

**REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL****OVERALL PROGRESS WITH RESPECT TO THE DESTRUCTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS ABANDONED BY JAPAN IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

1. In its decision entitled “The Deadline of 29 April 2012 and Future Destruction of the Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People’s Republic of China” (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012), the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) requested the Director-General to provide a report at each regular session of the Council on the overall progress of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons (ACW).
2. China and Japan have continued bilateral consultations to make progress on the excavation, recovery, and destruction of ACW at various sites in China. Because of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the number of ACW destroyed remains the same as that reported for the preceding reporting period. At the end of the reporting period (1 February 2020 to 31 May 2020), around 57,700 of the 83,650 items of declared ACW on the territory of China had been destroyed. However, it does not include the items buried at Haerbaling, Jilin Province, which are estimated to number over 330,000 ACW items awaiting excavation and recovery (consisting both of items that have already been destroyed and items requiring excavation and identification), nor does it include items at other locations that also have yet to be recovered and declared.
3. The national papers submitted by Japan (EC-94/NAT.13, dated 18 June 2020) and China (EC-94/NAT.12, dated 18 June 2020) note that, during the reporting period, all destruction operations and related activities, such as excavations and recoveries, were put on hold because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. Owing to the fact that Haerbaling is the largest burial site of ACW in China, the destruction operations at this site will have a major impact on the overall progress of the destruction of ACW. To expedite the destruction of the ACW items, four new controlled detonation chambers (CDCs) will be installed in addition to the existing two chambers—a CDC and a static detonation chamber (SDC). Construction and civil engineering operations at the Haerbaling destruction site are ongoing in order to host the new destruction chambers, as agreed between China and Japan.



5. The selection of sites in Taiyuan and Guangzhou for the High Mobility Destruction Facility has been completed. China and Japan have now reached an agreement on the preliminary design of the facility. Although the schedule was delayed because of the impact of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, progress has been made in the consultations between Japan and China in order to prepare for the destruction operations at Taiyuan and Guangzhou.
6. The scheduled trilateral meeting between the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”), China, and Japan in Tokyo was postponed because of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Secretariat remains in close contact with China and Japan regarding the latest developments on ACW matters. China and Japan continue to maintain their communication regarding the next phase of the programme of work in 2020.
7. Finally, the destruction of the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China is scheduled to continue based on the agreed destruction plan, in accordance with which Japan and China regularly report to the Council. The plan includes time frames for the destruction of ACW by Japan, with appropriate cooperation from China. The Secretariat continues to closely coordinate with both China and Japan on the implementation of Council decision EC-67/DEC.6.

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