

**LIBYA****ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES AT ITS
TWENTY-SECOND SESSION ON PROGRESS ACHIEVED TOWARDS COMPLETE
DESTRUCTION OF THE REMAINING STOCKPILE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS
AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2017****1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The decision of the Conference of the States Parties at its Sixteenth Session on the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 (C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011) provides that each possessor State is to report regularly on the progress achieved towards the complete destruction of its remaining chemical weapons. This report is submitted in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the said decision.
- 1.2 Under the aforementioned decision, Libya submitted to the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) at its Sixty-Eighth Session its detailed plan for the destruction of its chemical weapons remaining after the final extended deadline (EC-68/NAT.4, dated 18 April 2012).
- 1.3 In line with the aforementioned plan, Libya has completed the activities related to the disposal of all its declared Category 1 chemical weapons. This was confirmed by the OPCW Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) in May 2014.
- 1.4 Furthermore, Libya had already completed during 2014 the full destruction of all its Category 3 chemical weapons.
- 1.5 At this stage, as of 31 October 2017, the total quantity of Libya’s Category 2 chemical weapons destroyed is 1,122.29 metric tonnes or 95%. This figure includes the recent achievement of 75.7 metric tonnes of phosphorous trichloride destroyed at Gesellschaft zur Entsorgung von chemischen Kampfstoffen und Rüstungsaltslasten mbH (GEKA mbH), in Munster, Germany.
- 1.6 In a letter dated 3 February 2016, Libya informed the Director-General, that “it is not realistic to expect that the destruction of these chemical weapons will be completed within the set time frame without an effective international assistance” and that “it is extremely important to explore more efficient alternatives” for the destruction of the remaining Category 2 chemical weapons.
- 1.7 In a subsequent letter dated 12 February 2016, the Libyan National Authority for the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Libyan National Authority”), requested that the Director-General also consider the option of transporting the



remaining Category 2 chemical weapons to a waste disposal facility outside Libya in order to destroy them as early as possible

2. Actions taken for the implementation of the second phase of the detailed plan

2.1 Despite the security challenges and the environmental risks associated with the condition of the remaining Category 2 chemical stockpile, the Libyan National Authority completed the destruction of isopropanol (114.103 metric tonnes) at the Ruwagha site, and of pinacolyl alcohol (19.257 metric tonnes) at the Bir Al-Osta Milad site, near Tripoli. The destruction of those two chemicals has been verified by the Secretariat.

2.2 In the meantime, the Libyan National Authority continued to monitor directly this stockpile and cooperated with the Waddan Local Council to tighten surveillance and control in order to preserve its physical integrity

3. Preparations for the treatment of Category 2 chemical stockpile

3.1 The Libyan National Authority, in order to complete the logistical and technical arrangements for the destruction of its chemicals, concluded the decanting of the remaining chemicals in leak-proof containers in March 2016. These achievements were a positive step in maintaining the physical and general integrity of the stockpile as the previously reported incidents of evaporation, leakage, and spillage of chemicals on the ground were mitigated. Also, with all the chemicals having been decanted into leak-proof tanks, the situation with respect to shipment of the stockpile became more favourable, technically, for loading, transporting and handling operations.

3.2 The decanting activities started at the Ruwagha site on 25 March 2016 with the decanting of 138.770 metric tonnes of phosphorus trichloride, 100.833 metric tonnes of thionyl chloride, 238.655 metric tonnes of tributylamine, and 18.045 metric tonnes of 2-chloroethanol. This represented a difference of 220 metric tonnes due to the evaporation, leakage and spillage from the old corroded tanks. The quantities of chemicals decanted were subject to verification as agreed with the Secretariat. On 1 July 2016 Libya provided an amendment to their declaration to the Secretariat regarding the adjusted quantities of chemicals.

3.3 On 24 February, a meeting of the Council noted with concern the letters submitted by the Libyan National Authority and requested the Director-General, in coordination with all relevant States Parties, to identify and evaluate the technical, operational, security, financial, and legal factors relevant to all the options for addressing the destruction of the remaining Libyan chemical weapons, including the removal of some or all the chemicals from Libya and destruction outside Libya, and options for in-country destruction (EC-M-51/DEC.1, dated 24 February 2016).

3.4 Against the backdrop of concerns about the status of the remaining chemical stockpile, the Libyan National Authority submitted a letter to the Director-General on 16 July 2016 (EC-M-52/DG.1, dated 18 July 2016) informing the Secretariat of the movement of all of its remaining Category 2 chemical weapons from the chemical weapons storage facility in Ruwagha to a temporary storage site in the north of the country, and requesting the assistance of the OPCW in ensuring the destruction of

Libya's remaining Category 2 chemical weapons on an expedited basis at a specialised waste treatment facility outside Libya.

- 3.5 Libya, working closely with the Secretariat and concerned States Parties developed a modified plan for the destruction of the remaining Category 2 chemical weapons as directed by the Council (EC-M-52/DEC.1, dated 20 July 2016).
- 3.6 The Libyan National Authority remaining cognizant of its obligations as a possessor State, worked with local authorities and States Parties for the safe and timely removal of the remaining chemical weapons in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 2298 (2016) and the Council decision for the removal and destruction operations (EC-M-52/DEC.2, dated 27 July 2016).
- 3.7 Loading of the chemical weapons at the port of Misrata and debarkation of the chemicals in Bremen was witnessed by the Libyan National Authority. The Secretariat, German authorities and the Libyan National Authority continue to work closely together in regard to the destruction operations at GEKA mbH, in Munster, Germany.

4. Outstanding problems and measures taken to overcome them

- 4.1 During decanting operations at the Ruwagha storage facility, one container experienced an exothermic reaction, causing the material inside to polymerise. Through international assistance, destruction of the contents of the remaining container began on 25 July and was completed on 7 August 2017.
- 4.2 Libya was pleased to host a Secretariat team in Tripoli to discuss the feasibility of travelling to Ruwagha to obtain soil samples from the former chemical weapons storage site. The Libyan National Authority is working closely with the Secretariat to develop a plan that would allow the Secretariat to undertake a visit to Ruwagha to fulfil the request of the report of the Council at its Eighty-Third Session (paragraph 6.12 of EC-83/5, dated 11 November 2016).
- 4.3 Members of the Libyan National Authority continue to monitor the progress of the chemical weapons destruction in Germany. The Libyan National Authority has accompanied the Secretariat on inspections three times this year and has been pleased with the rate of progress and the dedication of the technical staff at GEKA mbH.
- 4.4 Libya welcomes the commitment of the European Union and donor States to contribute to the clean-up of the Ruwagha site. 350 metric tonnes of hazardous waste from the destruction of the former Schedule 1 stockpile, as well as decontamination of the decanted tanks require attention in order to return the Ruwagha site to an environmentally clean condition.

5. Conclusion

Libya places the utmost importance on the fulfilment of its obligations towards the destruction of its declared stockpile and the environmental clean-up of the former storage site. Libya wishes to note with appreciation our international partners for their continued support on this monumental undertaking.