

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

1. In its decision entitled the “Final Extended Deadline of 29 April 2012” (C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011), the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) requested the Director-General to provide an annual written report on the overall destruction progress by the possessor States concerned that is based on the independent information that is received by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) from the inspectors undertaking verification in accordance with Part IV (A) of the Verification Annex to the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Verification Annex”). The Conference further requested that the annual report 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 covers the period from 1 January to 31 October 2014.

LibyaProgress achieved to meet the planned completion date

3. In accordance with the “Detailed Plan for the Destruction of Chemical Weapons Remaining After the Final Extended Deadline of 29 April 2012 (as per C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011)” submitted by Libya (EC-68/NAT.4, dated 18 April 2012), the destruction of the remaining Category 1 chemical weapons was planned to be completed by December 2013, while the destruction of the remaining Category 2 chemical weapons is scheduled for completion by December 2016.
4. In May 2014, the Secretariat verified and confirmed the completion of the destruction of all declared Category 1 chemical weapons, of which Libya had declared 26.345 metric tonnes (MTs). To mark this achievement, Libya held a press conference to announce that its territory had become free of any military-grade lethal toxic agents. This event was attended by high-level personalities, including the Director-General and senior officials and diplomats from the States Parties that had provided logistical and technical support for the elimination of Category 1 chemical weapons.



5. In addition, Libya completed the destruction of all its declared Category 3 chemical weapons.
6. With respect to Category 2 chemical weapons, Libya had destroyed 555.7 MTs, or 39.6% of the total, meaning that about 846.2 MTs (or 60.4%) of the remaining chemicals are still to be destroyed. In this connection, Libya is undertaking all the necessary preparations to dispose of the remaining stockpile, and is making every effort to resume the implementation of the detailed plan for destruction. In particular, Libya continues to explore suitable technologies to complete the disposal of chemicals, and is having discussions with the local community with a view to setting up a chemical disposal facility in the Rabta region.

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

7. Libya has faced various technical challenges with respect to the remaining Category 2 stockpile owing to the corrosion of tanks and drums containing the chemicals, which has led to leakage into the ground. The risks are currently being assessed and managed to ensure the safety of both personnel and the local population, as well to protect the environment.
8. In its “Annual Report to the Conference of the States Parties at its Nineteenth Session on Progress Achieved Towards Complete Destruction of the Remaining Stockpile of Chemical Weapons, 5 November 2014” (C-19/NAT.2, dated 11 November 2014), Libya stated that it “is taking on its way forward towards the completion of the chemical precursors disposal phase, and as this process may be affected by the current extraordinary circumstances in Libya, important consideration is being given to exploring more efficient alternatives and searching for specific options to best ensure that Libya will fulfil its obligation to meet the destruction completion deadline. In this connection, we are seriously looking forward to exploring potential opportunities in this respect, in consultation with the Technical Secretariat and within the framework of international cooperation”.
9. The Director-General, on the basis of independent information that he has received from the OPCW inspectors undertaking verification in accordance with Part IV(A) of the Verification Annex, as well as the information he has received from Libya regarding measures being implemented to complete the destruction of its remaining Category 2 chemical weapons, is in a position to confirm that Libya has taken the necessary measures to meet the planned completion date for its destruction activities, more specifically by determining the technology that would be suitable for the nature of the items in the stockpile to be destroyed, in order to meet the timelines set out in C-16/DEC.11 and to comply with public safety and environmental requirements. The Secretariat will continue to receive regular evaluations from its experts. Should the situation change, the Secretariat, in a timely manner, shall inform the policy-making organs, in accordance with C-16/DEC.11.

The Russian Federation

Progress achieved to meet the planned completion date

10. The Russian Federation has declared 39,967 MTs of Category 1 chemical weapons.

11. As at 31 October 2014, the Secretariat had verified the destruction of 33,633 MTs, or 84.2%, of the total amount of Category 1 chemical weapons declared. This includes the 0.026 MTs of chemical warfare agents withdrawn from the Category 1 chemical weapons stockpile 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.
12. Destruction operations continued at all five chemical weapons destruction facilities (CWDFs) in operation in 2014—Kizner, Leonidovka, Maradykovsky, Pochep, and Shchuchye—and between 1 January and 31 October 2014 the Secretariat verified the destruction by the Russian Federation of 2,651 MTs of nerve agents.
13. In November 2014, the Secretariat performed the final engineering review of the third and last process building at the Shchuchye facility, which has been designated for the destruction of the remaining munitions of complex configuration. The process building’s destruction equipment is in the final stages of calibration and will become operational in early February 2015. Bilateral discussions with the Russian Federation will take place in Moscow in January 2015 to finalise the amendments to the facility agreement and the agreed plan for verification, which will subsequently be submitted to the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) for approval at its Seventy-Eighth Session.
14. At the invitation of the Russian Federation, a delegation of the Council visited the Kizner CWDF from 14 to 18 April 2014, pursuant to C-16/DEC.11.
15. The Russian Federation informed the Council at its Seventy-Sixth Session that, despite measures undertaken to meet the planned completion date of December 2015 for its destruction activities, destruction at the Kizner facility will continue beyond 2015. The Council requested the Russian Federation to provide an update to the detailed destruction plan (EC-68/P/NAT.1, dated 3 April 2012) as soon as possible and no later than the Nineteenth Session of the Conference. Following this request, the Russian Federation provided the Council with an update of its detailed destruction plan, which included the amended planned completion date by which the destruction of its remaining chemical weapons is to be completed (“Detailed Plan for Destruction of Category 1 Chemical Weapons Remaining After the Final Extended Deadline of 29 April 2012”, EC-68/P/NAT.1/Add.1, dated 6 October 2014). The Council considered and noted this update at its Seventy-Seventh Session.

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

16. In its report on the progress made towards the complete destruction of remaining stockpiles of chemical weapons (C-19/P/NAT.1, dated 14 November 2014), the Russian Federation informed the Conference that, in order to speed up the destruction of its Category 1 chemical weapons, the Government of the Russian Federation has adopted the concept of gradually bringing destruction facilities into operation by trains.
17. Measures are being taken to ensure early completion of the destruction and commissioning of the last train at the Shchuchye CWDF to destroy 7.6 MTs of chemical agent from the rocket warheads, which are munitions of complex

configuration. In accordance with the national programme for the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles, as of October 2014 it is planned to start process equipment systematisation at the Shchuchye facility in an inert environment in building 101M, with further live agent systematisation using rocket warheads filled with Vx. Full-scale operations to destroy rocket warheads in building 101M in accordance with the declared technology are planned to begin in the second half of the first quarter of 2015.

18. As at 31 October 2014, the indicators of destruction of Category 1 chemical weapons stockpiles at the Maradykovsky, Leonidovka, Shchuchye, and Pochep CWDFs have corresponded to those specified in EC-68/P/NAT.1/Add.1. At the Kizner facility, the amount of sarin planned for destruction in 2014 (514 MTs) has been exceeded, with 587 MTs of the agent, or 107.7% of the planned amount, having been destroyed.
19. In accordance with EC-68/P/NAT.1/Add.1, it is planned to complete the destruction of chemical weapons at the Maradykovsky, Leonidovka, Shchuchye, and Pochep facilities in 2015. As a consequence, by 31 December 2015, the planned aggregate quantity of the destroyed Category 1 chemical weapons will amount to 36,446 MTs of chemical agent, or 91.2% of the former Category 1 chemical weapons stockpiles in the Russian Federation. The quantity of chemical weapons remaining after 2015 at the Kizner facility will amount to 3,522 MTs of chemical agent. The Kizner facility is scheduled to complete the destruction of Category 1 chemical weapons no later than 31 December 2020.
20. The Director-General, on the basis of independent information that he has received from the OPCW inspectors undertaking verification in accordance with Part IV(A) of the Verification Annex, as well as the information he has received from the Russian Federation regarding the destruction facilities and the remaining unit to be commissioned, is in a position to confirm that the Russian Federation has taken the necessary measures to meet the planned completion date for its destruction activities at the Maradykovsky, Leonidovka, Shchuchye, and Pochep facilities. As noted in paragraphs 15 and 19 above, the Russian Federation has formally informed the Secretariat that, according to EC-68/P/NAT.1/Add.1, destruction operations will continue at the Kizner facility until 31 December 2020. The Secretariat will continue to receive regular evaluations from its experts. Should the situation change, the Secretariat, in a timely manner, shall inform the policy-making organs, in accordance with C-16/DEC.11.

United States of America

Progress achieved to meet the planned completion date

21. The United States of America has declared 27,769 MTs of Category 1 chemical weapons.
22. As at 31 October 2014, the Secretariat had verified the destruction by the United States of America of 24,924 MTs, or 89.8 %, of the total amount of Category 1 chemical weapons declared by this State Party. This includes 2,682 MTs of chemical warfare agents withdrawn from Category 1 chemical weapons stocks pursuant to Article VI of the Convention and subparagraph 2(d) of Part VI of the Verification Annex for purposes not prohibited under the Convention.

23. The total amount of agent destroyed includes the 0.022 MTs of chemical agent recently destroyed at the recovered chemical weapons destruction facilities located at Pine Bluff Arsenal, Arkansas, and Dover Air Force Base, Delaware. The destruction at Pine Bluff Arsenal (0.021 MTs) was completed on 21 November 2013, after the cut-off date for the submission of the report to the last session of the Conference, and the destruction at Dover Air Force Base (0.001 MTs) was completed on 6 August 2014.
24. The United States of America's remaining CWDFs include the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP), in Colorado, and the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP), in Kentucky, which will use neutralisation technologies for the destruction operations. Construction of the Pueblo facility has been completed and the systematisation process is 63% complete. Construction at the Blue Grass facility is 86% complete, and systematisation is 23% complete.
25. In accordance with the detailed plan by the United States of America for the destruction of remaining chemical weapons (EC-68/NAT.2, dated 13 April 2012), the destruction of the remaining Category 1 chemical weapons is planned to be completed by September 2023.

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

26. In its annual report on the progress in the destruction of its remaining stockpiles of chemical weapons, submitted to the Conference at its Nineteenth Session (C-19/NAT.3, dated 7 November 2014), the United States of America informed the Conference that it continues to act upon all opportunities to overcome challenges in its destruction programme by “using experienced personnel, implementing contract incentives, adding destruction technologies to augment the current processes, and minimising risks associated with first-of-a-kind facilities and equipment”.
27. In particular, experienced personnel, familiar with safety and environmental requirements, have been hired to assist in preventing problems or delays during systemisation and operations at both the Pueblo and Blue Grass facilities. Moreover, the United States of America intends to continue to use contract incentives at both the Pueblo and Blue Grass facilities to accelerate the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons stockpile. To mitigate technical risks and enhance workforce safety, the United States of America has elected to add destruction technologies for the destruction of chemical weapons that are not suitable for processing by the Pueblo or Blue Grass neutralisation plants.
28. The United States of America has informed the Secretariat that “the Explosive Destruction System (EDS) will be used to augment destruction efforts in a safe and efficient manner at the Pueblo, Colorado site”. The detailed facility information for the PCAPP EDS has been provided to the Secretariat, and the agreed detailed plan for verification and facility agreement (EC-76/DEC.2 and EC-76/DEC.3, both dated 9 July 2014) were approved by the Council at its Seventy-Sixth Session.
29. The Secretariat conducted the initial visit to the PCAPP EDS in April 2014 and performed the final engineering review in September 2014. The EDS is scheduled to begin destruction operations in the first quarter of 2015.

30. The Secretariat has recently received the detailed facility information for the PCAPP as well as the draft of the facility agreement. The initial visit to the PCAPP is planned for January 2015.
31. As for the Blue Grass facility, the detailed facility information and the draft facility agreement are currently under development. Similar to the PCAPP EDS, a static detonation chamber will be used at Blue Grass to augment the destruction efforts in a safe and efficient manner.
32. Finally, with regard to safety and environmental concerns, the United States of America has stated that it “continues to anticipate 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 U.S. chemical weapons stockpile”.
33. The Director-General, on the basis of 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 and that measures have been put in place to shorten the construction and systemisation schedule at both the PCAPP and the BGCAPP, inter alia, by using a combination of new technologies and equipment, contract incentives, transfer of experienced personnel, as well as by augmenting the capacities of the main plants with explosive destruction systems designed for the safe destruction of problematic chemical munitions. Should the situation change, the Secretariat, in a timely manner, shall inform the policy-making organs, in accordance with C-16/DEC.11.

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