

**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 2020.

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 2020, the Secretariat had verified the destruction by the United States of America of 26,269 MT, or 94.6%, 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 This includes 2.682 MT of chemical warfare agents withdrawn from Category 1 chemical weapons stocks pursuant to Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) and subparagraph 2(d) of Part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-94/NAT.11, dated 17 June 2020), 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 timeline”.
7. The United States of America reported in the aforementioned report that it will use Static Detonation Chambers (SDCs) to destroy a portion of the stockpile at both the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) in Pueblo, Colorado and the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) in Richmond, Kentucky.
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 have assisted, and will continue to assist, the programme in avoiding problems or delays during systemisation and operations”.
9. In relation to the PCAPP, the Secretariat verified that 32,855 items (or 174.460 MT) of Category 1 chemical weapons had been destroyed during the reporting period. During the same period, the reconfiguration of 4.2-inch mortars continued.
10. With regard to the PCAPP SDCs, the United States of America reported that the construction of environmental enclosures for the SDCs is nearing completion. Major support equipment has been installed and is being commissioned. Utility lines to the foundation pads are nearing completion, while work on permitting requirements continues.
11. The United States of America reported the completion of the sarin (GB) projectile destruction campaign at the BGCAPP main plant. The Secretariat has verified the destruction of 3,977 such projectiles (or 26.169 MT of GB) since the facility started destruction operations on 17 January 2020. The State Party also reported that the Supercritical Water Oxidation (SCWO) and Reverse Osmosis systems are in the final stages of testing, and are expected to be operational when munition destruction generates sufficient hydrolysate to begin processing. In addition, the State Party reported the beginning of the SDC 2000 construction activities.

12. As at the cut-off date, the Secretariat also verified that 2,940 items (or 15.611 MT) of Category 1 chemical weapons had been destroyed during the reporting period at BGCAPP SDC.
13. 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 stockpile. Personnel at both facilities continue to share and apply their broad knowledge and technical experience to address emerging challenges”.
14. The United States of America reported that shipments of hydrolysate from the PCAPP to Veolia in Port Arthur, Texas began on 10 April 2020, in accordance with the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations regarding response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. This enabled the PCAPP to lower the amount of tank inventory to better prepare for uncertainties associated with COVID-19.
15. Close cooperation and consultation between the United States of America and the Secretariat have ensured uninterrupted verification activities, while the two sites, identified as critical infrastructures by the United States Federal Government, have continued to pursue the destruction operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a consequence, inspection teams have conducted verification activities in accordance with Secretariat Notes EC-94/S/1, EC-94/S/2, EC-94/S/3, and EC-94/S/4 (all dated 6 April 2020), while measures have been taken to ensure the health and safety of inspectors and personnel at the sites.
16. Finally, the United States stated that it is on track to meet its planned completion date.
17. 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.