysis.

Against this background, it has long been recognised that one of the major shortcomings of the OPCW on-site gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) laboratory is a low sample throughput, especially when dealing with aqueous based samples. This reflects on the overall number of samples that the laboratory can process within the restricted inspection timeframe. This issue is of high priority to the Organisation and it has been included into agendas of several meetings held by the special Temporary Working Group (TWG) of the OPCW Scientific Advisory Board (SAB).

Sample preparation procedures currently performed by inspectors for aqueous matrices use low temperature vacuum or gentle nitrogen stream evaporation of water followed by derivatization. The process is time consuming, consisting of several steps, which has been recognized as one of the most influential rate limiting factor. The TWG has reviewed several different emerging techniques, however none of them has shown to be versatile and robust enough for the OPCW objectives in sampling analysis.

Keeping in mind the urgency of having a system in place that fulfils the sampling requirements efficiently and swiftly, an entirely novel approach has been tried at the OPCW Laboratory. This chemical sampling technique has been introduced by Terzic Oliver an analytical chemist inspector assigned to the OPCW laboratory. Under this sampling analyses, a small portion of aqueous or mixed



solvent sample is injected into the tube with a solid adsorbent normally used for the OPCW air/vapour sampling method. The water is removed by a short period of gentle heating under a stream of helium, and polar compounds are derivatised in-tube. Subsequently, the tube is thermally desorbed directly into the standard OPCW GC inlet. As a consequence, volatile low polarity compounds and derivatised polar compounds are analysed in a single GC-MS run. The method offers a drastic decrease in the amount of sample required (from 20 ml to 20 μ l of diluted sample) and a significant decrease in the overall sample preparation time (from >360 min to <16 min per sample). It is technically simple to perform and it could also be used for concentrating samples to decrease limits of detection. Significantly, this method utilizes the approved inspection equipment from the on-site analytical kit. The bulky items used under the current method can be excluded, thereby reducing the logistic burden of the on-site laboratory. The procedure has been successfully applied to several proficiency test samples, during the OPCW inspectors' toxic chemical trainings as well as during the OPCW Exercise Assistex 3 that took place in Tunisia from 11 to 15 October 2010.

The TWG members have provided a positive feedback to the OPCW on-site gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) report submitted and also agreed that this appears to be the most promising alternative procedure. The OPCW Laboratory has requested other designated States Parties laboratories to assist in the further assessment of the new procedure.

Demilitarisation

Progresses achieved

As at 29 February 2012, seven States Parties—A State Party¹, Albania, India, Iraq, Libya, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America—declared the possession of chemical weapons. In total, 71,196 metric tonnes (MTs) of chemical warfare agents have been declared by these possessor States.

Overall, the Technical Secretariat has verified the destruction of 51,683 MTs, or 72.59% of the declared quantity of chemical weapons, which represents an annual average of 3,500 MT that has been verified as destroyed. A remaining amount of approximately 25% of the worldwide declared stockpile is in the process of being eliminated.

Albania, A State Party and India completed the destruction of all their chemical weapons in 2007, 2008 and 2009 respectively. The United States of America has completed the destruction of 24,924 MTs, or 89.75% of its declared chemical weapons. Libya has destroyed 13.48 MTs, or 51.21% of its declared stockpiles of Category 1² chemical weapons and 555.71 MTs, or 39.64% of its Category 2³ chemical weapons. In the Russian Federation,

the Secretariat has verified the destruction of 24,157 MTs or 60.44% of its total declared chemical weapons. All State Parties, except for Libya, has destroyed 100 % of their declared Category 2 and 3 CW stockpiles.

Why are there some delays in destruction?

As stipulated by the Convention, the final extended chemical weapons destruction deadline is 29 April 2012. At the 16th Session of the Conference of the States Parties in December 2011, the OPCW a decision, C-16/DEC.11 dated 1 December 2011, was adopted that addresses this issue of the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012.⁴ The decision enables the possessor States Parties to continue destroying their declared stockpiles with enhanced reporting and transparency measures.

It is important to note that from a financial angle, the costs of destruction operations have increased significantly over the past decade. In this context, in one State Party the expenditure was at the cost of 1 million dollars per ton of agent destroyed.

Adding to the costs of destruction is the Convention's





stricture that the States Parties assign the highest priority to ensuring the safety of people and to protecting the environment.

The technological challenges that possessor States Parties have faced during destruction operations impede the pace of eliminating all chemical weapons within the Convention's deadlines. Despite high levels of automaticity in the processes and the sophisticated technology deployed, human intervention and unexpected maintenance have been necessary to maintain the level of chemical weapons destruction activities.

States not Party

In estimating future requirements of the Technical Secretariat in terms of verification resources, a way will have to be found to factor in the possibility of destruction of chemical weapons in the case of progress towards universality of the Convention. Eight countries are currently not Parties to the Convention.

Increased verification support

Since entry into force, the Technical Secretariat has focused a significant amount of its resources on verification related activities, including the verification of the destruction of chemical weapon stockpiles by possessor States Parties.

The Technical Secretariat has also assisted with requests in identifying ordnance and related items due to a lack of national capability in certain States Parties who discover old chemical munitions or wish to clarify what information should be included in a subsequent declaration.

Over the past two years there has been a marked increase in the level of activity within these two areas of support. There has been an increase in requests related to suspected abandoned chemical weapons (ACW), "remnants of war"

including those containing riot control agents (RCA) as well as the continued discovery of Old Chemical Weapons (OCW) from past conflicts. Among other factors a better understanding of the Convention's requirements by States Parties could account for this increase. In either case, the Technical Secretariat has positively responded by providing assistance in the form of historical research and technical assessment as well as deploying teams to the recovery sites in order to provide assistance in the identification of suspected items in order to facilitate declaration obligations.

The future

Based on 15 years of experience in dealing with Articles IV and V of the Convention, the Technical Secretariat continues to adapt to the changing environment of assistance and verification related activities. Its personnel, whilst planning verification related activities, continually work towards expanding knowledge and capacity to respond professionally and efficiently to the increased requests for assistance from States Parties.

- 1 A State Party which has requested that its identity not be disclosed.
- 2 Chemical weapons on the basis of Schedule 1 chemicals and their parts and components.
- 3 Chemical weapons on the basis of all other chemicals and their parts and components.
- 4 Three possessor States – Libya, the Russian Federation and the United States of America – had notified the OPCW that they will not meet the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012. The Conference decision (C-16/DEC.11) noted the statements by these countries underlining their unequivocal commitment to completing destruction of their stockpiles, and imposed additional measures to be taken by the possessor States. These measures include the preparation of detailed destruction plans with completion dates to be submitted to the Executive Council immediately after expiration of the deadline.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

“OPCW promotes peaceful uses of chemistry...”

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The OPCW Associate Programme

“A Selection of Associates’ Reflections on the 2011 Programme”

Robert Johnson¹ (Jamaica)

The Associate Programme gave me the possibility of enhancing my skills, as well as enabling me to gain a wider awareness of the mandate of the OPCW in implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention.



The industrial segment of the Programme was a unique opportunity to observe the practical application of electrolysis of brine and the manufacture of sulphuric and nitric acid for the first time at an industrial site. This hands-on experience expanded my practical knowledge on the above mentioned issue, which I only had a theoretical understanding of during my high school days as a chemistry student.

Chaouki Belgacem³ (Tunisia)

The Programme made a significant contribution to improve my knowledge on the role the OPCW mandate plays in the implementation of the Convention, and it enhanced my theoretical and technical skills in the area of industrial chemistry.



Since my participation in the Associate Programme 2011, I have endeavoured to contribute to the promotion of the implementation of the Convention in African countries and to share the knowledge I gained through various activities.

Dr Kennedy Nyongbela Dohjinga² (Cameroon)

The Associate Programme provides an opportunity for participants to acquaint themselves with the OPCW mission and vision and with respect to the Convention and its implementation as well as provides an equally hands-on training to participants through the University of Surrey component and the industrial placements. The Programme not only achieves its objectives by enhancing national capacities in Member States, but also facilitates national implementation of the Convention through the provision of highly qualified staff at the National Authorities.



Dr Dora Franco de Caballero⁴ (Paraguay)

The segment of the Associate Programme at the University of Surrey was extremely valuable. We were provided with information on the fundamentals of the working environment at a chemical plant—from the initial paperwork regarding working permits to practical training on safety and health regulations and issues pertaining to personal protection equipment, as well as the core aspects of the European safety regulations. We had the opportunity to experience a very professionally presented simulation week at the pilot plant, which really gave us a feel of what it is like to run a chemical plant.



1 Lecturer, University of Technology, Jamaica

2 Lecturer, University of Buea, Cameroon

3 Principal Chemical Engineer, Head of Mass Spectrometry Laboratory. National Institute for Research and Physical and Chemical Analysis (INRAP), Tunisia.

4 Professor and Coordinator of Laboratory, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, National University of Asuncion, Paraguay

Tenth Laboratory Managers Workshop for East and Southern Africa

5 – 9 December 2011, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

In line with the objectives of Article XI of the CWC as well as with the OPCW's Africa Programme, the Organisation, supported and sponsored 12 participants from Botswana, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Kenya, Tunisia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Sudan, and Zimbabwe to attend the "Tenth Eastern and Southern Africa Laboratory Managers Association (ESALAMA) Workshop", held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, from 5 to 9 December 2011. The theme of the workshop was "Managing a Modern Laboratory: Competence in Laboratory Applied Sciences". The workshop attracted around 80 participants from different parts of Africa.



Analytical Chemistry Course in French under the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa, held at INRAP Laboratories

14 – 25 November 2011, Tunisia



Under the OPCW's Africa Programme, an Analytical Skills-Development Course (ASDC) was conducted in French for the first time for the Francophone States Parties of Africa in Tunisia. This course was organised in response to an increased demand for training in advanced



analytical techniques/analysis of chemicals related to the Convention for Francophone African personnel from laboratories in the French-speaking African region. The course accommodated 14 participants from Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco and Tunisia.

The course enabled participants to gain a good working knowledge of the principles, procedures, and applications of gas chromatography (GC) and gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) for the analysis of chemicals related to the Convention. The next course will be conducted during 2012 under the auspices of the OPCW Africa Programme.



Chemical Safety Management Course for African States Parties

14 December 2011, Germany

The Federal Foreign Office of Germany and the OPCW jointly supported the Chemical Safety Management Course for African States Parties, which was hosted by the Department of Safety Engineering at the Bergische Universität Wuppertal (BUW) from 5 to 9 December 2011. It was the second such course held at the BUW for the Africa region and was attended by 15 participants from 14 States Parties.* Chemical safety management plays a vital role in reducing and eliminating the possible misuse of toxic industrial chemicals or other hazardous substances which can pose a serious threat to people's lives, the environment and industrial economic performance.

* Botswana, Cameroon, Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda.



NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION

Training Course for Customs Authorities for GRULAC States Parties

13 – 15 December 2011, Brasilia, Brazil

The OPCW in conjunction with the Government of Brazil organised a training course for customs authorities on the technical aspects of the transfers regime of the Chemical Weapons Convention for the States Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean. This course was augmented by a back-to-back event offered by the United States Department of Energy and the Brazilian National Authority on the identification of commodities (CIT) controlled under various different international regimes. The OPCW

training course was hosted in Brasilia, Brazil, from 13 to 15 December 2011, and 34 participants involved in implementing this regime at the national level attended this event. The course focused on imparting comprehensive knowledge about the Convention, including the provisions of the transfers regime, in order to improve the ability of participating States Parties to track transfers of chemicals listed in the schedules of chemicals.

Subregional Training Course for Gulf Cooperation Council on the Technical Aspects of the Transfers Regime

19-20 February 2012, Doha, Qatar

The OPCW with kind assistance of the Government of Qatar, which provided a generous voluntary contribution covering all costs of the event, organised a training course for customs authorities for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) on technical aspects of the transfers regime of the Convention. Representatives of Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar (host country), Saudi Arabia, United

Arab Emirates and Yemen attended this event, which took place on 19-20 February in Doha. During this course, customs officials participated in a range of practical exercises and scenario discussions on different aspects of the transfers' regime, which will have equipped them to play a substantial role within their National Authorities in the future.



Training Course for National Authorities of Asian States Parties in Fulfilling CWC Article VI Declaration Requirements

21-23 February 2012, Doha, Qatar,

A training course for representatives of Asian National Authorities involved in fulfilling Article VI declaration requirements of the Convention was held in Doha, Qatar. More than 40 representatives of Bahrain, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar (host country), Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Yemen attended this course. The purpose of the two-day course was to facilitate the submission by National

Authorities of accurate and timely Article VI declarations and to minimise the number of possible errors in the declarations prepared by States Parties. It provided an opportunity for experience sharing on the implementation of Article VI requirements among the participants. Practical and table-top exercises, as well as, procedures for the identification of declarable Article VI activities and inspection regime were addressed.

Basic Course for National Authorities Personnel

6 – 9 March 2012, The Hague, the Netherlands

The OPCW organised the Basic Course for the Personnel of National Authorities Involved in the Implementation of Chemical Weapons Convention at the OPCW Headquarters, The Hague, the Netherlands, 6 – 9 March 2012. The course was attended by 36 participants, representing 34 States Parties. The purpose of the course was to assist States Parties to comply with their obligations under the Convention by enhancing the knowledge and skills of the personnel of National Authorities. The specific objective of the course was to fulfil the aims set out in the Plan of Action for the implementation of the obligations under Article VII of the Convention.



ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION

OPCW Signs Agreement on Procurement of Assistance with Peru

8 December 2011, The Hague, The Netherlands

A Bilateral Agreement on Procurement of Assistance between the OPCW and the Republic of Peru was signed on 5 December 2011 at the Technical Secretariat in The Hague by Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü and H.E. Ambassador Allan Wagner, Peru's Permanent Representative to the OPCW. The Agreement is only the second of its kind in the OPCW's history, and the first to be signed with a State Party in the Latin America and Caribbean region. It was concluded in accordance with Article X of the Convention and establishes a legal framework for the provision of assistance offered by Peru to the OPCW.



Chemical Weapons Convention Seminar, RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation

21 – 23 February 2012, Zagreb, Croatia

The ninth CWC Seminar was held from 21 to 23 February 2012 in Zagreb at the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC), which co-organised the event with the OPCW. The seminar was attended by 21 participants representing CWC National Authorities and other military and civilian agencies responsible for dealing with CWC issues in eight countries of south-eastern Europe.* The seminar addressed, inter alia, assistance and protection under Article X of the

CWC; international, regional and national protective capacity-building projects/training courses; delivery of assistance in the event of use, or threat of use, of chemical weapons; and investigations of alleged use of chemical weapons.

* Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hungary, Italy, Serbia, and Turkey



OPCW Legislative Assistance Activities

In order to ensure the effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention), the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW renders legal assistance, upon request, to States Parties that have yet to adopt, or are in the process of amending their existing, domestic legal and regulatory framework.

The Technical Secretariat has an established legal assistance programme to support States Parties throughout the implementation process. States Parties wishing to re-

ceive advice on legislation and/or measures at the regulatory level under preparation frequently submit their drafts for comments. Since November 2011, the Technical Secretariat has provided, upon request, six comments on draft implementing legislation and one comment or guidance on measures at the regulatory level. Such requests for legal assistance were provided to seven States Parties from the following regions: two from Africa; one from Asia; two from GRULAC; one from WEOG and one from Eastern Europe.

Status and Progress Regarding National Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (Article VII)

All States Parties are required under Article VII of the Convention to adopt the necessary legislative and administrative measures to implement the Convention at the national level. In this context, States Parties are required to notify the OPCW on the legal steps undertaken to fulfil their Article VII obligations. It is important to note that the Conference of States Parties in 2003 adopted a decision on Article VII, which also emphasised that States Parties provide the Technical Secretariat with the full text of their national implementing legislation, including updates.¹

According to the information received by the Secretariat, the status of national implementation of the Convention and the regional trends, as at 1 March 2012 are as follows:

Further information on the status and progress regarding legislative and administrative measures adopted by States Parties to implement their obligations under Article VII of the Convention is available in the two concurrent reports on Article VII and in the accompanying Note by the Director-General on the overview of the status of implementation of Article VII, adopted by the Conference of States Parties in its sixteenth session.²

¹ See C-8/DEC.16, dated 24 October 2003.

² See: EC-66/DG.7 C-16/DG.10, dated 29 August 2011; EC 66/DG.8 C-16/DG.11, dated 29 August 2011; and EC-66/DG.9 C-16/DG.12, dated 29 August 2011.

186 (99%)	States Parties have designated or established a National Authority
139 (74%)	States Parties have made an Article VII(5) submission
88 (47%)	States Parties have implementing legislation that covers all key areas identified under the Action Plan
65 (35%)	States Parties have confirmed that they had carried out their Article XI(2e) review

	States Parties	National Authorities	Art. VII(5) submission	Legislation covers all key areas	Article XI (2e) review
Africa	50	49 (98%)	26 (52%)	11 (22%)	4 (8%)
Asia	51	50 (98%)	36 (71%)	20 (39%)	15 (29%)
Eastern Europe	25	25 (100%)	25 (100%)	23 (92%)	16 (64%)
GRULAC	33	33 (100%)	23 (70%)	9 (27%)	8 (24%)
WEOG	29	29 (100%)	29 (100%)	25 (86%)	22 (76%)

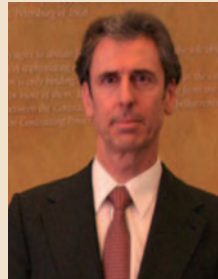
New Permanent Representatives

PHILIPPINES



H.E. Mrs Lourdes G. Morales, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the OPCW, presented her credentials to the Director-General, Mr Ahmet Üzümcü, on 1 December 2011. She is also currently her country's Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

MONACO



H.E. Mr Gilles Tonelli, from the Principality of Monaco, presented his credentials to the Director-General Mr Ahmet Üzümcü on January 18th 2012. Ambassador Tonelli is currently accredited as his country's Ambassador to Belgium, Luxemburg and the Netherlands, and as Head of Mission of Monaco to the European Union.

COLOMBIA



H.E. Mr Eduardo Pizarro Leongómez, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the OPCW, presented his credentials to the Director-General, Mr Ahmet Üzümcü on Thursday 19 January 2012. Ambassador Leongómez is currently also accredited as his country's Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

ITALY



H. E. Mr Francesco Azzarello, Permanent Representative of the Italian Republic to the OPCW, presented his credentials to the Director-General, Mr Ahmet Üzümcü on 9 February 2012. Mr Ahmet Üzümcü is concurrently accredited as his country's Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

ZIMBABWE



H. E. Dr Mary Margret Muchada, Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe presented her credentials to the OPCW Director General, Mr Ahmet Üzümcü, on 3 February, 2012. Ambassador Muchada is concurrently accredited as her country's Ambassador to the Benelux countries and Permanent Representative to the European Union.

OPCW Today Impressum

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**ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS
JOHAN DE WITTLAAN 32, 2517 JR, THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS**

Calendar of Events

May - June 2012

OPCW Events

1 - 4 May 2012

Sixty-Eighth Session of the Executive Council, The Hague, the Netherlands

7 - 11 May 2012

Course on Emergency Medical Assistance for the Victims of Chemical Incidents or Attacks, Kyiv, Ukraine

7-11 May 2012

Eleventh Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Eastern Europe, Warsaw, Poland

8 - 11 May 2012

Seminar on Chemical-Safety-and-Security Management for OPCW Member States in the Region of Southeast and South Asia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

14 - 18 May 2012

Advanced Assistance-and-Protection Course, Beijing, China

7 - 18 May 2012

Enhancement of Laboratory Skills in Using Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy to Analyse Chemicals Related to the Chemical Weapons Convention, Helsinki, Finland

21 - 25 May 2012

Advanced Training Course in Civil Defence Against Chemical Weapons, Lázně Bohdaneč, the Czech Republic

22 - 24 May 2012

Tenth Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Africa, African Union Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

23 - 25 May 2012

Fourteenth Session of the Confidentiality Commission (CC-14), The Hague, the Netherlands

21 - 26 May 2012

Analytical Skills Training in Russian language for Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Mongolia, Kiev, Ukraine

21 May - 1 June 2012

Course on the Analysis of Chemicals Related to the Chemical Weapons Convention in the Framework of OPCW Proficiency Testing, Madrid, Spain

1-15 June 2012

Analytical Skills Development Course (ASDC), VERIFIN Helsinki, Finland

4 - 8 June 2012

Eighth International Basic Course on Assistance and Protection, Kruševac, Serbia

4 - 8 June 2012

32nd Session of OPCW ABAF, the Hague, the Netherlands

4 - 8 June 2012

8th International Assistance and Protection Course, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

6-9 June 2012

Basic Course for the National Authorities Personnel Involved in the Implementation of the CWC, the Hague, the Netherlands

11-15 June 2012

13th Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in GRULAC, Costa Rica

Other Events

30 April-11 May 2012

NPT Preparatory Committee, Vienna, Austria

14 May-29 June 2012

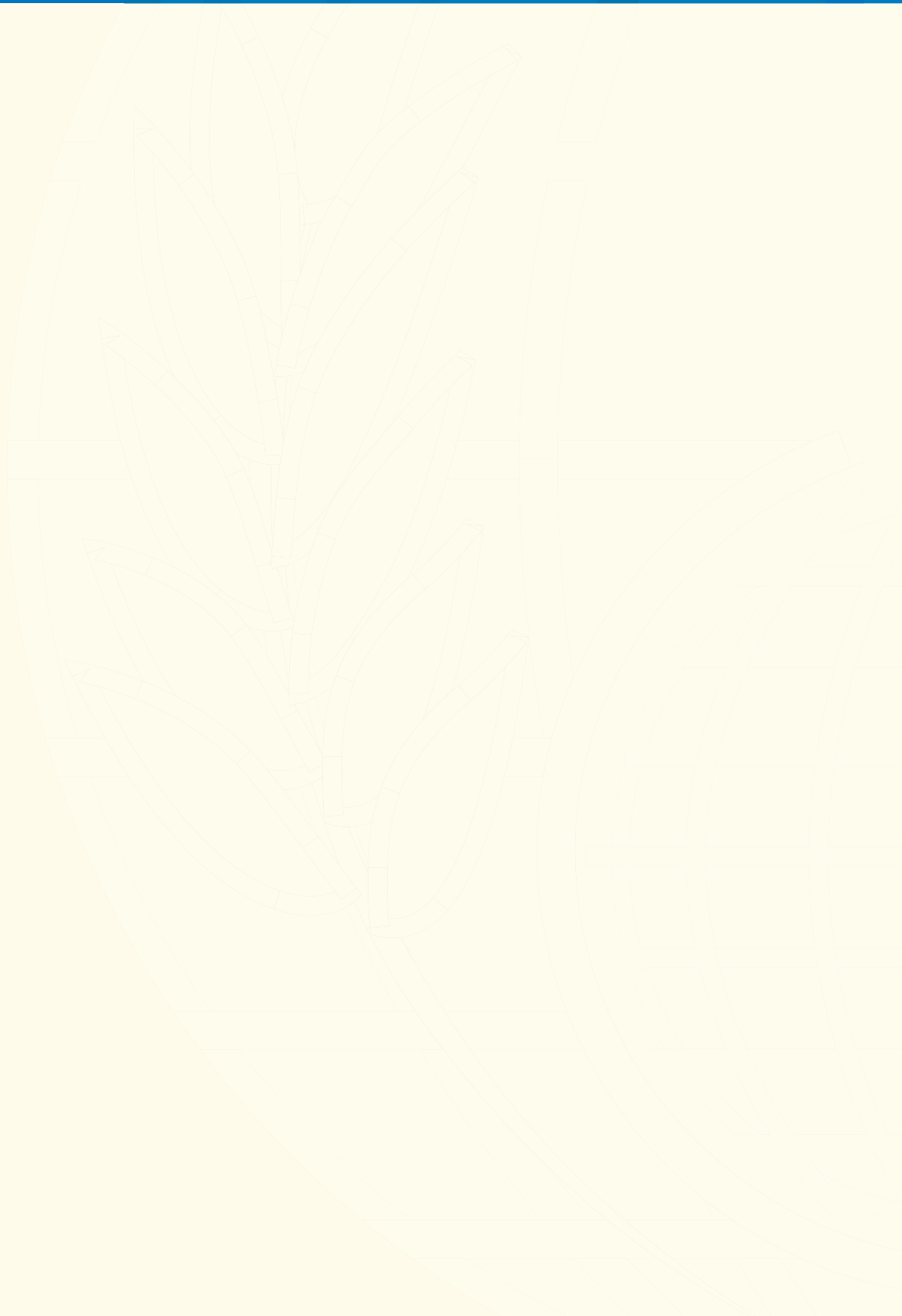
Conference on Disarmament 2012 Session: Part Two, Geneva, Switzerland

21-25 May 2012

15th International Chemical Weapons Demilitarisation Conference (CWD 2012), Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom

14-15 June 2012

38th Session of the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO, Vienna, Austria



Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Working together for a world free of chemical weapons