

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

1. In its decision entitled “Final Extended Deadline of 29 April 2012” (C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011), the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) decided that the Director-General is to provide a written report at each regular session of the Executive Council on the overall progress being made by possessor States Parties in regard to the destruction of their remaining chemical weapons stockpiles. The Conference further decided that these reports are to be based on the independent information that is received by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) from the Organisation’s inspectors, who undertake verification in accordance with section D of Part IV(A) of the Verification Annex to the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Verification Annex”), and that the reports are to include information on the progress achieved to meet the planned completion date(s) and a statement as to the effectiveness of any specific measures that have been undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes.
2. The information included in this report relates to the cut-off date of 31 May 2019.

United States of AmericaProgress achieved to meet the planned completion date

3. The United States of America has declared 27,770 metric tonnes (MT) of Category 1 chemical weapons.
4. As at 31 May 2019, the Secretariat had verified the destruction by the United States of America of 25,627 MT, or 92.3%, of its Category 1 chemical weapons stockpile. This includes 2.682 MT of chemical warfare agents withdrawn from Category 1 chemical weapons stocks pursuant to Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) and subparagraph 2(d) of Part VI of the Verification Annex for purposes not prohibited under the Convention. The United States has also destroyed all of its Category 2 and Category 3 chemical weapons.



5. In accordance with the detailed plan submitted by the United States of America for the destruction of its remaining chemical weapons (EC-68/NAT.2, dated 13 April 2012), this State Party plans for the destruction of its remaining Category 1 chemical weapons to be completed by September 2023.

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

6. In its latest report on progress achieved towards complete destruction of its chemical weapons stockpile (EC-91/NAT.4, dated 18 June 2019), the United States of America states that it “continues to act on opportunities to accelerate the completion of chemical weapons destruction. By using a combination of new technologies, contract incentives, and the transfer of experienced personnel, [it] is working to complete destruction before the scheduled timelines”.
7. The United States of America reported in the aforementioned report that it will use explosive destruction technologies to eliminate a portion of munitions at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) in Pueblo, Colorado and at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) in Richmond, Kentucky. Static Detonation Chambers (SDCs) will be used to destroy mustard-filled munitions at the BGCAPP and to augment destruction operations at the PCAPP.
8. The United States of America also informed the Secretariat that “[e]xperienced and trained personnel from former chemical weapons destruction facilities (CWDFs) were hired to facilitate the transition from construction to systemisation and from systemisation to destruction operations at the PCAPP and the BGCAPP. By virtue of their familiarity with safety and environmental compliance requirements, these personnel will assist the programme in avoiding problems or delays during systemisation and operations”.
9. In relation to the PCAPP, the Secretariat verified that 32,742 items (or 173.86 MT) of Category 1 chemical weapons had been destroyed during the reporting period. In the report mentioned in paragraph 6, the United States of America provided a status update on the facility mentioning that “[m]unitions processing was suspended due to leaks on two hydrolysate storage tanks”. It was further specified that “the tanks are being emptied, repaired, and certified before being put back into service.” During the same period, the reconfiguration of 4.2-inch mortars continued.
10. In regard to the explosive destruction system at the PCAPP, the Secretariat received a declaration on 24 April 2019 in which United States of America announced the completion of all chemical destruction activities at the facility. The Secretariat has verified the closure of the facility.
11. The United States of America reported that three SDCs have been purchased to destroy 4.2-inch mortars stored at Pueblo Chemical Depot. Additionally, the environmental assessment is complete, fabrication of the units is progressing, efforts to obtain required permits are under way, and work on the infrastructure has begun.

12. The United States of America has informed the Secretariat that it has completed the construction work at the BGCAPP, and 81.2% of systemisation is complete. Progress is still being made on all previously reported activity. Continuity checking, testing, and demonstration testing of a series of systems and equipment have all either been completed or commissioned. The United States plans to begin destruction operations at the BGCAPP in autumn 2019.
13. At the BGCAPP SDC, the construction work was 100% complete and the systemisation was 98% complete by the report cut-off date. The Secretariat conducted the final engineering review in April 2019. The United States of America planned to start destruction operations in June 2019.
14. Also during the reporting period, the United States of America reported the destruction of one recovered 4.2-inch M2A1 mortar and four recovered German Traktor rockets with 0.021960 MT of unknown agent at the Recovered Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility at Pine Bluff Arsenal, Pine Bluff, Arkansas.
15. The United States of America has informed the Secretariat that it “continues to review opportunities to optimise performance at the facilities. Planning is underway to develop initiatives for more efficient destruction of the remaining stockpile without compromising safety or the environment”. Moreover, the United States “continues to anticipate and address potential issues and will use risk mitigation strategies to address and eliminate concerns as early as possible to facilitate the safe and environmentally sound destruction of the remaining United States’ chemical weapons stockpile. Personnel at both facilities continue to share and apply their broad knowledge and technical experience to address emerging challenges”. Finally, the United States has stated that it is on track to meet its planned completion date.
16. The Director-General, on the basis of the information he has received from the United States of America, is in a position to confirm that this State Party has taken the necessary measures to meet the planned completion date for its destruction activities. Should the situation change, the Secretariat, in a timely manner, will inform the policy-making organs in accordance with C-16/DEC.11.