



OPCW

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**OPENING STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL
TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES
AT ITS SIXTEENTH SESSION**

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

1. I welcome all delegations to the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. I should like to thank His Excellency Mr Kassym Jomart Tokayev, Director-General, United Nations, Geneva, who is attending the Conference on behalf of the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon.
2. The Conference has entrusted the stewardship of this session to a highly capable diplomat: Ambassador Paul Arkwright of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. He brings to this position both multilateral experience and knowledge of disarmament. In wishing him every success, I assure him of the full support of the Technical Secretariat.
3. I would also like to place on record my appreciation for our outgoing Chairperson, Ambassador Julio Roberto Palomo Silva of Guatemala, who is unfortunately unable to attend today, for his effective and productive leadership of the last session of the Conference. I welcome the statement on his behalf by Ambassador Juan Martabit of Chile, who has kindly agreed to replace Ambassador Palomo Silva.
4. 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.
5. 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 satisfactory solution for almost two years.

6. 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. Discussions have been facilitated by successive Chairpersons of the Executive Council, Ambassador Jorge Lomónoco Tonda of Mexico, Ambassador Jean-François Blarel of France, and Ambassador Peter Goosen of South Africa, who deserve great credit for their patience and perseverance. Ambassador Goosen has guided the matter to this final stage. I firmly believe that it is in the interest of the Organisation to now bring this important issue to a conclusion. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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. We anticipate a considerable decline in the number of inspectors working for the Organisation during 2012, with the figures rising slightly in 2013 and then remaining relatively stable in 2014. Internal changes in the Secretariat will be necessary, but must not compromise the integrity and assurance of operational effectiveness, including the continued verification of destruction activities. In short, there is a need to work on an organisational design for the future: one that meets all of our needs and expectations, and one that is established with your active collaboration and support.
10. In this respect I welcome the draft decision on tenure policy that will be submitted to this Conference. This decision is important as it allows us to ensure that we can meet our commitments under the Convention with highly dedicated and experienced staff in the most cost-effective manner.
11. 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. At an informal retreat for Ambassadors held on

22 September, strong support was affirmed for our continued work, guided by all the core objectives. At the same time, it was recognised that some change is necessary to ensure that the Organisation is able to respond to new circumstances and contemporary challenges. Attended by nearly 90 representatives to the OPCW, the occasion underlined the continued commitment of States Parties to the Convention. The Secretariat has benefitted from the views that have been expressed concerning future OPCW priorities in the medium to longer term. An unofficial note summarising the discussions will be circulated soon. In taking this process forward, I look forward to your continued cooperation.

12. 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. I am grateful to all those States Parties, the European Union, and the Municipality of The Hague, whose financial contributions made it possible for the OPCW to mark the IYC in a fitting manner. A key result of the conference is the clear recognition by States Parties that the OPCW is a forum suited to and appropriate for concerted action in the field of chemical safety and security. The Secretariat has published the “outcome document” of the IYC conference—a copy of which has already been distributed to all States Parties’ delegations—which will facilitate the consideration of appropriate follow-up action.
13. The year also witnessed important developments in Libya that underlined the value the international community attaches to the elimination of chemical weapons, verified by the OPCW. During the course of the crisis in Libya, several steps were taken in response to the evolving situation, including communications I addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to a number of States Parties in the context of our readiness to deliver assistance and protection, if needed. Our inspectors have been able to return to work in Libya in early November, and conducted their mission under challenging circumstances. I wish to recognise that this inspection was carried out with the support of the United Nations Department for Safety and Security and of the Government of Germany, which provided the transportation, and in close cooperation with the Libyan authorities. I am satisfied that the declared chemical weapons stockpile is accounted for and that it remains secure. It is known that there are additional, previously undeclared chemical weapons stockpiles. We have just received a formal declaration by the Libyan authorities, following which we will proceed, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, to work with them to eliminate the chemical weapons present in Libya. Libya has also advised the OPCW that it will not be able to meet the destruction deadline of 29 April 2012.
14. 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. We have proposed the reallocation of some resources released from the verification of destruction to Article VI verification and international cooperation activities. In terms of staffing, the proposed budget envisages a reduction of 41 staff positions in the Secretariat. I hope that States Parties will find this budget acceptable.

15. The reduction in budget, as well as in the personnel strength of the Secretariat, is an indicator of a future that will be different from the past. It is important to look beyond the figures and to focus on the mission this Organisation was created to fulfil. There are critical and long-term goals that will outlive the attainment of the complete elimination of chemical weapons stockpiles in possessor States—important though that objective will remain. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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.
19. 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. Attaining the universality of the Convention must therefore remain a high priority. I sincerely hope that the prospective conference on the weapons of mass destruction (WMD)-free zone in the Middle East, to be held in Finland next year, will help make progress towards universal adherence to the Convention.
20. 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. A strong domestic regime conveys a strong message to those who may harbour malicious intent. An added benefit of establishing such laws and regulations, and domestic capabilities, is the ability to comply with other international obligations such as those established under United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

21. 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. Legal regimes embody purpose and expectations of fair play. I am confident that States Parties will continue to support the efforts of the Secretariat to refine and to refocus the industry-verification regime on the reality of the chemical industry that exists today. 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. On our part, I am committed to further improving the methodologies and practices of Article VI inspections to meet your expectations. I also want to underline the importance of accurate and timely declarations. I wish to acknowledge here the excellent cooperation extended to the OPCW by the National Authorities and by the chemical industry globally.
22. 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.
23. 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 pro-active 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.
24. 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. I hope we can adopt the draft decision at this session of the Conference. There are expectations in the OPCW's singular role to facilitate international cooperation in promoting its security goals, as

well as opportunities for the peaceful application of chemistry. These tasks are multifaceted and interlinked. The benefits that they offer to States Parties translate into general incentives for greater involvement in making the overall regime strong and effective.

25. 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, but a first special edition will be made available to Conference delegates during the course of the week.
26. 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 database 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.
27. 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.
28. 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”.

29. Let me take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to Mr Santiago Oñate, Mr Alexander Khodakov, and Mrs Kalimi Mworio, this being their last session of the Conference as the OPCW's Legal Adviser, Director of the Secretariat for the Policy-Making Organs, and Director of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division, respectively. They have all worked with dedication and given their best to this Organisation and acquitted themselves with distinction. In thanking them for their valuable services to the OPCW, I wish them the very best in their future endeavours.

Mr Chairperson,

30. My report to the Conference at its Sixteenth Session, including the highlights of our progress in various programme areas, is detailed. It will therefore be circulated to delegations as an official document.

Chemical demilitarisation and verification

31. In total, 69,428.729 metric tonnes (MTs) of Category 1 chemical weapons have been declared by the possessor States to date. Of this amount, 49,302 MTs or 71%, of Category 1 chemical weapons have been destroyed under strict verification by the Secretariat. This represents an increase of 8% as compared to the level reached last year. In addition, pursuant to Article VI and subparagraph 2(d) of Part VI (A) of the Verification Annex, since entry into force of the Convention, 2,914 MTs have been withdrawn from Category 1 chemical weapons stocks for purposes not prohibited under the Convention. Withdrawals from Category 1 chemical weapons stocks for purposes not prohibited under the Convention have occurred in A State Party, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America; in all cases, the respective State Party notified the Secretariat of these withdrawals, which were subsequently verified by the Secretariat.
32. The aggregate amount of Category 2 chemical weapons destroyed to date has remained unchanged at 919.931 MTs, or 52.09%, of the total amount declared. Albania, India, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America have completed the destruction of all their declared Category 2 chemical weapons, whereas Libya has destroyed 39.64% of the amount it had declared. Similarly, there has been no change with respect to Category 3 chemical weapons: All States Parties that had declared Category 3 chemical weapons (A State Party, India, Libya, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America) have completed the destruction of these weapons.
33. During the past year, Libya, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America, all of which have been granted extensions for completing the destruction of their Category 1 chemical weapons, continued to fulfil their reporting obligations in a timely fashion and in accordance with paragraph 28 of Part IV (A) of the Verification Annex to the Convention. The Secretariat was able to reconcile the data that it had collected during on-site inspections with the information provided by the possessor States.

34. As reported on previous occasions, Libya met the phase 1, phase 2, and phase 3 destruction requirements and had destroyed 54.46% of the declared stockpiles of Category 1 chemical weapons by 8 February 2011, when operations were halted due to the breakdown of the heating unit in the disposal station, which needed to be replaced.
35. Libya indicated that it intended to continue operations for the disposal of the remaining amounts of its Category 1 and Category 2 chemical weapons stockpiles, as soon as circumstances allowed and in accordance with the Convention, and requested that it be granted an extension of the final deadline for the disposal of its Category 1 chemical weapons stockpile to 29 April 2012, and that the date for completion of the disposal of its Category 2 chemical weapons stockpile be changed to 29 April 2012, in order to be able to complete the said disposal programme (EC-M-30/NAT.1, dated 12 May 2011).
36. At the request of the Chairperson of the Council, a meeting of the Council was convened on 13 May 2011, to consider the situation regarding the chemical weapons stockpiles of Libya. At the meeting, the Council took note of the reaffirmation of the commitment of the Libyan authorities to completing the destruction and urged Libya to take every step necessary to ensure the continued safety of the stockpiles and to ensure that the process of verified destruction of the stockpiles shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions and obligations that arise from the Convention. The Council recommended that the Conference amend its previous decision and grant an extension, to 29 April 2012, of the deadline by which Libya must destroy all of its Category 1 chemical weapons stockpiles (EC-M-30/DEC.1, dated 30 May 2011).
37. In view of the concerns expressed by the Libyan representatives to the OPCW in relation to the security of chemical weapons under the prevailing situation at that time and the request by the Libyan authorities addressed to the Chairperson of the Council for “the Executive Council to take these possible developments into consideration, to provide advice and support and to work towards the development of a mechanism to deal with any emergency in this respect”, on 1 September 2011 the Council held an informal meeting to consider this communication. At the request of the Council, the Secretariat has written to both neighbouring countries to Libya, as well as to States Parties that have offered assistance (protection-related equipment and services), with a view to requesting information with regard to the nature and the scope of available assistance that they could provide, and requesting them to advise the OPCW as to the time period required for the deployment of such emergency assistance, if an appeal were to be made.
38. In view of the fact that some specialised technical equipment for protection against chemical weapons may be subject to controls on exports to Libya established by United Nations Security Council resolution 1970 (2011), I wrote to the United Nations Secretary-General (EC-66/S/6, dated 8 September 2011) requesting that the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) assist the OPCW in ensuring that any request for such equipment can be expedited promptly.
39. On 2 November 2011, the Secretariat launched an inspection in Libya to verify the status of the temporary holding area at the Ruwagha Hydrolysis and Neutralisation System and to provide assurance that no chemical weapons (sulfur mustard and two

chemical weapons precursors) have been diverted and no movement of chemical weapons out of the facility has taken place in the absence of an OPCW presence at the site. The inspection team was able to fulfil all mandated objectives and confirmed that no chemical weapons had been diverted from the site. The inspection team also applied additional measures to ensure the integrity of the remaining chemical weapons until destruction operations have resumed and there is a continuous inspector presence on site. This was the first inspection in Libya since February 2011, when ongoing operations for the destruction of the chemical weapons declared by Libya were halted. I wish to express my appreciation to the Government of Germany, whose technical support enabled our inspectors to successfully fulfil their mission.

40. Libya recently informed the Secretariat that additional undeclared chemical weapons had been discovered. The Libyan authorities submitted a new declaration on 28 November. Libya has also advised the OPCW that it will not be able to meet the destruction deadline of 29 April 2012.
41. The Russian Federation, for its part, also continued to show determined efforts in carrying out its chemical weapons destruction operations. Thus, as at 31 October 2011, the total amount of Category 1 chemical-warfare agents destroyed and withdrawn pursuant to Article VI of the Convention by the Russian Federation was 22,714 MTs, or 56.83% of the amount declared. The Russian Federation has also destroyed all of its declared Category 2 (10.616 MTs) and Category 3 chemical weapons.
42. Two chemical weapons destruction facilities (CWDFs) in the Russian Federation—at Gorny and Kambarka—have completed operations. Four other facilities—at Leonidovka, Maradykovsky, Pochep, and Shchuchye—have been operating in 2011.
43. At the beginning of April 2011, the Secretariat conducted an engineering review of the second stage of train 1 operations at Pochep, which involve the draining of reaction mass from pre-treated munitions, the thermal treatment of the reaction mass and of the drained and decontaminated munitions bodies, and their subsequent mutilation. At the same time, the Secretariat carried out an engineering review of the technological equipment dedicated for the destruction of the chemical agent using the “reactor technology”, or train 2 operations.
44. According to the information provided to the Secretariat by the Russian Federation, the destruction of aerial munitions filled with nerve agents at Maradykovsky is planned to start in 2012, while the destruction of similar munitions at Leonidovka, as well as the operations involving the second process building at Shchuchye, is planned to begin during the fourth quarter of 2012. The commencement of destruction operations at Kizner is now scheduled for 2013.
45. Similarly, the United States of America is steadily continuing to complete the destruction of its chemical-warfare agents. As at 31 October 2011, the Secretariat had verified the destruction of 24,906 MTs, as well as the withdrawal for purposes not prohibited by the Convention of 2.682 MTs, of Category 1 chemical weapons. Thus, the total amount of Category 1 chemical-warfare agents destroyed and withdrawn pursuant to Article VI of the Convention by the United States of America was, at the cut-off date of this report, 24,909 MTs, or 89.7%, of the amount declared. The United

States of America has also destroyed 0.010 MTs of Category 2 chemical weapons. This State Party has destroyed all of its declared Category 3 chemical weapons.

46. The year 2011 marked the completion of chemical weapons destruction operations at three facilities in the United States of America, specifically the facilities located at Anniston and Umatilla, as well as the Explosive Destruction System (EDS) at Pine Bluff. To date, seven CWDFs in the United States of America have completed operations, namely the CWDFs located at Aberdeen, Anniston, Johnston Atoll, Newport, and Umatilla, as well as the two CWDFs at Pine Bluff—the binary destruction facility and the incineration plant. In addition, three small-scale CWDFs—the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System facility at the Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah, the EDS facility at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah, and the EDS at Pine Bluff, Arkansas—have also completed operations. Only one facility in the United States, located at Tooele, is in the final stages of destruction operations and plans to complete operations by February next year.
47. The United States of America has also indicated that the construction of two new CWDFs, at Pueblo, Colorado and Blue Grass, Kentucky, is in progress, while the date for the commencement of destruction operations remains to be determined.
48. In the case of Iraq, the Secretariat conducted the initial inspection of Iraq's former chemical weapons production and storage facilities at the beginning of May 2011. The inspection was conducted with the full support of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). Using UNAMI helicopters, low-altitude overflights were carried out in the presence of an official from the Iraqi National Authority, enabling the team to take both still and video images of the sites. The images show that progress has been made towards razing the chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) to ground level, though some further work is required in this regard. It was also confirmed that the two bunkers at Al Muthanna, declared by Iraq as a chemical weapons storage facility, appear intact and undisturbed.
49. Iraq has reiterated on numerous occasions its firm commitment to meeting its obligations under the Convention and, in cooperation with the Secretariat and some interested delegations, is working to identify suitable methods for the assessment of the contents of the bunkers in order to proceed at a later stage with their disposal.

Old and abandoned chemical weapons

50. The destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China continued throughout the year at the Abandoned Chemical Weapons Mobile Destruction Facility (ACW-MDF) in Nanjing. Both China and Japan reported that 35,203 chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China had been destroyed, as at 30 September 2011, in Nanjing; this corresponds to 74.6% of the declared abandoned chemical weapons in Nanjing. Since their start in October 2010, destruction operations in Nanjing have been verified by the Secretariat during four on-site inspections, conducted in December 2010, February 2011, June 2011, and September 2011.
51. Inspections have been conducted at six old chemical weapons sites, in Belgium, Italy, Japan, Germany, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern

Ireland. Whilst destruction operations have made considerable progress in many cases, recoveries continue to be made.

Chemical weapons production facilities

52. Out of the 70 CWPFs declared by 13 States Parties, 43 have already been destroyed and 21 have been converted for purposes not prohibited under the Convention. Eleven States Parties have completed the destruction or conversion of all their declared CWPFs. All converted production facilities remain under systematic verification by the OPCW to ensure that they are fully consistent with the approved conversion requests.
53. In 2011, the Secretariat has conducted four initial inspections at the CWPFs to be destroyed in Iraq, two systematic inspections in Libya, and inspections at four converted CWPFs and one CWPF undergoing conversion in the Russian Federation, the latter having been inspected twice during this year.
54. Regarding general guidelines on the nature of continued verification measures at converted CWPFs ten years after certification of their conversion, consultations have continued. As reported on previous occasions, pending a decision on this issue, the Secretariat has temporarily suspended on-site inspections at these facilities, which currently amount to eight; next year, one additional facility will acquire this status. I hope that the consultations will arrive at a successful conclusion soon.

Declarations

55. Timely and complete declarations are essential to an effectively functioning verification regime. Following the decision by the Council at its Fifty-First Session, (EC-51/DEC.1, dated 27 November 2007), the Secretariat has continued to publish status reports on the timely submission of declarations under Article VI of the Convention. This year, the number of timely submissions of annual declarations on past activities (ADPAs) showed a slight increase from 54 to 56, including “nil declarations”. In other words, this year, 64% of declarations were received on time. The Secretariat has focused on those States Parties that submit their declarations more than 30 days late, highlighting the problem to them and seeking improvements. This approach has yielded some success. Of the 18 States Parties that submitted ADPAs for 2009 more than 30 days late, seven were on time with their ADPAs for 2010. However, despite these efforts, to date 11 States Parties have submitted ADPAs for 2010 more than 30 days late.
56. In the case of annual declarations on anticipated activities for 2012, there has been no improvement in comparison to last year. The number of States Parties submitting Schedule 1 declarations by the deadline of 2 October decreased slightly, with 86% received on time, as compared to 88% last year. For Schedule 2 and 3 declarations, of the 47 declarations received to date, 43 were on time; we expect to receive four more, which will mean that 84% were received on time. Although this remains in line with the 85% received on time last year, there is still room for improvement.
57. Since the last session of the Conference, the Secretariat has received no new initial declarations. Accordingly, eight States Parties remain that have yet to make any

initial declaration, and two that have yet to submit an initial declaration under Article VI, and one under Article III. The Secretariat continues to remind these States Parties of their obligations. The Secretariat has also been following up on the clarification of declarations of 21 States Parties related to riot control agents.

58. It is clear that there is still room for improvement in this area and I encourage States Parties to continue to make every effort to ensure that their declarations are complete, accurate, and timely. The Secretariat of course stands ready to assist States Parties as required.

Electronic processing of declarations data

59. In the area of the electronic processing of declarations data provided by States Parties, progress continues to be made. We have continued to develop the Verification Information System, with a particular focus on strengthening the integration between existing systems, in order to improve document-management capabilities with regard to confidential information.
60. In 2011, the Secretariat held an advanced workshop on the electronic declarations tool for National Authorities (EDNA) in Pakistan for the Asia region, with the participation of 22 representatives from 14 States Parties. We have also held a basic course as part of the “Training Course on National Authority and Chemical Databases” organised by the Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN) in August 2011. Several other meetings were held at the OPCW Headquarters with those States Parties interested in making the transition to electronic declarations.
61. This year, we have observed a significant increase in the number of declarations submitted electronically: 40 electronic declarations for ADPA 2010, as compared to 31 for ADPA 2009. In other words, 93% of plant sites have been declared electronically. In 2011, seven States Parties used EDNA for the first time. The Secretariat is organising training sessions for EDNA during this session of the Conference; details can be found in the OPCW Journal.
62. With further enhancements planned in this area, the Secretariat looks forward to receiving more declarations electronically. We recognise the effort States Parties put into their declarations and I encourage you to contact the Secretariat should you require guidance on the submission of electronic declarations or if you wish to request support and training on the use of this software.

Report on the implementation of decision C-13/DEC.4 and other national measures related to the import and export of Schedule 2 and Schedule 3 chemicals

63. During the two previous sessions of the Council, I encouraged all States Parties to complete the survey on the implementation of the voluntary guidelines for declarations of import and export data for Schedule 2 and 3 chemicals (S/900/2011, dated 16 February 2011). I would like to thank the 52 States Parties that took the time to respond to the questionnaire. The Secretariat has analysed the data received and is in the process of preparing the report to the Council required by decision C-13/DEC.4, dated 3 December 2008. This report will provide information to

Member States to facilitate future discussions on reducing the level of transfer discrepancies. The report will be presented to the Council for consideration at its Sixty-Seventh Session.

Transfer discrepancies

64. As I mentioned earlier, the Secretariat is making an effort to try to reduce transfer discrepancies. The Secretariat has noted and reported in the Verification Implementation Report (VIR) that a significant number of States Parties were involved in transfers of Schedule 2 and Schedule 3 chemicals but did not make declarations to that effect. The Secretariat held bilateral meetings with some of these 21 States Parties during last week's National Authorities meeting, and will continue to hold bilateral meetings with these States Parties during this session of the Conference, to remind them of the declarations requirements and to enquire whether they are in need of any assistance in fulfilling them.

Survey on the implementation of Schedule 2A/2A* low-concentration guidelines

65. I also encouraged all States Parties to complete a second survey regarding the implementation of decision C-14/DEC.4, dated 2 December 2009, by the deadline of 31 December 2011. We are required to report on the implementation of this decision in the next VIR. We have only received four responses so far, and I would like once again to encourage all States Parties that have not yet submitted a response to complete this survey before the deadline.

Cooperation with the World Customs Organization

66. I would like to inform States Parties that the Secretariat is participating in a combined project with the Green Customs Initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme, and the World Customs Organization (WCO) to develop an e-learning module on Convention-related issues specifically for customs officers, through funding by the United Nations Development Account. The content of the module has been finalised and it is now being converted to e-learning format by the WCO. The module is expected to become available to customs officers during 2012. The Secretariat is also discussing with the WCO a modification to the Harmonized System codes to include unique codes for the most traded scheduled chemicals, which will make it easier for all countries to collect data and control the trade of scheduled chemicals.

Article VI inspections

67. As at 31 October of this year, 184 inspections have been completed, amounting to 88% of the 209 Article VI inspections provided for in the Programme and Budget for 2011. Of these, seven inspections have been conducted at Schedule 2 plant sites, at which sampling and analysis was performed by the inspection teams. I expect that the Article VI inspection programme for this year will be completed as scheduled.
68. I am pleased that consensus was reached during the Sixty-Sixth Session of the Council on the policy guidelines for determining the number of Article VI inspections. As I reported to the Council at that session, I am grateful to Ambassador

Palomo of Guatemala for building on the work of Ambassador Wagner of Peru in facilitating these policy guidelines.

69. I have considered the guidelines as articulated in EC-66/DEC.10, dated 7 October 2011. As the Secretariat set out orally in an informal meeting on 19 October, and again in a non-paper dated 26 October 2011, the numbers of Article VI inspections proposed in the draft Programme and Budget for 2012 are consistent with the policy guidelines and address the concerns identified during the consultations on this topic.
70. Concerning the OCPF site-selection methodology, I would like to announce that the Secretariat is now ready to select OCPFs for inspections in 2012 using the revised site-selection methodology (S/962/2011, dated 8 September 2011). I intend to report the performance of this revised methodology in early 2013, after completing all inspections in 2012. Prior to this, I will report in early 2012, for the final time, on the site-selection methodology that was put in place four years ago.

Science and technology

71. 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. As I mentioned in my introduction, the Convention is a disarmament treaty tied closely to science, and the dynamic nature of science needs to be reflected in our own work. It is our responsibility to adequately assess and address new developments that potentially have an impact on the implementation of the Convention. This is vital to ensuring the long-term effectiveness of the Convention's prohibitions. I believe that the Scientific Advisory Board has a crucial role to play in this regard. I also believe that we should maintain and strengthen our links with the broader scientific community.
72. In preparation for the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, (the "Third Review Conference"), the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) will be holding an international workshop to review trends in science and technology that may affect the implementation of the Convention. This workshop will take place in Spiez, Switzerland, from 20 to 23 February 2012. Similar workshops in Bergen, Norway, in 2002, and Zagreb, Croatia, in 2007, provided useful inputs ahead of previous Review Conferences. The outcome of the IUPAC workshop will be an important source for the Scientific Advisory Board to draw upon, as the Board prepares its own report on trends in science and technology in the run-up to the Third Review Conference.

Challenge inspection field exercise

73. As I mentioned in my introduction, on 27 October 2011, a challenge inspection exercise was launched, initiated by the submission to me of a fictitious request from Australia, playing the role of "Requesting State Party" in the exercise, to carry out a challenge inspection in Thailand, the "Inspected State Party". This triggered activities at OPCW Headquarters, the deployment of an inspection team to the Inspected State

Party, the conduct of field activities, and the development of the preliminary inspection report. The exercise continued until the preliminary inspection report was submitted to me on 10 November. This exercise was the first to cover all main aspects of a challenge inspection, and was the first such exercise to be held in Asia.

74. The Secretariat is grateful to Thailand and Australia for playing constructive roles. In particular, the role of Inspected State Party requires a strong commitment. In this connection, I should also like to express my sympathies and solidarity with the Government and people of Thailand for facing with great courage a difficult moment for the country, with extensive floods posing a serious challenge to the lives and livelihood of many people. The fact that, despite this challenge, the exercise was not interrupted is further proof of the Thai people's strong determination in the face of adversity, and shows their continued support for the Convention.
75. I wish to convey our appreciation to the European Union for funding the Secretariat's participation in the field activities, with contributions under European Union Council Decision on support for OPCW activities in the framework of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (2009/569/CFSP, dated 27 July 2009). In a similar vein, I extend my appreciation to all those Secretariat staff members who took part in the exercise, especially those members on the inspection team.
76. An informal briefing on the exercise will be held on 30 November at 13:30 in the Ieper Room.

International cooperation and assistance

International cooperation

77. On 23 September of this year, the twelfth edition of the Associate Programme was successfully concluded. Participants represented 28 States Parties, including 11 African States. The intensive nine-week programme entailed modules at the OPCW Headquarters and the University of Surrey in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as hands-on training at state-of-the-art plants in the chemical industry. To date, the Associate Programme has equipped 265 scientists and engineers from 96 developing countries and countries with economies in transition, combining both theoretical and practical training in modern production and in management and safety practices in the chemical industry.
78. I wish to thank all States Parties, their national chemical-industry associations, the University of Surrey, the European Chemical Industry Council and others for extending their valuable support to this important programme.
79. Other capacity-building programmes, including those for States Parties of the African region, were also successfully conducted. For a third consecutive year, the OPCW collaborated with the Pan-Africa Chemistry Network and the Royal Society of Chemistry in a workshop hosted by the University of Nairobi on gas chromatography and gas chromatography-mass spectrometry techniques. Additionally, the third basic analytical chemistry course in Africa was successfully co-organised by the OPCW, the South African National Authority, VERIFIN, and Protechnik Laboratories in

Pretoria, South Africa. I would like to thank the Government of South Africa, the Pan-Africa Chemistry Network, the Royal Society of Chemistry, and the University of Nairobi for their continued support to these important activities under the OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (the “Africa Programme”).

80. In 2011, a number of initiatives were also undertaken to reach out to specific countries and regions. I would like to make a special mention of the analytical chemistry course in French in Sidi Thabét, Ariana, Tunisia, at the National Institute for Research-Physical and Chemical Analysis (INRAP), under the Africa Programme, held in response to the great demand for training in advanced analytical techniques for francophone Africa.
81. Also for the first time, a regional analytical-skills course, for States Parties from Eastern Europe, was conducted in Russian at the Taras Shevchenko National University at Kyiv, Ukraine, with the cooperation and assistance of the university and the Government of Ukraine. Designed to support the customs authorities in implementing the Convention with back-up support from their laboratories, an additional pilot course was conducted with the support of the Government of Poland and the Institute of Industrial Organic Chemistry for laboratory personnel from ten Eastern European countries.
82. Throughout the year, the Secretariat organised four training programmes for analytical chemists with varying levels of expertise; one programme was tailored to participants from Africa, sponsored by the European Union, under the umbrella of the Africa Programme. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to VERIFIN, the Government of Finland, and the European Union for supporting this programme.
83. Under the Conference-Support Programme, the Secretariat supported 25 scientific events, enabling 134 scientists and researchers to participate in various scientific fora. Five of these events were held in Africa and 45 sponsorships were offered to African nationals. Under the auspices of the Equipment-Exchange Programme, the OPCW also provided technical equipment to more than ten States Parties.
84. Chemical safety and security are important aspects of the Organisation’s international-cooperation activities. A total of 220 participants took part in five events held in South Africa, India, Malaysia, and Qatar, respectively. Another course will be held at the Bergische Universität, Wuppertal, Germany, for the Africa region, with a generous voluntary contribution from Germany. These activities enhance our engagement and strengthen contacts with key stakeholders of the Convention, such as industry and National Authorities. I thank Member States for their generous financial and in-kind contributions, provided by the European Union, Japan, Malaysia, Qatar, and the United States of America.

National implementation

85. 2011 was a year of significant activity regarding national-implementation support, with more than 37 courses and events conducted.

86. The key implementation-support objectives are the following: development of adequate national legislation; and capacity-building for National Authorities and customs authorities to more effectively implement the Convention, including as regards the transfers regime, and to submit accurate and timely Article VI declarations.
87. States Parties and their National Authorities are the key actors in the creation of the necessary domestic legislative mechanisms to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention. In this regard, the key requirements are the legal prohibition on the development of chemical weapons and penalties for its violation. Seventy percent of States Parties now have such legislation in place and 64% have implemented the extra-territorial applicability of their legislation. There is clearly further work to be done and the Secretariat is poised to reinforce the assistance it provides to States Parties to meet these important obligations in the coming year.
88. In 2011, the Secretariat has conducted four regional meetings of National Authorities in Asia (Singapore), Africa (Ghana), Eastern Europe (Estonia) and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC) (Argentina). National Authorities had an opportunity to exchange experience, identify implementation challenges, and seek solutions based on their common experience. In addition, the Secretariat has conducted basic courses for National Authorities (Africa, Eastern Europe, and GRULAC) as well as courses targeted at capacity-building in the development and drafting of legislation.
89. Furthermore, the Secretariat has held training courses for customs officers in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Malaysia, and Brazil on the transfers regime of the Convention, with a view to ensuring a continuous level of improvement in terms of trade and transfer declarations and the successful resolution of trade discrepancies.
90. Throughout 2011, 13 technical-assistance visits have been undertaken in the following countries: Algeria, Armenia, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Cape Verde, the Congo, Gambia, Malaysia, Mexico, and Sierra Leone. These visits are geared towards the identification of the needs of States Parties in implementing the Convention and range from legal support to customs and industry engagement.
91. The Secretariat continued to collaborate with other organisations in an effort to enhance its support to States Parties. In 2011, we successfully engaged with the African Union and the Caribbean Community, and we hope to be able to expand on this initiative in the future to include regional and subregional organisations.
92. As regards the Africa Programme, States Parties will be aware that I authorised the extension of this programme for an additional three years, at the beginning of 2011. The programme has continued to be an effective mechanism for supporting those States Parties in Africa that have the furthest to go in terms of meeting their obligations and achieving their financial and in-kind contributions.

Article VII

93. I recall that the Conference at its Fourteenth Session, by its decision C-14/DEC.12 of 4 December 2009, invited the Secretariat to compile two concurrent reports on the status of implementation of Article VII of the Convention and requested the Secretariat to provide those reports annually to the Council.
94. The main developments in States Parties, and the results achieved in this area, are detailed in my two reports on the status of implementation of Article VII for the reporting period 31 July 2010 to 29 July 2011, which the Conference has before it as EC-66/DG.7 C-16/DG.10 and EC-66/DG.8 C-16/DG.11, both dated 29 August 2011, and in an accompanying Note by the Director-General (EC-66/DG.9 C-16/DG.12, dated 29 August 2011).
95. Since the last annual report on the status of implementation submitted to the Conference at its Fifteenth Session, one State Party, namely, Mauritania, has informed me that it has designated a National Authority, decreasing to two the number of States Parties that have not yet met this requirement.
96. Moreover, one State Party—Peru—informed the Secretariat that it had adopted measures that covered all key areas under the action plan for the implementation of Article VII. This brings the number of States Parties that have indicated that they have implementing legislation covering all key areas to 88, or 47%.
97. During the reporting period a significant number of States Parties also made submissions under paragraph 5 of Article VII and, accordingly, the number of States Parties having met this obligation stands at 139 or 74%.
98. While progress continues to be made in this area, further efforts are required to ensure that all States Parties achieve full and effective implementation of the Convention. I invite the Conference to encourage States Parties that have not yet done so to enact the required legislative and administrative measures, to keep the Secretariat informed about the progress they have made, and to communicate any difficulties they may have encountered.

Assistance and protection

99. During the period under review, at the request of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and that of Paraguay, the Secretariat has continued, within the available resources, to provide expert advice and assist the States Parties in identifying how best to implement States Parties' programmes for the development and improvement of a protective capacity against chemical weapons. The Secretariat conducted a training exercise in Mexico as a part of the project in support of national preparations for the hosting of the Pan American Games in Guadalajara.
100. Together with the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC) in Rakitje, Croatia, the Secretariat organised the eighth annual seminar on the implementation of the Convention for States Parties of South Eastern Europe. Two regional awareness-raising workshops on Article X of the Convention were conducted in China and Peru. The Twelfth Annual Workshop

to Coordinate Assistance and Protection under Article X of the Convention took place at the OPCW Headquarters in the week prior to this session of the Conference.

101. The Secretariat, in collaboration with Member States, conducted regional capacity-building courses for specialists dealing with response to incidents with chemical-warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals in the following countries: Brazil, India, Singapore, South Africa, and Spain. Additionally, the Secretariat jointly organised international assistance-and-protection training courses related to offers made under Article X of the Convention with the Governments of the Czech Republic, Finland, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Serbia, Slovakia, and Switzerland. I am grateful to all of these Member States, which hosted these events and provided in-kind contributions to assistance-and-protection training programmes.
102. Furthermore, a planning meeting for the subregional protection capacity-building project for English-speaking States Parties in the West African subregion was organised by the Secretariat, thanks to the financial support of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, through the Kofi Annan Peace Keeping Centre in Accra, Ghana. This project in the West African subregion was one of the activities undertaken under the auspices of the Africa Programme within the framework of Article X of the Convention.
103. The Secretariat also conducted a meeting of the Protection Network, which was held in Kaliningrad in the Russian Federation. Participants discussed and analysed several assistance-and-protection-related issues with special focus on the evaluation of the assistance-and-protection e-learning project, OPCW preparedness to respond to a request of assistance, and new technologies in the field of emergency response. I would like to thank the Russian Federation for providing support to this event.
104. The Secretariat also continued its close cooperation with other relevant international organisations, such as the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the RACVIAC.

Administrative and financial matters

105. 2011 marked the year in which the Secretariat adopted the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) for its Financial Statements. As a trial run for the 2011 Financial Statements, the Secretariat produced a set of pro forma IPSAS-compliant statements for 2010, which have been reviewed by the External Auditor. I am pleased to inform you that the External Auditor commented favourably in his review, noting that he was “very impressed with the level of enthusiasm and energy with which the Secretariat had tackled the implementation of IPSAS” and adding that he believed that “the Secretariat and its staff could rightly be proud of its achievement.” I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to our External Auditor for the consistent support and advice that he and his team have provided during the transition from the former United Nations System Accounting Standards to the new IPSAS standards.

106. In his audit of the financial period that ended on 31 December 2010, the External Auditor placed an unqualified audit opinion on the OPCW's Financial Statements (EC-66/DG.1 C-16/DG.5, dated 21 June 2011). As is customary, the report of the External Auditor also included a number of recommendations to further improve the performance in various areas within the Secretariat.
107. The Conference has before it the Secretariat's report on OPCW income and expenditure report for the period ending June 2011 (EC-66/DG.2 C-16/DG.6, dated 19 July 2011). I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the outstanding 2011 assessed contributions, as per 21 November 2011, reflect a receipt level of 96.1% as compared to 96.7% on the same date last year. Needless to say, I encourage States Parties that have not paid their outstanding contributions yet, to please do so at the earliest and in full. I have continued to encourage States Parties in arrears that have lost their voting rights to consider entering into multi-year payment plans to settle their outstanding unpaid assessed contributions. In this regard, I am pleased to inform you that Uzbekistan has submitted a proposal for a multi-year payment plan for your approval (C-16/DEC/CRP.9, dated 28 November 2011).
108. The revised 2012 draft Programme and Budget represents a balance between competing priorities and seeks to address the challenges facing the Organisation as it enters a period of transition. It takes into account the adjustments in the destruction activities, while at the same time providing a careful rebalancing of resources across the Secretariat in order to respond to these new priorities.
109. The revised draft Programme and Budget, which calls for expenditure of slightly over EUR 71 million, reflects a reduction of 4.7%, when compared to the approved budget for 2011. This equates to approximately half a million euros less in assessed contributions than this year's approved budget.
110. I particularly wish to express my gratitude to the facilitators, Mr Georges Flanagan Whalen of Canada and Ms Joan Muchoki of Kenya, for their valuable contributions.
111. Turning to results-based management (RBM), I wish to inform the Conference that we have started to introduce the principles of RBM at the Secretariat.
112. As a first step, we have carried out RBM capacity-building activities for about 100 staff members, focussing initially on senior management and programme managers who began to use RBM concepts during the preparation of the draft 2012 Programme and Budget document. You will note a greater results-orientation in our planning and better key performance indicators in terms of both quality and quantity. Additionally, we have sought to link the annual Programme and Budget with the perspective outlined in the Medium-Term Plan. Establishing this linkage is important if we are to contribute effectively and efficiently to the achievement of our seven core objectives, which require efforts and outputs over a longer period than one year. These and future improvements are expected to enhance our programme-performance management. Over time, we expect to move away from activity- and input-oriented programming and budgeting to results-oriented and output-oriented programming and budgeting.

113. In terms of the next steps to be taken, the Secretariat plans to introduce a performance-monitoring system next year. Once developed, the system will be an important tool to obtain transparent, reliable, and verifiable programme-performance information that will be reflected in our reporting to the policy-making organs.

The OPCW's contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

114. In 2011, the Secretariat has served as a catalyst for further implementation efforts to promote the Convention as a unique instrument in response to the threat posed by chemical weapons. On 27 April, the yearly Note by the Director-General on the "status of OPCW's contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts" (EC-64/DG.8, dated 27 April 2011) was noted with appreciation by the Council.
115. The Secretariat has continued to support the Council's Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Terrorism, maintained contacts with relevant international, regional, and subregional organisations in the field of counter-terrorism and non-proliferation, and supported the United Nations' counter-terrorism strategy by participating in the work of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF). The Secretariat, in particular, concentrated on programmes and activities to support Members in their policies and practices in the prevention of, preparedness for and response to a terrorist attack involving chemical weapons and the misuse of toxic chemicals, and in chemical safety and security.
116. In cooperation with the CTITF, the Secretariat supported the development of the recently launched report entitled "Interagency Coordination in the Event of a Terrorist Attack Using Chemical or Biological Weapons or Materials". The report clearly brought to the fore the importance of consultations and coordination against a chemical and biological threat between international organisations, specialised agencies, chemical industry, National Authorities, and governments and other relevant stakeholders.
117. On 11 and 12 April, the OPCW conducted a seminar entitled the "OPCW's Contribution in the Sphere of Security and Non-proliferation" in The Hague. The event was attended by over 250 representatives from more than 60 countries. The seminar covered four subjects, under the overall theme of the non-proliferation of chemical weapons: Implementation of the Convention in the chemical industry, including sampling and analysis relevant to implementation; convergence of biology and chemistry: implications for the Convention regime; OPCW support against misuse of toxic chemicals; and participation in global efforts against terrorism, including chemical plant and transportation security. The seminar proceedings and results were published and made available on the OPCW website, as well as in a Note by the Secretariat (S/959/2011, dated 8 August 2011).

Safety and security at chemical plants and in the transportation of chemicals

118. Strengthening safety and security at chemical plant sites is an important task in preventing the hostile use of chemicals. In 2011, important steps have been undertaken to promote the OPCW as a platform of support for global cooperation in

decreasing the chemical threat, including awareness raising, training, exchange of best practices, and fostering cooperation between chemical professionals.

OPCW programme of table-top exercises on the preparedness of States Parties to prevent terrorist attacks involving chemicals

119. Following the successful conduct of a table-top exercise on the preparedness of States Parties to prevent terrorist attacks involving chemicals conducted in Poland last year, the OPCW is currently developing a programme entitled “Table-top exercise programme on the preparedness of States Parties to prevent terrorist attacks involving chemicals” to address the different stages of the prevention of and preparedness for a crisis linked to the malicious use of toxic chemicals. From 8 to 10 November 2011, the Secretariat co-organised “ChemShield 2011”, a global table-top exercise on the prevention of terrorism involving the use of chemical agents, with the Dutch National Coordinator for Counterterrorism and Security, the Dutch National Forensic Institute, the International Criminal Police Organization, and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. The exercise increased awareness of the risks of chemical threats and examined and enhanced intersectoral and international coordination.

Universality and external relations

120. The Conference has before it a report on the implementation of the action plan on universality for the period from 16 September 2010 to 15 September 2011 (EC-66/DG.16 C-16/DG.15, dated 30 September 2011). The report outlines the activities carried out by the Secretariat during this period and contains proposals for further action.
121. As mentioned during my opening remarks, this Organisation today stands strong at 188 States Parties. Undoubtedly, the OPCW’s universality efforts resulted in the fastest growth pace ever in an international disarmament outfit and set a worldwide example. However, we are fully aware that achieving universal adherence to the Convention remains a core objective. In this context, the Secretariat has continued to carry out various activities aimed at promoting universal adherence to the Convention.
122. During the period covered by this report, on 14 July 2011, the Republic of South Sudan became the 193rd Member State of the United Nations. On 13 September of this year, the Director-General addressed a letter to the South Sudanese authorities, encouraging the newly established State to join the Convention and offering the OPCW’s assistance in facilitating the country’s accession.
123. I am also pleased to report that, as was the case during past years, the Secretariat has continued its outreach efforts to States not Party with a view to achieving universal adherence to the Convention. At the invitation of the Government of Myanmar, a delegation from the Secretariat extended a visit to Myanmar in June of this year. The Secretariat, furthermore, promoted and sponsored the participation of five representatives of States not Party to participate in events organised by the OPCW, such as awareness-raising and training activities. On the occasion of my visit to the First Committee of the 66th United Nations General Assembly in October of this year,

I seized the opportunity to meet bilaterally with the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations in New York.

124. The Secretariat continued to maintain bilateral contacts with representatives of States not Party, where possible, on the sidelines of official visits. Universality was addressed during a visit by the Deputy Director-General to Accra, Ghana, in July 2011, on the occasion of the opening of the Ninth Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties, as well as during a recent meeting of the Deputy Director-General with representatives of States Parties of the African Group in Brussels, Belgium.
125. Regarding developments in the Middle East, I wish to recall that the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (2010 NPT Review Conference) requested the OPCW and other relevant international organisations to prepare background documentation for a Conference, expected to be convened in 2012, “regarding modalities for a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, taking into account work previously undertaken and experience gained” (NPT/CONF.2010/50, Vol. I).
126. On 6 and 7 July 2011, a delegation of the Secretariat attended a seminar entitled “EU Seminar to promote confidence building and in support of a process aimed at establishing a zone free of WMD and means of delivery in the Middle East” which was held in Brussels, Belgium. In her statement addressed to seminar participants, the Deputy Director-General reiterated the full support of the OPCW for the establishment of a WMD-free zone in the Middle East, but also stressed the importance of avoiding linkages that might prove to be counter-productive. In terms of the role of the Convention in a WMD-free zone, the statement made it clear that accession to or ratification of the Convention would fulfil all the necessary conditions of extending the international legal regime against chemical weapons to the Middle East.
127. I am pleased to inform you that the OPCW will also be represented at a seminar in Amman, Jordan, on the same topic, during the course of this week.
128. During the period covered by this statement, I again had the opportunity to extend visits to a number of States Parties and address various international and scientific fora on behalf of the Organisation. My official engagements included the following: At the beginning of 2011, I addressed the Royal Society of Chemistry and a Wilton Park Conference devoted to the Convention, in The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; and the “Centro Alti Studi per la Difesa” defence academy in Rome, Italy. I gave statements at the Conference on Disarmament and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, in Geneva Switzerland; the 14th International Chemical Weapons Demilitarisation Conference at Interlaken, Switzerland; the NATO Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and NATO’s Annual Conference on WMD Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-proliferation in Bergen, Norway; and the Tenth Regional Meeting of National Authorities in Eastern Europe. On 12 October, as I have just mentioned, I had the opportunity to address the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

129. I have, furthermore, been pleased to welcome high-level visitors at the OPCW Headquarters during 2011: H.E. Mr Stephen Smith, Minister of Defence of Australia; H.E. Mr Kanat Saudabayev, Secretary of State of Kazakhstan; H.E. Mr Hoshyar Zebari, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iraq; and H.E. the Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry and Commerce of Sri Lanka.

Media and public affairs

130. As mentioned in my previous remarks, a principal aim of the OPCW's public-diplomacy efforts is to raise the profile of the Organisation and its achievements. To this end, the Secretariat launched its first social media sites in February 2011 on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Flickr. I am pleased to report that, since then, the use both of our social media tools and the OPCW website has increased significantly.
131. In September, the OPCW also staged its first-ever live broadcast, namely of the Conference on International Cooperation and Chemical Safety and Security, which was seen on the Internet by more than 600 viewers from 100 countries. For the recent challenge inspection field exercise in Thailand, the OPCW produced daily video clips of the activities that were presented on the website, together with a live blog that provided a narrative of the exercise as it unfolded.

Privileges-and-immunities agreements with the OPCW

132. As regards privileges-and-immunities agreements, I recall that paragraph 50 of Article VIII of the Convention provides that the legal capacity of the OPCW and the privileges and immunities referred to in the Convention shall be defined in agreements between the Organisation and the States Parties. The conclusion of such agreements also complies with the request of the Conference in its decision C-8/DEC.12, dated 23 October 2003, whereby the Conference called upon States Parties that had not yet negotiated their agreements with the OPCW to do so without delay.
133. Significant progress is taking place in this area and the number of agreements in place is rapidly increasing. Since the last session of the Conference, the Council has approved privileges-and-immunities agreements between the OPCW and seven States Parties, namely, Albania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Mali, and Viet Nam, increasing to 45 the number of privileges-and-immunities agreements concluded by the OPCW.
134. I invite all those States Parties that have not yet begun negotiating an agreement to enter into negotiations with the Secretariat. I also urge those States Parties having ongoing discussions with the Secretariat to prioritise such negotiations with a view to concluding an agreement. In addition, I encourage all those States Parties that have already signed such an agreement, but which have not yet completed the domestic procedures necessary for their entry into force, to take action in this regard.
135. This concludes my report.