



OPCW

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

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

1. I welcome all delegations to the Seventeenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. I would like to express my appreciation to Mr Jarmo Sareva, Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, who is attending the Conference on behalf of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-moon.
2. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you, Ambassador Peter Goosen of South Africa, on assuming the Chairmanship of the Conference. Your successful period as the Chairperson of the Executive Council portends well for the Conference. I am sure that, given your rich diplomatic experience and deep understanding of the dynamics that shape our work, you will lead this session of the Conference to a successful conclusion; in wishing you every success, I assure you of the full support of the Secretariat.
3. I take this opportunity to acknowledge with deep appreciation the work done by your predecessor, Ambassador Paul Arkwright of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, who has acquitted himself with great distinction.
4. As the year 2012 draws to a close, we can look back with satisfaction to a period that sustained our momentum towards realising the goals of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The last session of the Conference will be remembered for the important decision it adopted concerning the final extended deadlines for the destruction of declared chemical weapons (C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011). The Convention is today stronger for the wise and constructive approach embodied in that decision, proving yet again that we owe our success to the goodwill of our States Parties and the extraordinary efforts they are always willing to make to reach agreements on delicate issues.
5. The States Parties concerned have submitted their detailed plans for the destruction of their remaining chemical weapons stockpiles; these planned completion dates are being used as benchmarks to assess progress regarding the implementation of the

* Reissued for technical reasons.



Conference's decision. My annual report to the Conference on the overall destruction progress has already been circulated. In accordance with the terms of the aforementioned decision, I included a reference to this matter in my report to the 67th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

6. I welcome the steady commitment of all possessor States Parties to complete the destruction of the remaining stockpiles and to continue the progress they have achieved towards fulfilling their obligations under the Convention. At the same time, I appeal to them to do their utmost to accelerate the current schedule and complete destruction in the shortest time possible.
7. The year registered yet another important landmark in the life of our Organisation. In April, the Convention completed 15 years of its operation. The fifteenth anniversary afforded an opportunity to celebrate progress and to re-dedicate ourselves to the goals of the Convention.
8. A series of commemorative events held in The Hague highlighted the strong commitment of States Parties to the aims of the Convention. The city of The Hague and the Government of our host country, the Netherlands, played a most cooperative role in supporting these events.
9. On 1 October, the anniversary celebrations culminated in the OPCW High-Level Meeting held in New York in the margins of the 67th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The theme of the meeting summarises our core anniversary message: "Fifteen Years of the Chemical Weapons Convention: Celebrating Success. Committing to the Future." The United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, spoke at the event, as well as more than forty speakers from across the world, including Ministers. States Parties have firmly underscored their unwavering commitment to the goals and objectives of the Convention and their resolve to take our collective endeavour forward. This overwhelming endorsement is a great source of strength to our mission, especially at a time where our States Parties are facing numerous financial and economic challenges. I am also deeply grateful to the Secretary-General for his steadfast support to the Convention and the OPCW.
10. The Secretary-General and I have recently addressed letters to the heads of State and government of the eight countries that are not yet members of the Convention. We have stressed the imperative of their joining the Convention as part of the internationally endorsed objective of creating a chemical-weapons-free world. The two organisations have concluded a Supplementary Arrangement to the Relationship Agreement. The arrangement establishes the necessary modalities for conducting an investigation of alleged use of chemical weapons if requested by the United Nations Secretary-General. We have also agreed on interface procedures with the Emergency Services Branch of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), which will contribute significantly to ensuring the preparedness of the OPCW to provide assistance and protection against the use or threat of use of chemical weapons.
11. The participation by States Parties in events connected with the fifteenth anniversary year has highlighted their dedication to the goals of the Chemical Weapons

Convention and to its successful implementation. This commitment is especially important as we take up the future challenges.

12. An immediate challenge is the situation imposed upon us by the global financial conditions. We recognise that we must share our part of the burden and adapt ourselves to the new economic circumstances. The Draft Programme and Budget for 2013, which the Conference has before it (C-17/DEC/CRP.2/Rev.1, dated 19 November 2012), reflects a carefully negotiated balance. It allows us to maintain the operational integrity of the Convention, while paring down expenditure. At the same time, we must proceed with great care to ensure that the viability of programme delivery is not compromised. In doing so, we must be guided by the conviction that the Convention represents a collective benefit for all of us.
13. A singular achievement of the Convention is the verified elimination to date of 78% of the declared global stockpiles of chemical weapons. While destruction of remaining chemical weapons will continue to be a priority, the quantum of our verification work dedicated to destruction will continue to decrease over time. However, the mission of the OPCW to remain a guarantor against the chemical weapons threat will not change. Reprogramming the tasks of the Organisation to both the prevention of the re-emergence of chemical weapons and dealing with potential new threats sums up our future mission adjusted to the realities of today and tomorrow.
14. An important opportunity to shape the future is just around the corner. The Third Review Conference¹, which will take place from 8 to 19 April 2013, is an event of which the importance cannot be overemphasised. Preparations are well under way in the Open-Ended Working Group ably led by Ambassador Nassima Baghli of Algeria. The Secretariat has produced a comprehensive document that captures in detail the progress that the OPCW has made since the Second Review Conference, held in 2008 (WGRC-3/S/1, dated 5 October 2012). This document also includes an analysis of what has been achieved and the challenges that lie ahead.
15. The working group has conducted 19 meetings, in which it has addressed a number of key issues and has scrutinised them in a systematic way. It has also given representatives from the chemical industry an opportunity to enhance dialogue with OPCW during a one-day meeting. In addition, the group has considered a preliminary report by the Scientific Advisory Board (RC-3/DG.1, dated 29 October 2012), which addresses important issues regarding the potential impact of developments in science and technology on the Convention. In the margins of this session of the Conference, on Thursday 29 November, a meeting with civil society representatives will be held for an exchange of information and views in relation to the Third Review Conference. The working group will soon proceed with the drafting of its recommendations. I urge all States Parties to actively participate in this exercise.
16. We have, furthermore, adopted a proactive approach in our outreach to a broader range of stakeholders. We have launched an initiative to further strengthen our relations with the global chemical industry, which I regard as a key partner for our

¹ Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

work. In the same vein, the Secretariat is actively reaching out to representatives of science and academia and non-governmental organisations, who make an important, though less visible, contribution to the implementation of the Convention.

17. My report to the Conference at its Seventeenth Session, including the highlights of our progress in various programme areas, is detailed. While the full text of my statement will be circulated to delegations as an official document, I will now present the highlights for various programme areas, beginning with chemical demilitarisation and verification.

Chemical demilitarisation and verification

18. As at 31 October 2012, in total 69,430.336 metric tonnes (MTs) of Category 1 chemical weapons had been declared by the possessor States. Of this amount, 54,258.464 MTs, or 78 %, of Category 1 chemical weapons had been destroyed under international verification by the Secretariat. This represents an increase of 7% as compared to the level reached last year. The aggregate amount destroyed includes 2.914 MTs that have been withdrawn from Category 1 chemical weapons stockpiles pursuant to Article VI of the Convention and subparagraph 2(d) of Part VI of the Verification Annex for purposes not prohibited under the Convention.
19. The aggregate amount of Category 2 chemical weapons destroyed as at 31 October remained unchanged at 919.931 MTs, or 52%, 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. As for the Category 3 chemical weapons, A State Party, India, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America have completed the destruction of these weapons. In November 2011, Libya submitted a declaration of additional Category 3 chemical weapons previously undeclared, which are planned to be destroyed in 2013.
20. As I noted earlier, in accordance with the decision by the Conference of the States Parties regarding the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 (C-16/DEC.11), those States Parties that have been unable to meet the final extended deadline have already submitted their detailed plans for the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles.

Libya

21. On 8 February 2011, destruction operations in Libya were halted due to the breakdown of a heating unit in a disposal station. By that date, Libya had destroyed 13.476 MTs, or 51.15%, of the declared stockpiles of Category 1 chemical weapons as well as 555.71 MTs, or 39.64%, of its Category 2 chemical weapons.
22. In November 2011 and February 2012, Libya submitted declarations on chemical weapons not previously declared; these declarations have been subsequently verified by the Secretariat in January and April 2012, respectively.
23. At its Sixty-Seventh Session, the Executive Council approved a decision on the declaration of chemical weapons in Libya not previously declared (EC-67/DEC.9,

dated 27 March 2012). The Council welcomed Libya's intention to address any matters that needed to be clarified with regard to its declaration. The Secretariat is still in the process of clarifying details related to these declarations.

24. In its detailed plan for the destruction of chemical weapons remaining after 29 April 2012, Libya indicated that it intends to restart operations for the disposal of these weapons stockpiles by March 2013 and complete their destruction, including the remaining precursors, by December 2016. It is planned that the destruction of Category 3 chemical weapons will be completed by May 2013.
25. Libya has also informed the Secretariat that it has taken a number of protective and preventive measures to secure its remaining chemical weapons stockpiles and that it maintains the readiness of the sulfur mustard hydrolysis system at Ruwagha. At the same time, Libya has been reviewing various options for the destruction of the remaining Category 1 chemical weapons that would ensure that the timelines set forth in its detailed plan for the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons would be met.
26. Under the Global Partnership Program, Canada has provided significant financial support to the Secretariat's efforts in assisting Libya to fulfil its obligations under the Convention. The Secretariat and the Libyan authorities have conducted a number of bilateral meetings, which focused on Libya's plans and preparations to complete the destruction of its remaining stockpile of chemical weapons, including my visit to Tripoli in May this year and a recent visit to Libya by a team of experts this month. The Libyan authorities reaffirmed their commitment to eliminate the remaining stockpiles of chemical weapons in the shortest possible time. Pursuant to a request by Libya, the Secretariat has engaged the United Nations Office for Project Services in the process of procuring specialised equipment to facilitate the resumption of destruction operations in Libya.

The Russian Federation

27. The Russian Federation has destroyed 27,653.020 MTs, or 69.19% of the total declared amount of Category 1 chemical weapons. According to its detailed plan for the destruction of chemical weapons remaining after 29 April 2012 (EC-68/P/NAT.1, dated 11 April 2012), the Russian Federation plans to destroy the remaining amount of Category 1 chemical weapons by December 2015. The Russian Federation has also destroyed all of its Category 2 (10.616 MTs) and Category 3 chemical weapons.
28. Two chemical weapons destruction facilities in the Russian Federation—at Gorny and Kambarka—have completed operations. Four others—at Shchuchye, Leonidovka, Maradykovsky, and Pochep—have been operating in 2012. The new chemical weapons destruction facility being built at Kizner is expected to become operational in 2013. At the end of August 2012, the Secretariat conducted an initial visit at Kizner, to familiarise itself with the facility.
29. The Russian Federation continues to implement its concept of gradually bringing chemical weapons destruction facilities into operation, through the commissioning of individual units designed for the destruction of a particular type of chemical agent or munitions. A final engineering review of the new destruction unit at Leonidovka was

carried out in October 2012. This unit is designed for the destruction of aerial bomb blocks and is planned to become operational in December 2012.

30. At the facility in Shchuchye, a second process building is planned to become operational in March 2013.

The United States of America

31. The United States of America had destroyed 24,923.671 MTs, or 89.75%, of the total declared amount of Category 1 chemical weapons. According to its detailed plan for the destruction of chemical weapons remaining after 29 April 2012 (EC-68/NAT.2, dated 13 April 2012), the United States of America plans to complete the destruction of its remaining chemical weapons by September 2023. The United States of America has also destroyed all of its Category 2 (0.010 MTs) and Category 3 chemical weapons.
32. This year marked the completion of chemical weapons destruction operations at the last of the incinerators and the longest operated facility in the United States—the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF). Tooele commenced operations prior to entry into force of the Convention and destroyed the largest portion, around 12,118 MTs of a variety of nerve and blister chemical agents, or 44% of the stockpile of the United States of America. In total, eleven chemical weapons destruction facilities in this State Party have completed operations, while two others—at Pueblo and Blue Grass—are expected to start destruction in December 2015 and April 2020, respectively.
33. The United States of America has informed the Secretariat that it is pursuing a number of measures, including incentive programmes and the hiring of experienced personnel from former destruction facilities, to ensure the commencement and completion of destruction at both Pueblo and Blue Grass without compromising safety and security.

Iraq

34. Iraq has submitted additional information in support of its initial declaration regarding its chemical weapons stockpiles. The information provides details regarding the condition of the chemical weapons declared as well as the explosive, chemical, and physical hazards associated with the two bunkers in which these items are stored.
35. Iraq has reiterated its firm commitment to fulfilling its obligations under the Convention and, in cooperation with the Technical Secretariat and a number of States Parties, is working towards completing the assessment of the declared chemical weapons and of a decision on appropriate disposal methods.

Old and abandoned chemical weapons

36. The destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China has continued throughout the year. Both China and Japan reported that the mobile destruction facility (MDF) in Nanjing completed the destruction of all the 35,681 items of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China

stored in the Nanjing Trust Warehouse, as well as those consolidated from surrounding Temporary Trust Warehouses.

37. China and Japan continue to work together to facilitate the redeployment of the MDF from Nanjing to Wuhan to continue destruction at that location, as well as preparing for MDF test operations in Shijiazhuang. Preparations are ongoing for the start of the excavation and recovery operations in Haerbaling.
38. During the past year, seven inspections of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China have been conducted at six sites within China.
39. Inspections have also been conducted at five old chemical weapons sites, in Belgium, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. While the destruction operations have made considerable progress in this regard, recoveries of significant quantities of old chemical weapons continue to be made.

Chemical weapons production facilities

40. Out of the 70 chemical weapons production facilities (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.
41. In 2012, the Technical Secretariat has conducted the initial inspection at the CWPF to be converted in Iraq, one systematic inspection in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and inspections at four converted CWPFs and one CWPF undergoing conversion in the Russian Federation, the latter having been inspected twice in 2012.
42. Following extended consultations on the nature of continued verification measures at converted CWPFs 10 years after certification of their conversion, the Sixty-Seventh Executive Council adopted a decision on this issue (EC-67/DEC.7, dated 16 February 2012) and, from May 2012, the Secretariat resumed verification measures at those facilities. To date, five such CWPFs in the Russian Federation and one in A State Party have already been inspected in accordance with this Council decision.

Declarations

43. Following a 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. In regard to initial declarations, we have received one additional declaration in the last few days. However, seven States Parties have still to submit an initial declaration and an additional three have yet to submit declarations under either Article III or Article VI.
44. This year, the number of timely submissions of annual declarations on past activities (ADPA) showed a slight increase from 56 to 59, including nil declarations. In other words, about 67% of these declarations were received on time this year. The

Secretariat has continued to focus on those States Parties that submit their declarations more than 30 days late, highlighting the problem to them and seeking improvements. This approach has had some success. Out of the 12 States Parties that submitted their ADPA for 2010 more than 30 days late, five were on time for their ADPA 2011. Despite these efforts, 15 States Parties submitted ADPA 2011 more than 30 days late.

45. In the case of annual declarations of anticipated activities (ADAA) for 2013, there has been no improvement over last year. The number of States Parties submitting Schedule 1 declarations by the deadline of 2 October decreased slightly, with 82% received on time compared with 86% last year. For Schedule 2 and 3 declarations, of the 46 declarations received to date, 41 were on time; as we expect to receive three more, this means that approximately 84% were received on time. Although this remains in line with the 84% received on time last year, there is still room for improvement.

Transfer discrepancies and 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

46. I would like to thank again the 52 States Parties that took the time to respond to the Secretariat's survey on the implementation of the voluntary guidelines for declaration of import and export data for Schedule 2 and 3 chemicals (C-13/DEC.4, dated 3 December 2008). Drawing on the responses received, a report was submitted to the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/S/1, dated 16 January 2012) on the progress achieved through the implementation of these voluntary guidelines, as required by the aforementioned decision. The report provides information to Member States to facilitate future discussions on reducing the level of discrepancies. As noted in this report, limited progress has been made in reducing the number and scale of discrepancies, with these occurring for approximately half the trade in scheduled chemicals, in other words around 160,000 tonnes. This issue has been taken up again by the Industry Cluster; we hope that these discussions will be fruitful.
47. In the Verification Implementation Report (VIR) for 2011 (EC-69/HP/DG.1, dated 1 May 2012 and Corr.1, dated 9 July 2012), as well as its supplement (EC-70/HP/DG.1, dated 29 August 2012), the Secretariat again reported 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 has continued to work with these States Parties over the last year and, as a result, in 2012 two have resumed making import and export declarations and a third has made its first import and export declaration. The Secretariat will continue to work with the remaining States Parties during this session of the Conference and in the coming year to remind them of the declaration requirements and to provide them with assistance in fulfilling these requirements.

Electronic processing

48. In September 2012 a new version of the electronic declaration tool for National Authorities (EDNA), version 2.5, was released. The new features in this version aim at enhancing the accuracy of declarations and the overall user-friendliness of the software. Several States Parties have already used the new version for their ADAA

2013; I encourage those States Parties to provide feedback to the Secretariat in this regard.

49. The EDNA user-group forums provide another channel for discussions and feedback on improvements in the area of electronic declarations. States Parties have the opportunity to share their experiences in this field and help the Secretariat assess the priorities for future work. In July 2012, the third user-group forum was organised, with emphasis on two important projects, namely, the secure electronic transmission of declarations and the EDNA module for the declaration of Schedule 1 facilities. While the first project is designed to enhance the timeliness of declarations, the latter will enable States Parties to submit their Article VI declarations entirely in electronic format. The report of the third user-group forum (S/1047/2012, dated 19 October 2012) has been made available to States Parties.
50. In 2012, the Secretariat has continued to provide training regarding electronic declarations. A basic course on this topic was delivered in the context of the basic course for personnel of National Authorities held at the OPCW Headquarters in The Hague from 6 to 9 March. In addition, the Secretariat provided a two-day training course on electronic declarations and the use of the EDNA as part of the sixteenth training course on National Authority and Chemical Databases (NACD) organised by VERIFIN², which took place in Helsinki, Finland, from 13 to 24 August 2012. Several other meetings were held at the OPCW Headquarters with those States Parties interested in submitting their declarations electronically in the future.
51. The positive developments in the area of electronic processing of declarations continue. The Secretariat received electronic declarations from 40 States Parties for ADPA 2011. As a result, approximately 90% of plant sites declared were declared electronically. In 2012, two States Parties used EDNA for the first time. The Technical Secretariat is also organising training sessions for EDNA on the margins of this session of the Conference; details can be found in the OPCW Journal. The Secretariat looks forward to receiving more declarations electronically in the future. I encourage you to contact the Secretariat should guidance be required on the electronic submission of declarations, or in order to request support and training regarding the use of the software.

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

52. In the context of the VIR, the Secretariat is required to report annually on the progress made by States Parties in the implementation of decision C-14/DEC.4, which, as I have mentioned, established guidelines on low concentration limits for declarations of Schedule 2A and 2A* chemicals. Based on the results of a survey undertaken in 2011 and submissions under paragraph 5 of Article VII, the Secretariat reported in the VIR for 2011 (EC-69/HP/DG.1 and Corr.1) that only 23 States Parties had informed the Secretariat that they had fully implemented this decision.
53. The Secretariat is undertaking a second survey (S/1040/2012, dated 18 September 2012) in order to gather data for the second report on the status of implementation of decision C-14/DEC.4. I encourage all States Parties that have not

² VERIFIN = Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

previously informed the Secretariat that they have implemented the decision, to complete this survey by the deadline of 31 December 2012 in order to ensure that the next report is as comprehensive as possible.

Aggregate national data trend analysis for Schedule 2 chemicals

54. Following a successful pilot programme to analyse trends over the previous five years in aggregate national data (AND) declarations to assist States Parties in identifying potentially declarable activities involving Schedule 2 chemicals, the Secretariat extended this analysis to all States Parties in 2011, as reported in the VIR for 2011. Following this analysis the Secretariat approached eight States Parties at the end of 2011 and early 2012; two of these States Parties have responded to date, one of which has found an additional declarable plant site as a result of this analysis. The Secretariat will follow up with the remaining six States Parties during this session of the Conference.

Cooperation with the World Customs Organization

55. The Technical Secretariat is continuing to participate in a combined project with the Green Customs Initiative and the World Customs Organization (WCO) to develop an e-learning module on Convention-related issues specifically for customs officers. The project is funded 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 in early 2013. The Secretariat also continues to discuss with the WCO a modification to the Harmonized System codes to include unique codes for the most traded scheduled chemicals. This will make it easier for all countries to collect data and control the trade of scheduled chemicals. A detailed proposal has been agreed by the scientific subcommittee of the WCO and is currently awaiting approval.

Industry verification

56. Regarding Article VI inspections, 211 inspections were completed by 25 November, amounting to 96.3% of the 219 Article VI inspections provided for in the Programme and Budget for 2012. Of these, eight inspections have been conducted at Schedule 2 plant sites at which sampling and analysis were performed by the inspection teams. I expect that the Article VI inspection programme for the year will be completed as scheduled.
57. Aiming at selecting more other chemical production facilities (OCPFs) of relatively high relevance to the Convention and fewer of relatively low relevance, the plant-site selection for 2013 will follow the methodology set out in the Note by the Secretariat S/962/2011, dated 8 September 2011. This will be the second time that the revised OCPF site-selection methodology is used.

Quality review of inspections and analysis of final inspection reports

58. The Second Review Conference³ underlined the importance of the verification regime for activities not prohibited under the Convention, and stressed that efforts to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the verification regime should continue (paragraph 9.57 of RC-2/4, dated 18 April 2008). Accordingly, efforts have been made to optimise verification activities.
59. The Secretariat recently concluded a three-year programme of independent quality review of all types of industry inspections. This involved the review of 21 inspections (in 17 States Parties) over the duration of the programme, in which Secretariat staff members who are not normally involved in planning or conducting inspections, accompanied the inspection team as observers (one person for each inspection that was reviewed). Only Secretariat activities were reviewed. This quality review programme aimed primarily at identifying trends or patterns that are not easily seen when dealing with inspection and verification activities on a daily basis, and where action is necessary to achieve longer-term benefits.
60. Furthermore, the Secretariat aims to enhance the capability of the Verification Information System (VIS) to analyse findings from industry inspections. A vast amount of inspection data is contained in the final inspection reports. As part of the VIS capability enhancement, all final inspection reports from industry inspections conducted in 2010 and 2011 have been reviewed.
61. The Secretariat is now analysing the findings of these two reviews. The findings will form the basis for improving the consistency, effectiveness, and efficiency of on-site verification at industrial facilities. I intend to report relevant aspects to States Parties, in the form of a Secretariat Note, during the next few weeks, and a presentation will also be made to States Parties.

Reporting on verification activities

62. As in past years, the Secretariat has reported on verification activities during the year. Comprehensive summaries of verification activities in 2011 are contained in the VIR, as well as the unclassified summary of verification activities (S/1042/2012/Rev.1, dated 2 November 2012).

Preparedness to conduct challenge inspections and investigations of alleged use

63. In the context of the Secretariat's ongoing activities to enhance its readiness for the conduct of challenge inspections or investigations of alleged use, the Secretariat held a workshop on lessons learned in exercises on challenge inspections and investigations of alleged use, on 5 and 6 July, respectively. The workshop brought together a range of experts involved in previous exercises on this subject, including experts from other international organisations. The Secretariat made a summary of the discussion and recommendations available to States Parties.

³ Second Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

64. In 2012, the training of OPCW inspectors included field exercises on carrying out challenge inspections and investigations of alleged use. In this context, the challenge inspection exercise “McCavity” was conducted in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from 1 to 4 October, and an exercise regarding an investigation of alleged use was carried out in Serbia from 8 to 20 October. The Secretariat will soon provide a briefing on the investigation of alleged use exercise in Serbia.
65. I would like to emphasise that, with a view to ensuring the viability of the relevant mechanisms provided for under Articles IX and X of the Convention, it is crucial that States Parties also ensure that they are prepared to receive a challenge inspection and facilitate an investigation of alleged use.

Science and technology, including the Scientific Advisory Board

66. As I have mentioned, the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) has recently issued a report on developments in science and technology that are relevant to the Convention (RC-3/DG.1), as it did prior to the First and Second Review Conferences. The report provides a comprehensive review of developments in the area of science and technology since the Second Review Conference, as well as forward-looking assessments in this regard. The report also includes action-oriented recommendations for consideration by States Parties and the Secretariat. I thank the members of the SAB for their significant contribution. The Chairperson of the SAB will provide a briefing to States Parties in the course of this week. This complements the briefing that was given by the Chairperson of the SAB on 1 November to the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Third Review Conference. I am preparing a response to the SAB’s report on science and technology, which I intend to issue to States Parties in the next few weeks.
67. Regarding convergence in biology and chemistry, the temporary working group of the SAB on this subject held its second meeting in September this year and will meet again in April.
68. The temporary working group on sampling and analysis concluded its work in September and I would like to thank Dr Robin Black for his able chairing of this group, which has made several substantive contributions to the work of the Organisation.
69. In 2012, the SAB established a new temporary working group on education and outreach in science and technology, which has met twice this year. At the group’s second meeting, held last week in parallel with the Annual Meeting of National Authorities, members of the SAB and representatives of States Parties had the opportunity for direct interaction during sessions of the National Authorities meeting. The timing of the second meeting of the working group was chosen to enhance the interaction between National Authorities and the SAB, as recommended by the Board.
70. On 10 December, the temporary working groups on convergence of biology and chemistry and on education and outreach in science and technology, respectively, will organise a joint side event in the margins of the meeting of States Parties of the Biological Weapons Convention in Geneva, Switzerland.

71. I have requested the SAB to establish an additional temporary working group to review aspects of the verification regime. Detailed terms of reference for this group are currently being developed. It is expected that the group will hold its first meeting in early 2013.
72. The terms of office of four members of the SAB have come to an end in 2012. I would like again to thank Professor Mahdi Balali-Mood, Dr Philip Coleman, Dr Jose Luiz Gonzales Chavez, and Dr Robin Black for their commitment and hard work over the past six or more years.
73. I have appointed five new members of the SAB: Dr Mohammad Abdollahi of Iran, who took up his appointment on 1 September, and Mr Francois Mauritz van Straten of South Africa, Dr Nicia Maria Fusaro Mourao of Brazil, Dr Carlos David Gonzalez Berutti of Uruguay, and Dr Christopher Timperley of the United Kingdom, who will take up their appointment on 1 January. Dr Neivy Fernandes Manresa of Cuba has informed me that, for personal reasons, she will not be able to complete her term on the SAB.
74. In 2013, the terms of office for eight more members of SAB will come to an end. Five of these members will finish their first term, and three will finish their second term. At least another three seats will, therefore, become vacant during 2013. I intend to issue a call for nominations soon.
75. I take this opportunity to express the hope that Member States will respond favourably to my request for voluntary contributions to the SAB trust fund, which was issued in February (S/983/2012, dated 6 February 2012). I would like to thank the Governments of Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the contributions that they have made this year. The trust fund is an important source of funding for the SAB's temporary working groups, where much of the substantive work of the SAB is conducted, and for engagement between the policy-making organs and the SAB. With the rapid pace of developments in science and technology, I would encourage you all to consider contributing to the trust fund in support of our work.

OPCW Laboratory

76. The network of partner laboratories available for off-site analysis of samples remains strong, with 22 laboratories from 17 Member States having met the requisite criteria to become OPCW designated laboratories. Eighteen laboratories from an additional 14 Member States are actively participating in the proficiency-testing programme and are working toward designated status.
77. The analysis of biomedical samples, in support of investigations of alleged use, is a challenging task. A second confidence-building exercise on biomedical sample analysis was conducted in February of this year. Twenty-two laboratories from 18 Member States participated. The results indicate a marked improvement over the first exercise and highlight the skill and expertise of Member States' laboratories. A third exercise, incorporating the suggestions of the SAB, will commence in February 2013. The goal of these exercises is to lead to a programme to designate laboratories for the off-site analysis of biomedical samples.

Inspectorate activities

Inspector training

78. In addition to the previously mentioned training exercises, the Secretariat has continued to provide other training opportunities for OPCW inspectors. I wish to acknowledge the support by the Czech Republic, France, Italy, Jordan, the Netherlands, and Slovakia for a range of training activities, which helped maintain and further develop the capacity of the Secretariat to conduct routine inspections as well as for other operational situations that the OPCW might face as part of its obligations under the Convention.

Revised Inspection Manual

79. Based on our continuing experience gained from inspections related to both destruction of chemical weapons and industry facilities, the Secretariat has comprehensively revised its Inspection Manual, which has been launched this year.

Confidentiality regime

80. The Office of Confidentiality and Security (OCS) has overseen an important improvement to the confidentiality regime with the introduction of a security monitoring tool that has been placed on the classified network. Work is also under way to provide the same level of security monitoring capability on the unclassified network, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2012. These improvements have been implemented as a result of recommendations in both internal and external audit reports. In this respect, the Security Audit and Assessment Team (SAAT), provided by States Parties, has visited the OPCW twice since the Sixteenth Session of the Conference. The primary purpose of the work of the team was a review of the secure use and effective monitoring of the OPCW networks. The team provided the Technical Secretariat with a report containing further recommendations; the recommendations have been prioritised and implementation work has commenced.

Confidentiality Commission

81. In May 2012, the OCS provided secretarial support to the annual meeting of the “Commission for the Settlement of Disputes Related to Confidentiality”, also referred to as the “Confidentiality Commission,” when a mock-case exercise was undertaken. Unfortunately, for the second time in three years, the Commission lacked a quorum and was therefore unable to take decisions or elect its officers. I request States Parties that have representatives on the Confidentiality Commission to make every effort to ensure these members attend the meetings, so that the Commission can fulfil its important responsibilities.

International cooperation and assistance

International cooperation

82. During 2012, the Secretariat continued to develop activities aimed at the economic and technological development of States Parties through the promotion of

international cooperation in areas related to the use of chemistry for peaceful purposes. These activities were carried out with the support and cooperation received from several partners including governments, academia, and industry.

83. In the area of integrated chemical management, the thirteenth edition of the Associate Programme was successfully conducted over nine weeks for 32 participants. Since its inception in the year 2000, 297 participants from 102 States Parties have benefited from this flagship programme of the OPCW. We have also launched an Associate Programme Alumni Association, which will facilitate contacts between Associates. Specialised pages dedicated to the Alumni Association have been developed for the OPCW website, together with dedicated Facebook and Flickr pages.
84. As part of its efforts to enhance the analytical skills and laboratory capabilities of States Parties, the Secretariat organised, in cooperation with VERIFIN, five analytical-skills-development courses. These included three courses dedicated to the enhancement of laboratory skills using various techniques. In addition, two advanced courses on analytical techniques for laboratories were organised in Madrid, Spain, and Kyiv, Ukraine, for Spanish and Russian speaking chemists from the GRULAC⁴ and Eastern Europe regions, respectively.
85. A number of international-cooperation activities were also organised under the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation in Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Africa Programme). These included an analytical chemistry course in South Africa; a course on the running and interpretation of GC-MS⁵ spectra in Kenya; and a workshop for senior laboratory managers at the OPCW Headquarters. Another important programme, supported through a voluntary contribution by Norway, was a natural products chemistry training and development programme in Malaysia. The training programme placed emphasis on adding economic potential and value through the development of marketable products.
86. In support of the exchange of knowledge in the field of chemistry, the Secretariat supported more than 30 research projects, either directly or together with the International Foundation for Science (IFS). The IFS has so far supported 22 scientific events, enabling as many as 93 scientists and researchers to participate in these scientific forums under the Conference-Support Programme. Four of these events were held in Africa, with 23 sponsorships for African nationals. The Secretariat also extended support to 10 new internships, including at the Delft University of Technology, Spiez Laboratory, and VERIFIN.
87. In the area of industry outreach and chemical safety and security, the Secretariat has continued to organise seminars and participated in events relevant to the subject. A chemical-safety-and-security management seminar was organised in Malaysia for 36 regional participants, including one representative from a State not Party, namely, Myanmar. A workshop on the peaceful development and use of chemistry for Member States of the OPCW in Southeast Asia and South Asia was held in Seoul, the Republic of Korea.

⁴ GRULAC = Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.
⁵ GC-MS = gas chromatography-mass spectrometry.

88. With a view to enhancing collaboration with other international organisations as well as with industry, the Secretariat participated in the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM3) in Nairobi, Kenya, in September and India CHEM 2012, the 7th International Exhibition & Conference in Mumbai, India, in October. Representatives of the Secretariat also attended the meeting of the Responsible Care® Leadership Group.
89. The third chemical-safety management course was held for the Africa region, and was organised in cooperation with the Bergische University of Wuppertal, Germany. This course was funded through a voluntary contribution from the Government of Germany.
90. Two further events under the Industry-Outreach Programme are scheduled for mid-December. The first, in Qatar, will be a seminar for the Asia region, while the other, taking place in Nepal, is specifically for Member States of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.
91. The Conference of the States Parties at its Sixteenth Session took a landmark decision on Article XI (C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011), laying out a comprehensive framework for the full implementation of this article of the Convention. One of the measures outlined was the convening of workshops with a view to setting regional priorities as a follow-up to the highly successful workshop on Article XI held in 2010. In keeping with the mandate, two regional workshops on Article XI were held in China and Uruguay for the Asian and the GRULAC regions, respectively. The outcome and recommendations of the workshops are being shared with the Member States through the informal consultation process.

Implementation support

92. Implementation support to States Parties in their efforts to effectively implement the Convention has continued to be a core activity of the Secretariat. In 2012, the Secretariat has undertaken more than 21 different types of activities and events, including several courses. The Secretariat has endeavoured to provide tailor-made support to States Parties in the area of national implementation. This includes assistance in the following areas: the development and adoption of the necessary national legislation; capacity-building among National Authorities and their key stakeholders, including customs authorities; the effective implementation of the transfers regime; the improvement of the capability of National Authorities to prepare and submit accurate and timely Article VI declarations; and the effective management of Article VI inspections.
93. The Annual Meeting and the regional meetings of National Authorities are important occasions to bring the National Authorities together and enable the exchange of experience and best practices. I would like to thank Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Poland, and Sri Lanka as the host countries for the regional meetings this year held for the States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Asia, respectively.
94. The continued development of knowledge and expertise of customs authorities is essential to ensure the uniform quality of trade and transfer declarations and to

minimise transfer discrepancies. The Secretariat organised four regional and subregional courses on technical aspects of the transfers regime of the Convention for customs officers (in Argentina, Croatia, Ghana, Kenya, and Qatar) to this end. A similar course is scheduled to be held in India from 10 to 13 December.

95. Fulfilling Article VI declaration requirements is an integral part of the functioning of National Authorities. In order to support them in this regard, the Secretariat organised a training course in Doha for States Parties from Asia. The Secretariat also held a course in Chile for States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean regarding the related aspect of the training of escorts for Article VI inspections.
96. The Secretariat undertook a review of its policy on bilateral technical-assistance visits and decided to undertake fewer and more focussed visits. These visits are geared towards addressing specific needs of States Parties in various areas of the implementation of the Convention including legislation, declarations and inspections, customs procedures, and industry engagement. The Secretariat has also sought to focus these visits on those States Parties for which domestic progress on implementation has advanced to the point at which the undertaking of such a visit will make a material difference to the process of adoption of legislation in particular. It was also decided to host the basic courses for the personnel of National Authorities at OPCW Headquarters. Three such courses have been held this year, attracting nearly 100 participants from all five regions.
97. The Technical Secretariat has continued to work with other relevant organisations to enhance its support to States Parties. As part of this engagement, the African Union hosted the tenth in the series of regional meetings organised by the Technical Secretariat for National Authorities in Africa. The Secretariat has also sought to work more closely with CARICOM⁶ in the Caribbean and SICA⁷ in Central America as part of its efforts to encourage States Parties in those areas to implement the Convention. The Secretariat will seek an expansion of its cooperation with regional organisations in 2013, as we have found this type of collaboration to be highly beneficial. I encourage States Parties to support the OPCW's cooperation with regional organisations.
98. During the period under review the Technical Secretariat continued to execute the activities designed to promote and support national implementation in Africa through the Africa Programme. The Africa Programme is a mechanism for providing additional support to States Parties in the region. The programme received a considerable boost through the financial support provided by the Governments of Finland, Germany, Norway, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and also by the European Union. National Authorities in the region have taken advantage of the opportunities and skills offered under the auspices of the programme to enhance their roles, advance local capacity, and stimulate the process of national implementation. The Technical Secretariat is most grateful to all donors and supporters of the programme for their financial and "in-kind" contributions.

⁶ CARICOM = Caribbean Community.

⁷ SICA = Central American Integration System.

99. As part of its efforts to enhance the technical support and assistance provided to States Parties, the Technical Secretariat launched, on a pilot basis, a National Authority Mentorship Programme aimed at facilitating exchanges between National Authorities, including the provision of financial support and technical advice. While the National Authorities of Algeria and Niger have been successfully twinned under the programme, the National Authorities of Pakistan and Yemen have also confirmed their readiness to participate in this programme. More such exchanges are expected.
100. Progress has also been made regarding the OPCW e-learning project. The first two modules, covering the history and background of the Convention, the structure and function of the OPCW, and the text of the Convention are now available on the OPCW website. In this context, I thank the European Union, which has generously agreed to provide part of the funding for the further development of e-learning tools.
101. 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. Consultations among States Parties and the Secretariat are under way to discuss a proposal by the Secretariat for adopting a results-oriented incremental approach to facilitating national legislation. Several rounds of consultations have been convened during the second half of the year to further clarify the proposed approach and also to receive States Parties' views. These have been incorporated into the proposal put forth by the Secretariat on the way forward, and will underpin the Secretariat's assistance provided to those States Parties that are yet to commence their legislative drafting process. As part of this approach, the Secretariat is compiling a number of models of legislation, which are to be made available to those States Parties.
102. The Secretariat has recently facilitated the drafting of tailor-made legislation in the context of the newly instituted Internship Programme for Legal Drafters and National Authorities' Representatives, which was held at the OPCW Headquarters from 15 to 21 November. This programme provides assistance and support to four legislative drafters from States Parties that have not commenced the drafting of their national implementing legislation, to prepare tailor-made draft legislation for their respective States Parties. This new initiative has been well received.
103. I would like to emphasise that the approach is meant to facilitate the legislative drafting process and that the Secretariat is committed to extending every possible support to States Parties in this regard. I am hopeful that this new approach will be endorsed by States Parties and thus form the basis of our future work in this area.
104. Last week I wrote to the Foreign Ministers of States Parties that have yet to adopt the measures necessary to fulfil their Article VII obligations. While urging them to take action, the Secretariat has offered all possible assistance.

Assistance and protection

105. During the period under review, the Secretariat has continued to provide expert advice and assist States Parties in the implementation of their programmes for the development and improvement of a protective capacity against chemical weapons. At the request of the Government of Mexico and in preparation for the G-20 Summit a workshop on response to a chemical weapons incident was held in La Paz, Baja

California, Mexico, in April of this year. Furthermore, at the request of the Government of Sri Lanka, the fifth national training course for first responders dealing with chemical weapons agents and toxic industrial chemicals was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, also in April.

106. Together with the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC) in Rakitje, Croatia, the Secretariat organised the ninth annual seminar on the implementation of the Convention for States Parties of South Eastern Europe, held in February.
107. In pursuance of capacity-building activities in accordance with Article X, the Secretariat jointly organised international assistance-and-protection training courses related to offers made under Article X of the Convention with the Governments of China, the Czech Republic, Finland, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Serbia, Slovakia, and Switzerland during 2012. I am grateful to all of these Member States, which hosted these events and provided in-kind contributions to assistance-and-protection training programmes.
108. In cooperation with Member States, the Secretariat also conducted regional capacity-building courses in Argentina and Brazil for specialists dealing with the response to incidents involving chemical-warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals.
109. In line with the subregional approach adopted by the Secretariat, two planning meetings for protection-capacity-building projects for States Parties, one in the Central America subregion and another for States Parties in the Southern Africa subregion were held in Honduras and Namibia, respectively. Other activities regarding the subregional projects for subregions of Africa, namely, Southern Africa and West Africa, also started in 2012. The planning meeting for the Southern Africa project was followed by a training course for instructors in South Africa. A basic course was held in Serbia, with the technical support of that country. A refresher course for a Caribbean subteam was also held in Barbados early this year. I would like to extend my gratitude to the host governments and institutions, as well as the Governments of Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, for making voluntary contributions for the realisation of these subregional projects.
110. An emergency-medical-assistance training course was held at the Ukrainian Scientific and Practical Centre of Emergency Medical and Disaster Medicine of the National Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education in Kyiv, Ukraine, in May.
111. The first OPCW assistance-and-protection training course for instructors was organised by the Technical Secretariat in The Hague from 12 to 16 November for chemical emergency instructors from 27 Member States. The course was the first of its kind to be presented at the OPCW Headquarters. It consisted of theoretical and practical lessons and exposed the participants to a wide range of experience and expertise available in the different Divisions of the Secretariat. The Secretariat will continue in the future to develop this concept and make full use of existing expertise for the benefit of programmes in the field of assistance and protection against chemical weapons.

112. In summary, 14 international capacity building-activities and two side events on assistance and protection, conducted in the margins of the Sixty-Ninth Session of the Executive Council, as well as during this session of the Conference, have been conducted by the Technical Secretariat during 2012. These activities have allowed the OPCW to build and enhance skills of 269 relevant individuals from States Parties at the basic, advanced, laboratory, medical and refresher levels of training. States Parties have also improved their awareness of the importance of the fulfilment of the assistance-and-protection provisions of the Convention, and there has been an exchange of views among States Parties regarding the challenges that lie ahead for the Organisation in this area. We are confident that, together with States Parties, we will be in a position to develop relevant and practical recommendations for the future.
113. I would like to thank the Government of Montenegro for hosting the Thirteenth Annual Workshop to Coordinate Assistance and Protection under Article X of the Convention, which took place in the city of Tivat, Montenegro. A summary report of the event contains important recommendations for the assistance-and-protection activities of the Secretariat in the next year. Along the same lines, the tenth meeting of the Protection Network will take place in The Hague from 11 to 13 December, in which important recommendations for the work of the Organisation in this area are expected to be made.
114. In 2012, the Secretariat established the Trust Fund for the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons, in accordance with decision C-16/DEC.13, dated 2 December 2011. In this context, a voluntary contribution has been received from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Secretariat, in conjunction with States Parties, has started to work towards implementation of this decision. Several ideas are being discussed that will contribute to making this support network operative. I would like to encourage States Parties to make further contributions to the Trust Fund, which will facilitate the design and realisation of activities in support of victims of chemical weapons in keeping with decision C-16/DEC.13.

The OPCW's contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts

115. In 2012, the Secretariat has continued to support the Council's Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Terrorism and maintained contacts and exchanges with relevant international, regional, and subregional organisations in the field of counter-terrorism and non-proliferation. The Secretariat has continued to provide support to the United Nations counter-terrorism strategy by participating in the work of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.
116. The OEWG on Terrorism has continued to deliberate on the Secretariat's counter-terrorism activities. In my yearly Note regarding the status of the OPCW's contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts (EC-67/DG 9, dated 7 February 2012), I presented the activities undertaken in this regard, as well as our cooperation with States Parties and relevant international organisations.

Table-top exercise in Indonesia in 2013

117. The OPCW is planning to conduct a table-top exercise in mid-2013 in collaboration with Indonesia. The purpose of this exercise is to examine and practise, across all levels of government, the decision-making, information exchange, and conditions required for the smooth coordination and receipt of assistance from both national and international actors in the consequence management of a chemical event.

Chemical safety and chemical security

118. The Secretariat has continued to conduct activities in the area of chemical safety and chemical security, including those relevant to strengthening safety and security at chemical plant sites. On 7 and 8 June of this year, the Secretariat convened an expert meeting on chemical safety and security to explore the potential role of the OPCW in this field. The meeting was organised as a follow-up to the OPCW Conference on International Cooperation and Chemical Safety and Security which was held in September 2011 as a contribution to the International Year of Chemistry. The meeting was attended by 20 experts from various professional backgrounds in both chemical safety and security, representing a wide range of views, as well as members of the Technical Secretariat Task Force on Chemical Safety and Security. The expert discussions were rich and fruitful and brought forth valuable ideas and recommendations which are incorporated in the “Informal Summary by the Technical Secretariat”. The document is available to Member States on the external server. Looking ahead, it will be important to further refine the conceptual framework for the OPCW’s role in this area.

Safety and security at chemical plants and in transportation of chemicals

119. With the rapid development of chemical-industry production and its spread to new areas of the world, the enhancement of security in the area of legitimate production, transportation, and use of chemicals is assuming greater importance.

International meeting on safety and security

120. On 8 and 9 November 2012, an international meeting on chemical safety and security was conducted in Tarnów, Poland. The meeting confirmed the value of the OPCW’s steady and careful engagement to support national capacity-building against misuse of toxic chemicals and the safety and security of facilities and transportation of chemicals. I would like to express my appreciation to all those who provided support to activities to enhance chemical safety and security, and welcome the initiative of Poland to launch the International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security in Tarnów.

Engagement with the chemical industry

121. The chemical industry is a key stakeholder of the Convention. Areas of mutual interest and cooperation between the OPCW and the industry cover a range of activities, including industry verification, chemical safety and security, preventing the misuse of toxic chemicals for purposes prohibited under the Convention, and relevant developments in science and technology.

122. During the course of this year, I have communicated with the President of the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) regarding the re-invigoration of the dialogue between the OPCW and the chemical industry. Representatives from the Secretariat and the ICCA are currently in the process of elaborating practical modalities to this end. I wish to underscore the importance of a comprehensive and inclusive dialogue in this regard, in which the global chemical industry is represented and, thus, which also involves industry representatives from countries of which the industry association is not a member of the ICCA.
123. Dialogue can also be strengthened with the various industry associations across the world. The Secretariat, furthermore, can invite representatives of the chemical industry to OPCW events more frequently, and vice versa. Finally, contributions to the SAB and its temporary working groups from industry experts can be further enhanced. I encourage States Parties to bear this in mind when nominating individuals for potential membership of the Board.

Universality and external relations

124. The Conference has before it the “Annual Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention, During the Period from 16 September 2011 to 15 August 2012” (EC-70/DG.14 C-17/DG.13, dated 18 September 2012).
125. As you are aware, the Organisation today counts 188 States Parties. Representing one of the fastest-growing rates of accession to an international disarmament and non-proliferation instrument and covering 98% of the global population, the OPCW is near universal membership. Our collective goal of a world free from chemical weapons, however, can only be realised if the Convention enjoys truly universal adherence. Achieving universality therefore continues to remain a priority for the Organisation. In 2012, the Secretariat has continued to carry out various activities to promote accession to the Convention by the eight remaining States not Party.
126. During the first half of 2012, I met with a number of representatives of States not Party to discuss their accession to the Convention at the earliest opportunity, including on the sidelines of events organised by the OPCW. Throughout the year, I have held bilateral consultations with various senior officials from a number of States not Party, including Angola, Myanmar, Somalia, and South Sudan, and encouraged these countries to join the Convention at an early date. Myanmar, a signatory State, has agreed to receive a technical-assistance visit by the Secretariat, planned to be held early next year, in order to assist the country regarding its ratification of the Convention. The Secretariat has also contacted the South Sudanese authorities as regards a technical-assistance visit to that country.
127. As in previous years, the Secretariat invited representatives of States not Party to participate in activities conducted by the OPCW and provided sponsorships for three representatives from Myanmar at two events convened in Asia. In this respect, I wish to welcome the representatives from States not Party who are attending this session of the Conference.

128. The 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (the “NPT Review Conference”), which concluded in May 2010, decided to convene a conference in 2012 on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. It also requested the OPCW and other relevant international organisations to prepare background documentation for this conference “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.1)).
129. During a visit to Finland in December 2011, I met with H.E. Mr Jaakko Laajava, Under-Secretary of State of Finland, who has been appointed as facilitator for the planned conference regarding the establishment of a WMD⁸-free zone in the Middle East. Contacts between his team and the Secretariat have since been maintained, and the Secretariat has provided a background document to the facilitator, at his request. The Secretariat has also supported activities that were held in the context of this initiative throughout the period under review.
130. Since the previous session of the Conference, I have continued to extend bilateral visits to States Parties and to address international and scientific fora on behalf of the OPCW. My official engagements have included the following: At the beginning of the year, I visited Islamabad, Pakistan, where I met with the Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Ms Hina Rabbani Khar, and addressed the Institute of Strategic Studies. In the context of preparations for the Third Review Conference, I delivered an address at a workshop entitled “Trends in Science and Technology relevant to the Chemical Weapons Convention” organised by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry in February. I also held a speech at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies based in Monterey, California, the United States of America, and spoke to the Royal Society of Chemistry in Brussels, Belgium, in both February and March. On 22 May, I visited the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to address the 15th International Chemical Weapons Demilitarisation Conference. I also extended a bilateral visit to Australia at the end of July, where I met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon. Bob Carr, in addition to other senior government officials. In October, the Deputy Director-General accompanied me on a visit to Brussels to meet non-resident Ambassadors of States Parties. Also last month, I travelled to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to address the Wilton Park Conference entitled “The Chemical Weapons Convention: Third Review Conference and Beyond”.
131. The Deputy-Director General has also participated in a number of bilateral engagements, including the following: On 6 December of last year, the Deputy Director-General addressed the Seventh Review Conference of the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention on behalf of the OPCW. Earlier this year, the Deputy Director-General opened a workshop on Article XI in China, at which she delivered remarks on behalf of the OPCW, and visited the Russian Federation on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Federal Directorate for the Safe Storage and Destruction of Chemical Weapons. In early October, the Deputy Director-General also participated in a high-level panel discussion entitled “Exchange with the High

Representative and Other High-Level Officials in the Field of Arms Control and Disarmament” in the context of the 67th session of the United Nations General Assembly’s First Committee in New York. Later that month, the Deputy Director-General attended an exercise on an investigation of alleged use, held in Serbia.

132. We have, furthermore, been pleased to welcome high-level visitors to the OPCW Headquarters. These included the President of Turkey, H.E. Mr Abdullah Gül and the President of Senegal, H.E. Mr Macky Sall. I also received the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr Elmar Mammadyarov; the Foreign Secretary of Nepal, H.E. Mr Durga Prasad Bhattarai; the Minister of Economy of the Slovak Republic, H.E. Mr Thomáš Malatinský; the Minister of Science and Technology of Iraq, H.E. Abdul Karim Ali Yasin Al-Samarra; the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, H.E. Mr Morris Rosenberg; and United States Acting Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, the Honourable Rose Gottemoeller.

Engagements with representatives of academia, think tanks and non-governmental organisations

133. On 5 and 6 June of this year, the OPCW organised a think tank meeting with 16 representatives of Convention-related think tanks and academia, as well as non-governmental organisations, to discuss possibilities for further interaction between the OPCW and relevant institutions. Deliberations among experts were rich and fruitful and brought forth a host of valuable suggestions and recommendations in this regard. A summary of the key points of the meeting has been made available to States Parties on the external server. There are five NGO events to be held on the sidelines of this session of the Conference.

Twelfth induction workshop for diplomatic personnel

134. On 16 November, the Secretariat convened the twelfth consecutive induction workshop for new diplomatic personnel at OPCW Headquarters in The Hague. More than 60 participants from 44 countries participated in the one-day event, which provided an overview of core aspects of the Convention and featured presentations on key areas of the work of the OPCW.

Third annual Summer Programme on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in a Changing World

135. From 2 to 7 September, the T.M.C. Asser Instituut, in collaboration with the OPCW, conducted the third annual Summer Programme on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in a Changing World. This programme is designed for graduate students and professionals to further their understanding of multilateral disarmament diplomacy, as well as multilateral treaties and instruments in the disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. This year’s programme offered a unique opportunity for participants to visit industrial, training, and research facilities in addition to the traditional class work.

The Hague International Day

136. On 23 September, the Technical Secretariat opened its doors to the public for the fifth consecutive year to celebrate The Hague International Day. The event attracted 322 visitors.

Host Country Committee

137. The Conference of the States Parties at its Eleventh Session adopted a decision (C-11/DEC.9, dated 7 December 2006) that established a Committee on Relations with the Host Country. The Conference has before it two reports of this committee, which met twice during the period covered by this statement (EC-67/HCC/1 C-17/HCC/1, dated 14 February 2012 and EC-70/HCC/1/Rev.1 C-17/HCC/2/Rev.1, dated 27 September 2012).

Privileges-and-immunities agreements with the OPCW

138. Since the last session of the Conference, the Council has concluded privileges-and-immunities agreements between the OPCW and four States Parties, namely, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mozambique, Paraguay, and Thailand. In addition, the Council has approved amendments to a privileges-and-immunities agreement with Bulgaria. Accordingly, with the conclusion of these new agreements by the Council, the number of privileges-and-immunities agreements concluded by the OPCW, pursuant to paragraph 50 of Article VIII of the Convention, now stands at 49.
139. During 2012, privileges-and-immunities agreements between the OPCW and five further States Parties, namely, Albania, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Mauritius, and Uruguay have entered into force, increasing to 28 the number of privileges-and-immunities agreements currently in force.
140. I would like to invite all States Parties to negotiate and to conclude such agreements with the Secretariat.

Supplementary Arrangement to the Relationship Agreement between the OPCW and the United Nations

141. As I have mentioned, in order to ensure the readiness of the Secretariat to respond to a request from the Secretary-General of the United Nations that the OPCW place its resources at his disposal in connection with a United Nations investigation of alleged use of chemical weapons involving a State not Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention or in a territory not controlled by a State Party, in accordance with paragraph 27 of Part XI of the Verification Annex to the Convention, I have concluded with the Secretary-General of the United Nations a Supplementary Arrangement concerning the implementation of Article II (2) (c) of the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the OPCW. The text of this Arrangement has been circulated to delegations and is available on the external server.
142. As I informed the Council at its Seventieth Session, I would like to assure the delegations that, in the event of such a request, I would promptly inform all States

Parties of the request and the Council of the actions that the Technical Secretariat undertakes.

Administrative and financial matters

143. The Secretariat has successfully implemented the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) as its official accounting principles. The External Auditor placed an unqualified audit opinion on the OPCW's first IPSAS-based Financial Statements for the period that ended on 31 December 2011 (EC-70/DG.1 C-17/DG.4, dated 10 July 2012 and Corr.1, dated 28 September 2012). The External Auditor also made some recommendations in his report to further improve performance in various areas within the Technical Secretariat.
144. I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the External Auditor, Prof. Dr Dieter Engels of Germany, for the support and advice that he and his team have provided to the OPCW.
145. The Conference has before it the Secretariat's income and expenditure report for the period ending June 2012 (EC-70/DG.2 C-17/DG.5, dated 19 July 2012 and Corr.1, dated 7 September 2012). I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the outstanding assessed contributions for 2012 as at 23 November 2012 reflect a receipt level of 95.2%, compared to 96.1% on the same date last year. I encourage States Parties that have not yet paid their outstanding contributions to please do so at the earliest and in full. I also encourage States Parties in arrears that have lost their voting rights to consider entering into the multi-year payment plans to settle their outstanding unpaid assessed contributions.
146. As is customary, upon approval by the Conference of the States Parties of the annual Draft Programme and Budget, the Technical Secretariat sends assessment letters to all Member States reflecting their share of the annual assessed contributions, based upon the United Nations scale of assessments adjusted to take into account differences in membership between the United Nations and the OPCW. The issuance of assessment letters this year may be slightly delayed, pending approval by the United Nations General Assembly in late December 2012 of a revised scale of assessments for the years 2013 to 2015.
147. Since I presented the Draft Programme and Budget for 2013 to Member States in July, extensive consultations have taken place and the Executive Council has submitted a favourable recommendation to the Conference.
148. In this regard, I wish to express my gratitude to all Member States, whose constructive inputs ensured a positive decision on the Draft Programme and Budget for 2013 by the Council at its Seventieth Session. The Budget document itself reflects the continuing efforts of the Technical Secretariat, as part of its commitment to results-based management, to better define key performance indicators, so as to enable Member States to assess the achievement of programme objectives.
149. Turning to human-resources issues, I would like to inform the Conference that, pursuant to a decision (C-16/DEC.9, dated 30 November 2011) taken by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session to grant the Director-General exceptional

authority to extend beyond seven years the contracts of a limited number of staff members, I have extended the contracts of 22 staff members involved in verification and inspection of destruction-related activities.

150. In view of the prospective increase in verification requirements from 2014 onwards, I would encourage States Parties to consider the option of allowing the Secretariat to rehire former inspectors. Such a decision will be in line with the practice that exists in other international organisations.
151. The Technical Secretariat has also embarked upon initiatives such as needs-based recruitment, paperless processing of staff benefits, a programme for the taking on board and induction of new staff, and a new on-line performance-management system. The objective of these changes is to improve efficiency and free up resources within the Human Resources Branch for tasks with a higher added value that can have a positive impact on the effective functioning of the Technical Secretariat.
152. Mr Krzysztof Paturej, Director of Special Projects, will be completing his assignment at the end of the year. I express to him my appreciation for the contribution he has made to the work of the Secretariat, and I wish him well in his future endeavours.
153. Since the last session of the Conference, a number of colleagues have joined us in senior management positions in the Secretariat. In this context, I welcome Mr Alberto Dojas of Argentina as the Legal Adviser; Mr Marcelo Kos of Brazil as the new Director of the Inspectorate; Mr Mark Albon of South Africa as Director of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division; and Mr Konstantin Gavrilov of the Russian Federation as the Director of the Secretariat for the Policy-Making Organs.
154. This concludes my report.

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