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NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

UPDATES OF DECLARATION RESOURCES FOR STATES PARTIES

1. In 2021, the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) updated its resources related to the preparation of declarations by States Parties under paragraph 8 of Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention, namely the Declarations Handbook, the Handbook on Chemicals, and the “Most Traded Scheduled Chemicals” brochure, with effect from 1 January 2022. This Note summarises the process whereby those resources have been updated.
2. Various updates to the text and the appendices of the Declarations Handbook 2013, revised version 2, dated 1 January 2017, were presented to States Parties during the meetings of the OPCW Industry Cluster in the margins of the Ninety-Seventh and Ninety-Eighth Sessions of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) and a dossier with the proposed updates was emailed to all States Parties on 19 July 2021. States Parties’ feedback provided to the Secretariat received by the extended deadline of 10 September 2021 was taken into account and presented at the 4 October 2021 meeting of the Industry Cluster. Ultimately, these activities resulted in a new revised version (version 3) of the Declarations Handbook.
3. The presentations and discussions on the updates to the Declarations Handbook were noted in the Industry Cluster Facilitator’s reports to the respective Council sessions. These can be found on the Policy-Making Organs’ Portal of OPCW Catalyst, in the section “Informal Papers”, under the following titles:
 - (a) Report by the Facilitator to the Ninety-Seventh Session of the Executive Council: Status of Implementation of Article VI (dated 6 July 2021); and
 - (b) Status of Implementation of Article VI – Report by the Facilitator to the Ninety-Eighth Session of the Executive Council (dated 5 October 2021).
4. In addition, the Handbook on Chemicals was updated so as to incorporate all scheduled chemicals that were declared for the first time between 2019 and 2021.
5. With regard to the “Most Traded Scheduled Chemicals” brochure, the previous version, issued in 2017, was updated to include amendments by the World Customs Organization to the 2022 edition of the Harmonized System nomenclature under the International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System.



6. States Parties are requested to note that on 1 January 2022 the declaration resources were made available on the OPCW website (<https://www.opcw.org/resources/declarations>) and via the Verification Related Tools Site of the OPCW Catalyst portal (<https://www.opcw.org/resources/catalyst/register>).
7. Hard copies of the English version of the updated Declarations Handbook will be available for collection from the Documentation Counter at OPCW Headquarters from 31 January 2022, and all other official language versions will be available for collection from 31 March 2022.
8. In addition, version 2.1.0.0 of the Electronic Declarations Information System (EDIS), which is the electronic tool for the preparation of declarations, reflects the changes to the declaration forms included in the updated Declarations Handbook. EDIS software is available for downloading via the Verification Related Tools Site of OPCW Catalyst (<https://www.opcw.org/resources/catalyst/register>).
9. The Secretariat continues to welcome feedback from States Parties on the OPCW declaration resources, including the Declarations Handbook, to be considered in the course of the preparations for the next regular revision.