

**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 (hereinafter “the 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 2021.

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 2021, the Secretariat had verified the destruction by the United States of America of 26,804 MT, or 96.52%, 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 This includes 2.682 MT of chemical warfare agents withdrawn from Category 1 chemical weapons stocks pursuant to Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) and subparagraph 2(d) of Part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.



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-97/NAT.4, dated 29 June 2021), 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, the United States of America is working to complete destruction before the scheduled timeline”.
7. The Secretariat noted the report from the United States of America stating 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 leverage their experience as the United States transitions 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. The PCAPP continues to destroy HD-filled 105 mm cartridges. The Secretariat verified that 85,618 items (or 115.584 MT) of Category 1 chemical weapons had been destroyed at the facility between 31 January and 31 May 2021.
10. Systemisation continues at the PCAPP SDCs that are a non-contiguous part of the PCAPP main plant. Preparations are under way to verify destruction activities at the SDCs, which are scheduled to start destruction operations in 2021.
11. The BGCAPP completed the destruction of VX-filled projectiles and one VX-filled bottle in May 2021 and entered a period of inactivity to allow preparation for the next destruction campaign. During the reporting period, a total of 11,715 items (or 31.867 MT) of Category 1 chemical weapons were destroyed at the facility. Systemisation of the Rocket Warhead Containerization System continues at the main plant. The United States of America continues to report its progress achieved with regard to the new SDC 1200 and SDC 2000.
12. In April 2021, the Secretariat conducted a familiarisation visit at the BGCAPP in order to familiarise itself with the modifications made to the destruction process for nerve agent-filled rockets and to adjust its monitoring procedures. Accordingly, amendments and modifications have been made to the agreed detailed plan for verification and to the facility agreement and have been submitted to the Council for its consideration and approval at its Ninety-Seventh Session (EC-97/DEC/CRP.2 and EC-97/DEC/CRP.3, both dated 8 June 2021).
13. During the same period, the Secretariat verified the destruction of 3,255 items (or 17.284 MT) of Category 1 chemical weapons at the BGCAPP SDC, which is currently processing HD-filled projectiles. In May 2021, the Secretariat conducted a familiarisation visit at the Mustard Agent Sampling Facility, followed by verification of the sampling and analysis of neat agent from the munitions being destroyed.

14. 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”.
15. Because of the impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the United States of America and the Secretariat continue to maintain regular consultations to ensure uninterrupted verification activities at the destruction facilities. The State Party and the Secretariat continue to evaluate the situation and adjust measures as appropriate to ensure the health and safety of inspectors and personnel at the sites.
16. The United States of America has reiterated 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.

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