



OPCW

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**OPENING STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL
TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AT ITS FIFTY-NINTH SESSION**

Mr Chairperson,
Distinguished colleagues,

1. I welcome you all to the Fifty-Ninth Session of the Executive Council, its first session in 2010. This follows the successful conclusion of the Fourteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. I am confident that the constructive spirit of cooperation and consensus, which is so very characteristic of this Organisation, will help us move forward to a successful result.
2. In reporting to you on the progress made in various programme areas, I will commence with the subject of chemical demilitarisation and verification.

Chemical demilitarisation and verification

3. Progress is ongoing towards the goal of completing the destruction of all declared stockpiles. As at 31 January 2010, the aggregate amount of Category 1 chemical weapons destroyed by A State Party, Albania, India, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America reached 39,598 metric tonnes, or the equivalent of 57.03%, of the total declared quantity of this category of chemical weapons. And, as the Members of the Council are aware, three of these possessor States have already fulfilled their destruction obligations under the Convention.
4. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America have submitted in a timely fashion their tenth and eleventh reports on the progress made towards completing the destruction of their Category 1 chemical weapons. As on previous occasions, the Secretariat has been able to reconcile the data collected during systematic verification in the United States and the Russian Federation with the information provided in those reports. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, for its part, has provided its plan for future destruction activities and status of the construction works for its destruction facilities.
5. As at 31 January 2010, the Russian Federation had destroyed 18,241 metric tonnes of Category 1 chemical weapons, or 46.10%, of the aggregate amount declared. This progress was made despite a planned period of inactivity at the Shchuchye chemical weapons destruction facility (CWDF) and a decrease in destruction activities at the Maradykovsky CWDF between December 2009 and February 2010. Currently,



chemical weapons destruction in the Russian Federation is ongoing at two facilities located at Maradykovsky and Leonidovka.

6. At the Leonidovka CWDF, operations aimed at the destruction of Vx-filled modules and GB-filled aerial bombs involve the draining of the chemical agent and its detoxification, the thermal treatment of the drained munitions bodies in the metal parts furnace, and the incineration of the drained reaction mass.
7. At the Maradykovsky CWDF, destruction operations currently address the processing, at a slow pace, of aerial bombs filled with a mustard/lewisite mixture. The incineration of the reaction mass from the previous Vx campaign has been completed, whilst the incineration of the reaction mass from the GB campaign is on hold at the moment, as are the thermal treatment and mutilation of the metal parts remaining from the Vx campaign.
8. The Shchuchye facility is in a planned period of inactivity, so that maintenance of the equipment and of the supporting systems can be carried out. Consequently, the inspection team has been withdrawn from the facility until destruction activities resume. By 27 December 2009, this facility had already destroyed more than 81% of the rocket warheads filled with sarin (GB).
9. Two facilities are under construction, at Pochep and Kizner. Both are due to begin operations during the current year. Additionally, new units for the destruction of the remaining types of aerial munitions filled with nerve agents are under construction at both Maradykovsky and Leonidovka and are planned to start operations in 2011, while operations involving the second process building at Shchuchye are envisaged for 2010.
10. As regards the United States of America, it is to be noted that, as at 31 January 2010, this State Party had destroyed 19,509 metric tonnes of Category 1 chemical weapons, equivalent to 70.25%, of its declared stockpile. Three destruction facilities—at Tooele, Pine Bluff and Umatilla—are currently destroying mustard stored in one-ton containers, and one other facility in Anniston is destroying mustard-filled mortar shells. Two new destruction facilities, at Blue Grass and Pueblo, are under construction.
11. In this context, Mr Chairman, allow me to mention that I, together with the Director-General-Designate, Ambassador Üzümcü, who is to take over this position on 25 July next, paid a special visit to the United States last week at the invitation of its Government. The occasion served, for both of us, to reconfirm the strong commitment of the United States to fulfilling its obligations under the Convention. It also served for us to observe at Anniston a chemical weapons destruction facility, the financial and technical dimensions of which demonstrate the political commitment in support of the Convention. We are both very grateful to the United States for the hospitality and for the opportunity for this important technical and political contact.
12. Only twenty-six months remain until the deadline of 29 April 2012 established by the Convention for the completion of destruction. It is essential therefore, and this is a message that we also conveyed last week, that both the United States of America and the Russian Federation, as I am sure they agree, do everything within their means to

continue and, where necessary, intensify, and accelerate their efforts in this regard. For its part, the Secretariat will continue to provide all possible assistance to them in their endeavour, an endeavour for which—I wish to repeat—both States have demonstrated great commitment and devoted substantial efforts and resources. Just as important, of course, is that the other remaining possessor States also do everything in their power to press forward their efforts towards the timely completion of their destruction obligations.

13. In that sense, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has encountered a number of difficulties as it prepares to destroy its chemical weapons stockpiles, as was detailed in its request for an extension of the final and intermediate deadlines. As I have been made aware, this State Party has taken the necessary steps to improve the situation with regard to its preparations to begin destruction of its Category 1 chemical weapons stockpile after the extended deadline has been approved. I hope that the construction of the CWDF located at Rabta is proceeding according to the schedule that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya submitted during the last session of the Executive Council.
14. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has destroyed all of its Category 3 chemical weapons and 551 metric tonnes, or 39%, of its Category 2 chemical weapons. The destruction of Category 2 chemical weapons is scheduled to commence in April 2010, at the Ruwagha Chemicals Reloading System (RCRS) storage area, and the destruction of Category 1 chemical weapons in October 2010, at the Rabta Toxic Chemical Disposal Facility (RTCDF). The Technical Secretariat plans to conduct a final engineering review visit to the RCRS in mid-March, with a view to confirming the readiness of this site to begin the destruction, under the verification of the OPCW inspectors, of two chemicals declared as Category 2 chemical weapons. This visit will also allow the Secretariat to finalise any required amendments to the agreed detailed plan for verification and to the relevant facility agreement prior to the operation, which, as I mentioned, is scheduled to begin in April 2010.
15. Following Iraq's accession to the Convention on 12 February 2009, the Secretariat has processed and analysed its declarations and has continued work with Iraqi representatives, with a view to clarifying certain issues and receiving specific information for the planning of an initial inspection. On 1 December 2009, in the margins of the Fourteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, representatives from Iraq, the United States of America, and the Technical Secretariat held a meeting to review possible enhancement of Iraq's declarations regarding the status of the two bunkers containing declared chemical weapons at a former chemical weapons production complex.
16. Additional information, such as ground photographs, aerial pictures, documentation, and certificates from the United Nations (both the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) and the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC)) was deemed necessary to further clarify the situation. Consequently, a follow-up meeting was held here in The Hague on 13 and 14 January 2010, between Iraqi, United States, and Secretariat representatives. We continue to work on this issue.

Old and abandoned chemical weapons

17. With respect to old and abandoned chemical weapons (or OACWs), during the intersessional period, the Technical Secretariat conducted two inspections at two old chemical weapons (OCW) sites. We note that, while destruction operations have made considerable progress in many of the locations, recoveries continue as well.
18. As regards chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China, the Secretariat continues to work with these two States Parties on a trilateral basis. The latest round of discussions took place at the end of October 2009. While no chemical weapons have been destroyed to date, work on the draft detailed plan for verification and the facility arrangements for the mobile destruction facilities is progressing, and I would like to thank both States Parties—China and Japan—for their pragmatism and cooperation. As I mentioned at the last session of the Council, it is our hope that the documents to which I have referred will be completed in time for the anticipated beginning of destruction operations, scheduled to begin in the first half of 2010. In their reports to the Council, both States Parties have informed the Secretariat, in detail, about relevant developments in this regard, as well as about the current status of their preparedness to commence the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons in China.
19. Among 23 chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) that have been certified as converted, there are four that require a decision by the Council on the continuance of the verification regime after the 10-year period of certification of completion of conversion has expired. During the intersessional period, consultations have taken place under the leadership of the facilitator, Ambassador Pieter de Savornin Lohman. Based on these discussions, the facilitator and the Technical Secretariat have developed a new non-paper, which will be circulated very soon.

Declarations: timely submissions

20. A status report on the timely submission during 2009 of declarations under Article VI of the Convention has been circulated for the consideration of the Council at its current session (EC-59/DG.8, dated 29 January 2010). Compared to previous years, a significant improvement is evident in the number of States Parties submitting their annual declarations on past activities (ADPAs) on time, with 57 States Parties having submitted their declarations on time in 2009, compared to only 38 in 2008.
21. As regards the annual declarations on anticipated activities (ADAAs) for 2010, 37 States Parties have provided their declarations on time, which, unfortunately, is a smaller number compared to the 40 States Parties that submitted their declarations on time last year. I wish to remind States Parties that the deadline for the next round of Article VI declarations on past activities for 2009 is 31 March.

The Verification Information System, the electronic declarations tool for National Authorities, and electronic declarations

22. An updated report on the Verification Information System (VIS) is provided to this session (EC-59/S/3, dated 1 February 2010). A new version of the electronic declarations tool software package (EDNA), version 2.0, was released in

November 2009. This new release incorporates Schedule 2 and Schedule 3 plant-site declarations, and it provides an option for automating aggregate national data (AND) from data already provided for plant-site declarations.

23. During the Fourteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, 30 representatives from 21 States Parties were trained in the use of this new version of the EDNA.
24. At the end of January 2010, 11 States Parties had requested licence keys for the EDNA, which they had downloaded from the OPCW extranet, and a further 12 had been provided with copies of the software on a CD-ROM.
25. I encourage States Parties that have not already done so to submit their declarations in electronic form, as this greatly facilitates the processing of information for both the Secretariat and the submitting State Party.

Inspectorate

26. The Inspectorate welcomed the arrival of the latest intake of new inspectors on 11 January 2010. Known as Group K, it comprises 32 inspectors of 21 different nationalities, who are currently undergoing a standard training programme for new inspectors. This includes live chemical-agent training, speciality training, an introduction to how to conduct challenge inspections and investigations of alleged use, and a mock-inspection module similar to the one used in previous years, which will prepare them for further on-the-job training to be received while they are participating in actual missions.
27. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the governments of Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Serbia, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the continued provision of valuable assistance in the training of these new inspectors.

Non-proliferation and industry inspections

28. I am pleased to report that we are on track with Article VI inspections. So far this year, 29 inspections have been completed, which represents 14% of the 208 inspections provided for in the Programme and Budget for 2010.
29. In total, 68 inspections have been completed since the last session of the Council. This figure includes three inspections at Schedule 1 facilities; 19 at Schedule 2 facilities, of which three involved the use of sampling and analysis; 11 at Schedule 3 plant sites, and 35 at other chemical production facilities (OCPFs).
30. A report on the performance of the modified methodology for selecting OCPFs for inspection was issued to States Parties prior to this session (EC-59/DG.5, dated 18 January 2010). The results of applying this modified methodology in 2008 and 2009 were consistent with what was projected when I announced the modified selection methodology in 2007.

31. The main findings are that use of the modified methodology has resulted in, firstly, the selection of more plant sites from the States Parties that had declared a relatively large number of inspectable OCPF facilities, and, secondly, the selection of more relevant OCPFs, through the use of the A14 scores.
32. I further wish to recall that the modified methodology remains an interim measure pending agreement among States Parties on a definitive site-selection methodology. I urge States Parties to address this last remaining issue, which indeed is a requirement of the Convention itself, concerning site selection in earnest. Of course, the Technical Secretariat stands ready to assist the discussions among States Parties in such an endeavour, as it also stands ready to support States Parties in their consideration of other issues still subject to further work in the Industry Cluster.
33. The Council will also recall the successful workshop on matters related to OCPFs, which the Secretariat organised in November 2009 here at Headquarters, with the support of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and that of Canada. The workshop, the first of its kind, was attended by more than 100 representatives from 69 States Parties.
34. It is my hope that the success of this workshop will enable us to better appreciate the importance of enhancing our efforts in regard to the verification of OCPFs, a fact that I have frequently emphasised.
35. In this context, I also trust that the workshop contributed to a deeper understanding of the various aspects of the important question of enhancing information on the characteristics of OCPF plant sites, on which discussions will continue this year under the facilitation of Mr Marthinus van Schalkwyk from South Africa.
36. I would additionally like to inform the Council that this Thursday at 11:00, the Verification Division of the Technical Secretariat will present an update on Schedule 2 inspections that have included sampling and analysis. The States Parties that have received such inspections will also be offered an opportunity to share their own experiences.

International cooperation and assistance

Assistance and protection

37. During the reporting period, preparations continued for the third OPCW exercise on the delivery of assistance (ASSISTEX 3), to be held in Tunis, Tunisia, from 11 to 15 October 2010. In addition to several national teams, the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) has also confirmed that it intends to participate in this important exercise. Following the initial planning meeting that was held in November in Tunis to discuss the organisational aspects of the exercise, the main planning meeting is scheduled to be held at the OPCW Headquarters from 29 to 31 March 2010, an invitation for which was issued in January of this year (S/808/2010, dated 26 January 2010).
38. Our regular activities in the form of training and capacity-building programmes have continued with the invaluable support of States Parties. International laboratory courses have been held in Slovakia and Switzerland, in October and November 2009,

- respectively. In the framework of the OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa (the “Africa Programme”), and with the support of the governments of the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom, a regional course on delivery of assistance for States Parties in the East African subregion was conducted in Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania, in October 2009.
39. Jointly with the Government of Qatar, the Secretariat organised the eleventh workshop on the coordination of assistance under Article X in Doha, Qatar, in November of last year.
 40. The seventh protection-network meeting was held in Barcelona, Spain, also in November 2009. In that same month, a workshop on the impact on health and on measures related to chemical weapons and other dangerous chemicals was held in Lisbon, Portugal.
 41. In order to strengthen the Secretariat’s preparedness for coordination and delivery of assistance, two in-house training courses were held in November 2009 and February 2010 at the OPCW Headquarters for Secretariat staff who, in the future, will be involved in assistance coordination and assessment team (ACAT) activities. The courses were supported by experts from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
 42. In the context of the national capacity-building project for Sri Lanka, an advanced course for members of the emergency-response unit was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in December 2009. A technical-assistance visit to Mexico City, Mexico, in January 2010, was aimed, at the request of the Mexican authorities, at assessing ways of improving existing national chemical weapons response capacity, and included discussions about preparations for the Pan-American Games in October 2011. Last month, a national training course on the delivery of assistance was conducted in Tunis, Tunisia, and focussed on developing response capabilities in the event of chemical incidents. This is another example of the excellent cooperation we have with the Tunisian government. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland provided the instructors for this course. Together with the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Center (RACVIAC), the Secretariat has also organised an annual seminar in Rakitje, Croatia, which took place in February 2010, for States Parties in South Eastern Europe.
 43. In addition, the Secretariat has initiated a dialogue with other relevant organisations, with the aim of identifying possible areas for further cooperation. Bilateral discussions were held in Geneva, Switzerland, in January of this year, with the UNOCHA and with the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit. This month, a meeting was also held with NATO’s Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (NATO/EARDCC) officials in Brussels, Belgium.
 44. In 2009, States Parties were invited to nominate qualified experts possessing expertise in the areas of forensics, toxicology, and epidemiology; in the disposal of unexploded ordnance and of improvised explosive devices; and in disaster management. From the 92 nominations received, the Secretariat selected 21 experts, and all Member States have been notified of their names, in accordance with the Convention.

International cooperation

45. In the field of international cooperation and implementation of Article XI, preparations have already begun for this year's Associate Programme and analytical-skills-development courses.
46. Under the Internship-Support Programme, two six-month placements have been arranged at the Delft University of Technology, one as part of the Africa Programme and with the support of the Dutch Government, and one funded under the regular Programme and Budget.
47. The Technical Secretariat continues to cooperate with the Stockholm-based International Foundation for Science (IFS) in areas of capacity building for developing countries in sciences related to applied chemistry and sustainable management of biological and water resources. In November 2009, the IFS and the OPCW co-funded 10 new research projects in various areas relating to the application of chemistry for purposes not prohibited under the Convention, whilst the OPCW provided direct funding for another seven research projects.
48. As part of the aforementioned cooperation, the third in a series of regional workshops was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 7 to 10 December, which brought together 25 researchers from Asia and offered the participants an opportunity to present their research findings and to share their experiences in a range of relevant disciplines.
49. A new initiative related to industry outreach was launched last year in the field of chemical-safety management at the University of Wuppertal, in Germany, for 10 participants from African Member States. This is part of Germany's valuable support for the Africa Programme, and the second edition of this course will follow in 2010.
50. The Technical Secretariat also continues its long-established and valuable cooperation with the Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN). The Basic Course on Analysis and Verification of Chemicals Related to the Chemical Weapons Convention was held in January of this year. Preparations for the advanced course in analytical chemistry on the enhancement of laboratory skills, which will take place in May in Helsinki, Finland, are ongoing.

Implementation support

51. With regard to implementation-support activities, the Secretariat hosted the Eleventh Annual Meeting of National Authorities from 27 to 29 November 2009, here at our Headquarters. With 172 participants from 117 States Parties representing all five regional groups, this was a notably well-attended and successful event. The focus of the meeting was on sharing experiences in the national implementation of the Convention by National Authorities, and afforded participants an opportunity to exchange information and experiences regarding implementation issues.
52. The National Authorities meeting also made it possible for the Secretariat and delegates to engage in more than 200 direct bilateral consultations on a wide range of issues, including the preparation of a very extensive International Cooperation and Assistance Programme for 2010.

53. During December 2009, the Secretariat also held a training course for national inspection escorts for the National Authority of Malaysia in Kedah, Malaysia.
54. Under the auspices of the Africa Programme and with the support of the governments of the Netherlands and Norway, to which we are grateful, the Secretariat organised a workshop on the transfers regime of the Convention for customs officials from West and Central Africa in Burkina Faso, in December 2009.
55. In relation to the Africa Programme, I also wish to mention that, during the last quarter of 2009, the International Cooperation and Assistance Division established a task force to further develop the Organisation's cooperation with the African Union (AU), under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding, signed between the OPCW and the AU in 2006.
56. Finally, I wish to express once again our deep gratitude to the European Union and to all those Member States that have supported various activities in relation to international cooperation and assistance. They, their National Authorities, and other institutions have contributed significantly to the programmes carried out by the Technical Secretariat in this area.

Implementation of Article VII

57. Moving on to the area of national implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention, I would like to report that the Secretariat has continued to provide tailor-made legal assistance to States Parties, upon their request, which includes assisting States Parties with the drafting of legislative and administrative measures.
58. Significant progress continues to be made with respect to the obligations in the area of national implementation. During the reporting period, one additional State Party has notified the Organisation of the designation of its National Authority. Another four States Parties have provided an update to their previous submissions under paragraph 5 of Article VII, and one State Party has made this submission for the first time, bringing the number of these submissions to 131. The number of States Parties that have legislation covering all key areas of the action plan for the implementation of Article VII now stands at 87.

Universality and external relations

59. The Secretariat continues to spare no effort in pursuing its dialogue and interaction with the remaining States not Party to the Convention, in order to realise the vital goal of attaining universal adherence to the Convention. This year, our endeavours will be more focussed on bilateral démarches and cooperation with relevant international or regional organisations. Part of these activities will be carried out under the European Union Council Decision 2009/569/CFSP of 27 July 2009.
60. The priority of achieving universality will also feature in the seminar on "The Contribution of the OPCW to the International Security Dimension: Achievements and Challenges" which, under the European Union Council Decision, the OPCW will organise, together with the Government of Germany in Berlin, on 7 and 8 June 2010.

Delegations will soon receive an invitation to this important event, and I look forward to broad participation.

61. At the invitation of the United Nations Secretary-General, H.E. Mr Ban Ki-moon, I attended, at the beginning of January, together with the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), and Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, Director-General-Designate of the OPCW, a high-level meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways to strengthen cooperation among the represented agencies. The United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, and other senior advisers to Mr Ban Ki-moon on disarmament matters also participated in the meeting.
62. In view of the prospects that have recently opened up in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, this meeting represented a key opportunity to underline the importance of promoting synergies and joint efforts in our common endeavours towards promoting a world that is eventually free from all weapons of mass destruction (WMD).
63. The OPCW was invited as a partner organisation to the “1st Conference on Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building in Border Management in the Asia Pacific Region”. The conference was organised by the International Organisation for Migration and took place in Bangkok, Thailand, in January 2010. The OPCW was requested to chair one of the working groups. The conference provided a good opportunity to present our work to a wider international audience.
64. Since the last session of the Council, I have paid visits to Armenia, to Morocco and, most recently, to the United States of America, as I mentioned before. In December, I also travelled to Poland to address the annual NATO conference on WMD arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation, and for bilateral meetings with representatives of the Polish Government. All these States have reaffirmed without exception their strong commitment to the goals of the Chemical Weapons Convention and their support for the work of the OPCW. We are, of course, extremely grateful for that.

The contribution of the OPCW to global antiterrorism efforts: the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

65. The contribution of the OPCW to global antiterrorism efforts is also an important issue. On this subject, I have circulated, for the consideration of the Council, a Note on the “Status of the OPCW’s Contribution to Global Anti-terrorism Efforts” (EC-59/DG.11, dated 8 February 2010).
66. This comprehensive Note includes information on the relevant decisions adopted by the OPCW’s policy-making organs and on the activities of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism, as well as on national papers and activities. It also describes the activities undertaken by the Secretariat, including those carried out in collaboration both with States Parties and relevant international organisations. Furthermore, the Note also outlines the OPCW’s cooperation with the United Nations and the

Organisation's other interactions with relevant international bodies in the field of counter-terrorism.

67. In the period under review, the Secretariat has continued to offer its full support to the Council's Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism. In this context, I wish to express our gratitude to Mr Mike Byers of Australia, the facilitator, for his contribution to its work, and of course he can count on our continued support.
68. In the same framework of continued contribution to the international efforts against terrorism, the Technical Secretariat is preparing to cooperate in a table-top exercise, to be held in Poland in the autumn of this year, to support the development of national capabilities and regional and international cooperation in the event of a release of toxic chemicals as a result of an attack against a chemical plant. This exercise will be financially supported under the already mentioned European Union Council Decision.
69. The Secretariat is also continuing to support the OPCW's involvement in international efforts aimed at ensuring the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In this regard, we are currently preparing a seminar on the OPCW's contribution in the sphere of security and non-proliferation, to be held here at OPCW Headquarters in November 2010.

Activities in the area of resolution 1540 (2004) and cooperation with the 1540 Committee

70. H.E. Mr Claude Heller, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, and Chairman of the 1540 Committee, paid a visit to the OPCW Headquarters on 8 February 2010. On that occasion, I briefed him on the Organisation's work to strengthen implementation of the Convention at the national level. Ambassador Heller commended the OPCW for its significant contribution to global non-proliferation efforts. I also highlighted the technical assistance that the OPCW provides to States Parties in drafting their national legislation to implement the Convention, and to national customs authorities to improve their capacity for monitoring transfers of scheduled chemicals.

Administrative and financial matters

71. Allow me to turn now to administrative and financial matters. First of all, I wish to report that, as at 31 December 2009, 99.2% of annual contributions had been collected for the year, as against 98.2% by the same date in 2008. The collection rate for the 2010 assessed annual contributions stood at 32.84% as at 31 January 2010. This figure takes into account both the applied cash surplus and payments by Member States.
72. The Secretariat maintains its commitment to implementing the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) for its financial statements for the reporting period beginning 1 January 2011, as approved by the Conference of the State Parties at its Fourteenth Session. The IPSAS Implementation Project has made further progress in 2009, and has completed an analysis identifying the key accounting and practical implementation issues; assessed the required amendments to the Financial Regulations and Rules; established concept accounting policies and procedures; modified information-technology systems; and trained key staff and management.

The project is on track to implement IPSAS on a parallel basis during the year 2010. Updates will be provided to each session of the Council during 2010.

Proposed Programme and Budget for 2011

73. The Secretariat has also commenced preparations for the Draft Programme and Budget for 2011, which, as usual, I plan to present to you in June, that is, prior to the Sixty-First Session of the Council.
74. Bearing in mind the delivery status of the approved Programme and Budget for 2009, the 2009 provisional budgetary free balance reflects an amount of EUR 3.3 million. The reasons for such a free balance are complex but, in my judgement, the 2009 budget level seems appropriate, in order to provide for the core requirements of the OPCW, including those for 2011.
75. It is, therefore, quite probable that, once again, I will be able to present a Draft Programme and Budget for 2011 with zero growth, which would allow for full programme delivery in the context of strict financial discipline. If the Organisation succeeds in this endeavour, 2011 will be the sixth consecutive year with a zero-growth Budget.
76. Of course, the Draft Programme and Budget for 2011 will continue to reflect the enhancements introduced under the Programme and Budget for 2010, which include the reinstatement of subprogrammes, a revised list of funding objects, and a list of outputs. Lessons learned in this regard during the first quarter of 2010 will be factored into the 2011 Draft Programme and Budget preparation process.
77. I am pleased with the positive feedback received during the facilitations for the Programme and Budget for 2010 towards a more “results-based” approach. As I have mentioned before, we will continue this evolutionary process, which provides for the application of more measurable key performance indicators, with the objective of transitioning from results-based budgeting (RBB) to applying the principles of results-based management. We have begun, in this regard, the process of recruitment of an expert in this field. Furthermore, as part of continued RBB enhancement, the timeline for the submission of the 2009 programme performance report has been revised, in order to allow programme managers again to draw on the lessons learned from the previous year and factor those in when preparing the Programme and Budget for 2011.
78. I am, therefore, glad to inform the Members of the Council that the 2009 programme performance report will be issued in the first half of 2010.
79. As I have stated on numerous occasions, the Secretariat’s ability to carry out the annual Programme and Budget depends upon the willingness of the Member States—all of them, without exception—to pay their dues on time and in full. This is a matter that has a substantial impact on our ability to effectively implement all of the Secretariat’s programmes, as approved by Member States. Late payments (or no payments) severely complicate the Technical Secretariat’s planning assumptions. Part of the reason for surplus funds—typically at the end of the year—is that some major assessed contributions are usually paid late in the year, leading to a situation in which

the Secretariat cannot obligate for or conduct programmes in a timely and efficient manner. Therefore, I wish to encourage States Parties that have not yet done so, to fulfil their financial obligations at the earliest and in full.

Personnel matters

80. At its Fifty-Eighth Session, the Executive Council requested the Director-General to prepare, for its consideration at its Fifty-Ninth Session, a draft decision on the recommendation of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF) concerning Interim Staff Rule 9.4.02. This recommendation relates to the reduction of the number of days of accrued annual leave qualifying for commutation from 60 to 30 days, together with an explanatory note detailing any relevant implications.
81. Accordingly, the Secretariat has prepared a detailed explanatory note and a draft decision, which are fully in line with the ABAF's recommendation. However, I feel that it would be premature to submit such a draft decision and the accompanying document to the Council right now. Indeed, in view of the important immediate impact of such a decision on the work of the Secretariat and the current Budget, I have decided to forward this matter first to the ABAF for its consideration and advice at its next meeting. Following this meeting, the emerging draft decision and its explanatory note will be submitted to the Executive Council for consideration at its Sixty-First Session.

Implementation of the policy on tenure

82. A complementary addendum to the report on the implementation of the tenure policy in 2008 (EC-57/DG.4, dated 3 June 2009) has now been issued (EC-57/DG.4/Add.1, dated 8 February 2010). The table attached to the addendum shows, by region, the exact number of staff subject to tenure who left the OPCW during 2008, both as a result of the implementation of the tenure policy, and as a consequence of natural attrition. Allow me to say that the total figures in 2008 for tenure-related turnover and for the ratio between managed and natural attrition, are more or less typical of most years since the implementation of the tenure policy started in 2003.

Composition of the Technical Secretariat

83. Allow me to add for the sake of the record that, following upon my remarks to the Conference of the States Parties at its Fourteenth Session in relation to the question of the composition of the Technical Secretariat, and following also the established procedures, that is to say consultations with you, Mr Chairperson, and with the bureau, I have now included this matter in the provisional agenda which is under consideration by the Council. A related Note (EC-59/DG.10, dated 8 February 2010), is before the Council. I am proposing that this become a regular issue of the Council's agenda, and that the Executive Council adopt a yearly decision instructing the Technical Secretariat to provide whatever information it wishes to receive in this respect.
84. As mentioned in my Note, it might be useful, as a point of departure, to consider the mechanism of the reports that the United Nations Secretariat presents to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly every year. Such reports are based on a specific resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly the previous year. Although we all realise that the United Nations Secretariat is a much larger

organisation and that its regulatory framework is also different from that of the Technical Secretariat, United Nations reports nonetheless offer a valuable reference point in relation to our own efforts in this regard.

85. Moreover, we are very fortunate to count in our midst the presence of the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the OPCW, H.E. Mr Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, who has facilitated some of those United Nations General Assembly resolutions. I am, therefore, certain that he can provide crucial help to the Council by facilitating the issue and bringing it to a consensus decision during this very session, so that the Secretariat can present its first full report to the next session of the Council. In the meantime, I wish to confirm that, as discussed during the provisional adoption of the agenda, the Secretariat will be ready to circulate in the course of this session, and I hope sooner rather than later, a Note containing up-to-date information on the composition of the Secretariat by nationality of staff and by region. I think that will provide the Council and its members, and the facilitation, with a very good basis for arriving at the actual decision they wish to take at the end of this session.

Scientific Advisory Board

86. Allow me lastly to move on to matters related to the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), I would like to inform the Council that, in accordance with the relevant decision of the Conference of States Parties at its Fourteenth Session (C-14/DEC.9, dated 2 December 2009) and the terms of reference of the SAB, I have extended the term of office of five members for one year and of another five members for two years. The term of office of a further six members will come to an end in 2010.
87. A call for nominations will be issued after this session of the Council, requesting States Parties to nominate candidates for those six vacancies. Some States Parties have indicated that they would wish to retain the candidates they had nominated in 2009 for the selection process in 2010. The curricula vitae of these candidates will also be considered.
88. I would also like to report to the Council that, during its next session, which will take place from 12 to 14 April, the SAB will address the question of applications of nanomaterials and nanotechnology in drug delivery, as well as the applications of molecularly imprinted polymers, with a view to assessing their possible impact on the Convention.
89. I hope that the Member States will respond favourably to my call for voluntary contributions to the SAB, which is to be circulated after the closing of the current session of the Council, in order to assist with the continuation of the important work of this body. I would like to draw the attention of the Council Members to the fact that, based on the operating rules of the trust fund, the Technical Secretariat may also accept contributions from non-governmental organisations, institutions, or private donors.

Mr Chairperson,

90. This concludes my report. I wish the Council a successful session.