



OPCW

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**OPENING STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL
TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AT ITS SIXTY-FIRST SESSION**

[Original: French]

Mr Chairperson,
Distinguished colleagues,

1. I welcome you all to the Sixty-First Session of the Executive Council, which is being led by our new Chairperson, Ambassador Jean-François Blarel of France. Host to the ceremony marking the opening for signature of the Chemical Weapons Convention in January 1993, France's commitment to the Convention has remained strong and unwavering and I am sure that Ambassador Blarel, with his experience and renowned diplomatic skills, will add to this worthy legacy. I assure him of the full support of the Technical Secretariat in his important duties and wish him every success.

[Original: English]

2. I will start my general presentation of the work of the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation, referring first of all to verification.

Chemical demilitarisation and verification

3. The aggregate amount of Category 1 chemical weapons destroyed by the possessor States as at 22 June 2010 reached 41,459 metric tonnes, or the equivalent of 59.72% of the total declared quantity of this category of chemical weapons. Possessor States have therefore crossed another important threshold, by coming close to eliminating 60% of their declared stockpiles. I warmly welcome this development, which reflects the firm determination of the possessor States to fulfil their destruction obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention. The aggregate amount of Category 2 chemical weapons destroyed to date has slightly increased to 919.931 metric tonnes, or 52.09% of the total declared amount.
4. By 22 June 2010, the Russian Federation had destroyed 47.72% of its chemical weapons stockpiles. Currently, chemical weapons destruction in this State Party is ongoing at three facilities, namely at Shchuchye, Leonidovka, and Maradykovsky.
5. Following the completion of the destruction of rocket warheads filled with sarin, the Shchuchye facility commenced the destruction of another type of artillery munitions, also sarin-filled, at the end of May.



6. The Leonidovka chemical weapons destruction facility (CWDF) has completed the destruction of sarin-filled aerial bombs and Vx-filled modules. Current activities on site involve the incineration of the drained reaction mass and the experimental processing of Vx-filled aerial bombs in preparation for the commencement of full-scale operations involving the destruction of this type of munitions.
7. At Maradykovsky, destruction operations are currently addressing the processing of aerial bombs filled with a mustard/lewisite mixture. Furthermore, the incineration of the reaction mass from the previous Vx campaign has been completed, whilst the incineration of the reaction mass from the sarin campaign is on hold at the moment, as are the thermal treatment and mutilation of the metal parts remaining from the Vx campaign.
8. Following its phase-by-phase approach with respect to the construction and commissioning of its CWDFs, the Russian Federation has increased its efforts, with a view to commencing destruction operations at new facilities. In this respect, the Secretariat has recently concluded a final engineering review of the CWDF located at Pohep, Bryanskaya Oblast, the construction of which is currently approaching completion. On this occasion, the Secretariat and the Russian authorities were able to discuss and agree on the necessary procedures to allow for the verification of chemical destruction at this facility. The related documents—the agreed detailed plan for verification and the facility agreement—have been finalised and are now before the Council for its consideration and approval (EC-61/DEC/CRP.6 and EC-61/DEC/CRP.7, both dated 2 June 2010).
9. For its part, the United States of America has been successful in its efforts to improve the rate of destruction and, as at 22 June 2010, had destroyed approximately 74.61% of its declared stockpiles. Four destruction facilities—at Anniston, Pine Bluff, Tooele, and Umatilla—are currently operating and are now in the final stages of their mustard agent campaigns. As reported by United States officials, in spite of various challenges, all presently operating facilities are on track to complete the destruction of their stockpiles before April 2012.
10. The members of the Council are aware, as informed by the Russian delegation yesterday during the informal consultations, that the Russian Federation now estimates that it will complete the destruction of its chemical weapons stockpiles by 2015. Thus the two major possessor States, the United States of America and the Russian Federation, have now confirmed that they will not be able to meet the 29 April 2012 deadline.
11. On my part, I wish to add that given the excellent track record and firm commitment to the implementation of the Convention consistently shown by the Russian Federation and by the United States of America, the key goal of achieving the total and irreversible destruction of their declared stockpiles is, in my view, not in question. Indeed, both these countries have consistently shown their resolve to abide by their commitments under the Convention and I for one have no doubt that they will continue to stay on track.
12. Moreover, it is important to fully comprehend the magnitude of their undertaking, given the large quantities of highly toxic chemicals that still need to be eliminated.

Priority considerations of safety in handling such chemicals, while also protecting the environment through containment of toxicity, demand massive amounts of financial resources to build and operate sophisticated facilities for the destruction of chemical weapons.

13. The issue of meeting the obligation of completing destruction by the deadline established under the Convention is currently being considered by the Council. Given the culture of consensus building in the OPCW I have no doubt that, solemn and important as the matter of the Treaty date undeniably is, the Council will deal with this very important matter in a balanced, constructive and forward-looking manner.
14. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has destroyed all of its Category 3 chemical weapons and 555.71 metric tonnes, or 39.64%, of its Category 2 chemical weapons. In the second half of April, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya commenced the destruction of two chemical weapons precursors at the Ruwagha Hydrolysis and Neutralisation System. However, new technical challenges prevented the continuation of such operations and, as a result, after a few trials involving 4.4 metric tonnes of phosphorous trichloride, destruction operations were terminated and the OPCW inspection team was withdrawn as from the beginning of May. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, whilst reaffirming its commitment to complete the destruction of all its declared chemical weapons by the deadline of 15 May 2011 established by the Conference at its Fourteenth Session, informed the members of the Council during the Chairperson's informal consultations yesterday that it will seek the Council's approval for the revision of the intermediate deadlines for the destruction of its Category 1 chemical weapons stockpiles.
15. Finally, I would like to underscore the fact that the Secretariat recently conducted a new round of consultations with the representatives of Iraq with a view to assisting this State Party in clarifying remaining matters regarding its initial declaration. At the same time, I wish to express my appreciation for the efforts made by this State Party in the face of difficult circumstances. In a recent meeting with H.E. Dr Saad Al-Ali, the new Permanent Representative of Iraq, we had a fruitful exchange of views and I was reassured of Iraq's firm commitment to meet its destruction obligations under the Convention and also, more specifically, its determination to finalise its initial declaration so that the statutory initial inspection can take place.

Old and abandoned chemical weapons

16. On the issue of old chemical weapons (OCWs), I wish to report to the Council that, during the intersessional period, the Secretariat conducted two inspections at two OCW sites. While destruction operations have made considerable progress at many of the locations, recoveries continue as well. In addition, in the area of abandoned chemical weapons (ACWs), since the last session of the Council, the Secretariat has conducted two inspections—during one mission—at two ACW sites in China.
17. I am pleased to inform the Council that the Secretariat, China, and Japan have agreed and finalised a detailed plan for verification and an arrangement for the destruction at the Abandoned Chemical Weapons Mobile Destruction Facility of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China. These documents, finalised during a trilateral meeting that took place in Tokyo on 25 and 26 May 2010, have been

circulated to the Council for its review and consideration (EC-61/DEC/CRP.8 and EC-61/DEC/CRP.9, both dated 14 June 2010). I wish to commend the spirit of cooperation, transparency, and openness that marked the trilateral meeting and which facilitated progress in many areas of interest to the participants. Whilst no destruction of these weapons has taken place to date, commencement of destruction operations is planned for the third quarter of this year, and we very much look forward to that.

Chemical weapons production facilities

18. Among the 21 chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) certified as converted, five require a decision by the Council on the continuation of the verification regime after the 10-year period of certification of completion of conversion has expired. At the end of this year, there will be seven CWPFs requiring such a decision, one of which is producing chemicals relevant to the Chemical Weapons Convention. Consultations on this matter, facilitated by Ambassador Pieter de Savornin Lohman of the Netherlands, are ongoing.
19. In the intersessional period, the Secretariat also issued certificates of completion of conversion for two former CWPFs in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Inspectorate

20. The Inspectorate completed the first phase of training of the latest intake of inspectors on 7 May 2010. Known as "Group K", 30 inspectors successfully completed an intensive course, including live chemical agent training, speciality training, an introduction to challenge inspections and investigations of alleged use, and a mock inspection module. After further on-the-job training, they will become fully fledged inspectors in early July. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the governments of Belgium, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Serbia, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for providing valuable assistance in the training of these new inspectors.

Declarations: timely submissions

21. Moving on to declarations, I would like to note that, at the Sixtieth Session of the Council, I provided a Note reporting on the timely submission of declarations for the previous calendar year (EC-59/DG.8, dated 29 January 2010). I also provided on that occasion a verbal update on the timeliness of submissions during the most recent declaration round, for the annual declarations of past activities (ADPAs) for 2009. This information has been provided to you for your consideration in Note EC-61/DG.11, (dated 11 June 2010), which covers the period from 1 January to 31 May 2010. I wish to take this opportunity to urge all States Parties to continue to make every effort to ensure that declarations are submitted on time.

Electronic declarations

22. At the last session, I indicated that the recent declaration round had seen a significant increase in the number of States Parties submitting declarations in electronic format. Furthermore, the number of plant sites declared electronically had risen from about 65% of the declared sites to about 88%.

23. Based on lessons learned during the most recent declaration round, the Secretariat has released a revised version of the electronic declarations software, namely EDNA version 2. This is available on the OPCW extranet, and all existing EDNA users have been informed directly by e-mail.
24. The Secretariat has also organised a user-group forum, which will be held this coming Thursday, to allow users to exchange information on and experience with electronic declarations. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those States Parties that have responded to the questionnaire issued in advance of this session. The information gathered will help the Secretariat in shaping future support to States Parties in this joint undertaking.

Handling of confidential information

25. Turning now to the way in which the Secretariat handles confidential information in the long term, I wish to draw the attention of the members of the Council to the Note by the Secretariat, EC-61/S/3 (dated 21 May 2010). It is evident that the Secretariat cannot indefinitely retain all the confidential information it receives. To address this issue, I have put in place policies and procedures that deal with the design and implementation of retention schedules for records held by the Organisation. The Note provides an overview of the Secretariat's approach to this issue. Because of the number and variety of confidential records held by the Secretariat, the design and implementation of retention schedules form an integral part of our long-term programme for the management and control of our records, which is carried out in line with applicable best practices, international standards, and our own Policy on Confidentiality.

Non-proliferation and industry inspections

26. With respect to industry inspections, we remain on track with the conduct of Article VI inspections, even though flight cancellations due to the volcanic ash emissions earlier in the year led to the postponement of three inspections. So far this year, 108 inspections have been completed, representing 52% of the 208 provided for in the Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2010.
27. In total, 39 inspections have been carried out since the last session of the Council. This figure comprises four inspections at Schedule 1 facilities; nine at Schedule 2 plant sites, two of which have been conducted with sampling and analysis; seven at Schedule 3 plant sites; and 19 at other chemical production facilities, or OCPFs. All of these inspections have been carried out smoothly, thanks to the excellent cooperation of the States Parties concerned.
28. On another related matter, currently 50 States Parties accept sequential inspections. Of the States Parties that received five or more inspections in 2009, only five do not allow sequential inspections. With a view to encouraging further acceptance of this type of inspection for Article VI facilities, I would like to stress that the Secretariat remains flexible in taking account of the specific requirements of the States Parties concerned. Allow me to recall that the conduct of sequential inspections has no impact on the number of inspections a State Party receives annually.

Verification Implementation Report

29. On 15 June, the Chairperson of the Council held informal consultations on the 2009 Verification Implementation Report (VIR); his summary is now before you as document EC-61/2, dated 25 June 2010. A corrigendum to the VIR will be issued during the course of this week. I am indeed pleased by the appreciation with which the 2009 VIR has been received by all of you.

Challenge-inspection field exercise

30. Thailand will co-organise the next OPCW challenge-inspection field exercise. This exercise is planned to take place in the second half of 2011 within the framework of the European Union's Council Decision 2009/569/CFSP on support for OPCW activities. This is the first time that a challenge-inspection field exercise will be held in the Asian region, and only for the second time outside the Western European and Other States Group (WEOG) region. I would like to thank the Government of Thailand for its interest in and commitment to the Organisation's efforts to maintain the Secretariat's preparedness to conduct a challenge inspection.

Optimisation and quality review of inspections

31. Significant efforts have been made in the past year to optimise verification activities, particularly at destruction facilities. The Secretariat will continue its work in this area. Building on this experience, I have initiated a programme for an independent quality review of all other types of facilities over a period of three years. This will involve a handful of inspections every year, in which Secretariat staff members will act as observers.

International cooperation and assistance

Assistance and protection

32. In the area of assistance and protection, the Technical Secretariat has organised international courses for first responders in collaboration with the Governments of Brazil, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Korea, Serbia, Slovakia, and Switzerland.
33. National courses on protection against chemical weapons for first responders were also conducted in Sri Lanka and Yemen, as well as in Mexico in preparation for the 2011 Pan American Games. In the framework of the OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa (the Africa Programme) and as part of the preparation of the African teams participating in the third OPCW exercise on the delivery of assistance (ASSISTEX 3) in October this year, the Secretariat has also conducted a regional capacity-building training course on the delivery of assistance for East African States, which was held in Píbram, the Czech Republic. Furthermore, the Secretariat held a regional emergency-response training course for West African States, in Dakar, Senegal, at the beginning of June. These regional events were supported by the Governments of the Czech Republic, Norway, and Switzerland.

34. To maintain the Secretariat's readiness to deliver assistance, in-house Assistance Coordination Assessment Team (ACAT) basic training for new inspectors was conducted with the technical support of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; in addition, training for selected qualified experts pursuant to Part XI of the Verification Annex to the Convention was held at OPCW Headquarters in May. Preparations for the aforementioned ASSISTEX 3 exercise have also continued apace, and the final planning meeting prior to the exercise in October will take place in Tunis, Tunisia, from 6 to 8 July.

International cooperation

35. In the area of international cooperation, preparations for the Associate Programme 2010 are now fully under way. The Programme, which has been expanded to accommodate 28 participants, is to commence on 22 July.
36. A number of other important activities have been carried out under the various programmes in support of OPCW's international-cooperation activities. This includes support for nine conferences, two courses on laboratory- and analytical-skills enhancement at the Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons (VERIFIN), and a basic course on analytical-skills development for practising chemists from the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) region that was held at the Laboratorio de Verificación, LAVEMA, of the Instituto Tecnológico La Marañosa in Madrid, Spain in June 2010. This course was the first of its kind and was made possible through a generous voluntary contribution from the Government of Spain.
37. Under the OPCW Internship Support Programme, China has made a second generous offer under the Africa Programme to support two six-month internships in the field of chemical engineering at the Beijing University of Chemical Technology.
38. A seminar on chemical-safety management will be held here at the OPCW on 5 and 6 July in the context of the European Union's Council Decision 2009.

Implementation support

39. A total of seven activities have been conducted by the Technical Secretariat in the field of implementation support since my last report to the Executive Council.
40. A training course for national inspection escorts for the National Authority of Portugal was held in May in Lisbon, Portugal. Two technical-assistance visits were undertaken to Mozambique and Namibia under the auspices of the Africa Programme, and with financial support from the European Union.
41. Implementation support programmes also included a training course for customs, licensing, and border authorities in Eastern Europe, which was held in Prague, the Czech Republic. The Ninth Regional Meeting of National Authorities in Eastern Europe and the Eleventh Regional Meeting of National Authorities of GRULAC countries were held in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, respectively. In June, the Secretariat also conducted an advanced training course for personnel from National Authorities in Asia, which was held in Singapore.

42. The task force established by the International Cooperation and Assistance Division to further develop the Organisation's cooperation with the African Union is in the process of evaluating the first phase of the Africa Programme. The results of its work will be submitted to the Executive Council at its next session.
43. At this stage, I wish once more to acknowledge the support provided by the Member States and the European Union for the Secretariat's international cooperation and assistance activities in the implementation of the Convention. Such valuable support has successfully complemented the Secretariat's work and has resulted in its activities having a greater benefit for the Member States concerned.

Implementation of Article VII

44. As regards national implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention, Cambodia has recently informed the Secretariat of the adoption of its implementing legislation, thus making its first submission under paragraph 5 of Article VII. The number of such submissions received to date has, therefore, risen to 132. A further nine States Parties have provided updates to their previous submissions.
45. In addition, the Secretariat has continued to provide tailor-made legal assistance to States Parties, upon their request, and progress continues to be registered on the development of legislative and administrative measures to implement the Convention.

Universality and external relations

46. During the intersessional period, the Secretariat has sustained its efforts to achieve universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention.
47. The Secretariat continues the practice of sponsoring representatives of States not Party to attend relevant OPCW events, using these occasions to advocate their joining the Convention. Following the participation of Egyptian representatives in an OPCW course in Uganda, on which I have already reported to the Council, Myanmar has nominated two representatives to take part in an assistance and protection course to be held in Beijing, China, in July.
48. Universality also featured in the programme of the seminar on "The OPCW's Contribution to the International Security Dimension: Achievements and Challenges", which the OPCW, with the financial support of the European Union, hosted in Berlin, Germany, in early June.
49. Thanks to the strong support of the host government and the very positive response, which brought over 120 participants, this important event was a notable success. In addition to the representatives of States Parties and three States not Party, international and regional organisations, NGOs, chemical industry, and the United Nations were represented and contributed to the proceedings. It is my hope that sustaining efforts of this kind will continue to ensure the necessary political support for the Convention around the world, while also providing opportunities to assess our work and our challenges in a true perspective.

50. The fact that our work now finds wider recognition in the international community is also evident from the Final Document of the successful 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) that concluded in New York last month. In its conclusions and recommendations covering the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, the 2010 Review Conference endorsed a number of steps to be taken. One such step was to request the OPCW and other relevant international organisations to prepare background documentation for a conference—expected to be convened in 2012—“regarding modalities for a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, taking into account work previously undertaken and experience gained”. I have no doubt that the OPCW has a major contribution to make in this field.
51. Since the last session of the Council, I have myself visited a number of States Parties in connection with OPCW activities or international conferences, which also offered an opportunity for me to hold fruitful meetings with representatives of the host countries. In the month of May, I travelled to Bosnia and Herzegovina to open the meeting of National Authorities of States Parties from Eastern Europe; I also travelled to the Czech Republic, on the occasion of the 13th International Chemical Weapons Disarmament Conference; as well as to Switzerland, where I addressed the Eighth International Chemical and Biological Medical Treatment Symposium. In June, I visited Berlin in connection with the seminar on the OPCW’s contribution to the international security dimension, which I have mentioned earlier. On that occasion, I also had the opportunity to address the 27th International Workshop on Global Security.
52. In May, I travelled to Italy too, where I addressed a round-table meeting on non-proliferation-related questions and also had the great honour of receiving an honorary doctorate in industrial chemistry from the University of Bologna. I have to say that I see this prestigious award as an expression also of the University’s strong support for the goals of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and as a tribute both to the OPCW and to our daily efforts towards a world in which chemistry is used and developed exclusively for peaceful purposes. Furthermore, I would like to express my gratitude to the Clingendael Institute for having invited me to deliver a farewell speech at the beginning of June.
53. Lastly, I wish to report to the Council that last week I travelled to New York to bid farewell to Mr Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations. In our meeting, we discussed the contribution of the OPCW to international peace and security as well as the growing importance that the international community attaches to our work. The Secretary-General assured me of his continued support for the Organisation.

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

54. Turning now to aspects related to the OPCW’s contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts, I welcome the endeavours of the facilitator of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism, Mr Mike Byers of Australia, to develop further the OPCW’s

work in this area. On its part, the Secretariat will continue to provide full support to the working group.

55. The table-top exercise on which I had reported to the Members of the Council at its last session and which was scheduled to take place from 13 to 14 September 2010 in Poland has been postponed, and will now take place on 22 and 23 November 2010. A Note has been issued which provides the outline of and the concept behind the exercise, together with an invitation to participate in the preparatory meeting for the exercise (S/853/2010, dated 28 June 2010).

Administrative and financial matters

56. Moving to administrative and financial issues, first of all I am glad to note that the External Auditor, who introduced his own report earlier today and to whom I am very grateful for the work done, has placed an unqualified audit opinion on the OPCW's and the Provident Fund's financial statements for the period ending 31 December 2009 (EC-61/DG.9 C-15/DG.4, dated 7 June 2010).
57. As I mentioned, I wish to express my appreciation to the External Auditor and his team for the support and advice that they have provided to the Organisation. We will carefully review and assess their findings and recommendations, which will help to further improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the OPCW's operations.
58. As at 28 June 2010, 91.9% of the annual contributions for 2010 had been collected, as compared to only 64.1% by the same date last year. This is, of course, a very significant improvement. Nevertheless, I wish once again to encourage States Parties that have not yet done so, to do their utmost to pay their dues at the earliest and in full. The lack of payment on time by some Member States is indeed the subject of some reflections by the External Auditor, to which I fully subscribe.
59. The Secretariat maintains its commitment to implement 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 States Parties at its Fourteenth Session. The Council has received a Note by the Technical Secretariat on the status of implementation of IPSAS, which reports on progress during the second quarter of 2010 (EC-61/S/2, dated 27 May 2010). The Council has also received, for its consideration and approval, the proposed amendments to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the OPCW (EC-61/DG.7, dated 27 May 2010; Corr.1, dated 17 June 2010; and Corr.2, dated 29 June 2010; and EC-61/DEC/CRP.4, dated 27 May 2010; Corr.1, dated 17 June 2010; and Corr.2, dated 29 June 2010) in the context of the legal adoption and implementation of IPSAS.
60. In addition, the OPCW's accounting policies are being refined on an ongoing basis. The Secretariat is on track to implement IPSAS during 2010, in parallel with the current accounting framework. This will facilitate preparations for the OPCW to adopt IPSAS for the financial period starting next year. Further updates on this matter will be provided to the Council at its remaining 2010 session.

Draft Programme and Budget for 2011 and Medium-Term Plan for 2011 to 2013

61. Last week, Mr Chairperson, I had the pleasure of presenting informally the Draft 2011 Programme and Budget for the consideration of all Member States. This document is on the Council's agenda for the current session (EC-61/CRP.2, dated 24 June 2010). At this stage, I will only refer to some of the points I raised then.
62. First of all, the proposed budget for 2011, in the amount of EUR 74.6 million, provides for all core objectives of the OPCW and does so within a zero nominal growth budget as compared to 2010. I hope this will be viewed as a considerable achievement, which reflects the continued focus within the Secretariat on the efficient management of our financial and human resources. At the same time, I wish to underline once again that such a result can only be obtained if Member States pay their assessed contributions in full and on time.
63. I would note overall that Chapter One activities would, as proposed, receive 50.01% of the total resources for the 2011 Programme and Budget, while Chapter Two activities would receive 49.99% of them.
64. I would note also that the resources proposed for allocating to the International Cooperation and Assistance Programme constitute 8.1% of the total resources, which represents the same apportionment as for the 2010 Programme and Budget. However, excluding the resources in the amount of EUR 180,000 allocated on a one-off basis, specifically for ASSISTEX 3, under the 2010 Programme and Budget, the resources allocated to International Cooperation and Assistance under the Draft 2011 Programme and Budget represent an increase of three percent as compared to the 2010 approved budget.
65. In relation to industry inspections, the Draft 2011 Programme and Budget provides for two additional Article VI inspections, reflecting a total of 210 such inspections. This level of 210, as well as their distribution, is identical to the proposal I made when presenting the 2010 Draft Programme and Budget. The general cost for Member States in annual contributions will be EUR 68,368,500, reflecting an increase of 0.59% compared to 2010. This increase is to be understood as a consequence of altered assumptions in regard to Article IV and V activities and the consequent adjustment of the Verification Programme income.
66. Finally, I wish to mention that, as part of the continued results-based budgeting enhancement, the timeline for the submission of the 2009 programme performance report has been revised, in order to allow for programme managers to draw on the lessons learned from the previous year and factor those in when preparing the Programme and Budget for 2011. Let me also say that the Secretariat continues to move towards results-based management.

Personnel matters

67. Following the request by the Executive Council at its Fifty-Eighth Session concerning Interim Staff Rule 9.4.02 and my response to the Council in my opening statement at its Fifty-Ninth Session (EC-59/DG.16, dated 23 February 2010), the Council decided

to request that I refer the draft decision and its explanatory note to the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF).

68. Thereafter, at its Twenty-Eighth Session, the ABAF recommended that the Council approve the revision of Interim Staff Rules 9.4.02 and 5.1.01(c) (ABAF-28/1, dated 3 June 2010). The Secretariat proceeds from the understanding that the transitional approach as referred to in paragraph 3.2 of the ABAF report on its Twenty-Eighth Session is the same as the transitional measures proposed in the Note that I addressed to the ABAF on the subject of commutation of annual leave upon separation.
69. Subsequent to the ABAF session and as requested by the Council, a draft decision on the amendment of OPCW Interim Staff Rules 9.4.02 and 5.1.01(c) has been prepared and submitted separately for the approval of the Council (EC-61/DEC/CRP.12, dated 25 June 2010). As well as consulting the Staff Council at an earlier stage, I have, subsequent to receipt of the ABAF report, consulted the Joint Advisory Board. I have done so in accordance with the statutory requirements of Interim Staff Rule 8.1.02(b). The Joint Advisory Board's interim response has been included as Annex 2 of the Note containing my comments to the ABAF report. The matter now rests in your hands.

Composition of the Technical Secretariat

70. Pursuant to its decision at its Sixtieth Session, the Council will also be considering further a draft decision on provision of information on the composition of the Secretariat. We look forward to that decision and the Secretariat will, of course, oblige.

Scientific Advisory Board (SAB)

71. In response to the call for nominations to replace the departing members of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), 16 States Parties have nominated 27 candidates, including eight female candidates. Three of these nominations came from States Parties of the African Group, 14 from States Parties of the Asian Group, two from States Parties of the Eastern European Group, one from GRULAC States Parties, and seven from WEOG States Parties. The selection process is currently under way.
72. As the Members of the Council are already aware, the funding of the activities of the Scientific Advisory Board depends significantly on the voluntary contributions that States Parties may wish to provide. In this regard, I wish to express my appreciation to Chile for its financial contribution to this endeavour, which, added to the amount remaining in the trust fund, will allow for a meeting of the temporary working group on sampling and analysis in November 2010. Member States, as well as other entities mentioned in the operating rules for the trust fund for the SAB, are kindly encouraged to respond favourably to the call for voluntary contributions to this important body, thus allowing for the convening of an additional session of the SAB in 2010.

Mr Chairperson,

73. Our Organisation is inspired by a noble cause and has an important mission to fulfil. Its efficiency and credibility are indispensable for the strengthening of international peace and security. It is, therefore, with great satisfaction that I see the OPCW's high standing in the multilateral world, and this was expressly confirmed by the United Nations Secretary-General only last Monday.
74. In that context, as we all know, on 24 July I will conclude my tenure as Director-General of the OPCW. I have felt extremely privileged to have occupied this position during two consecutive terms, and take pride in having been part of the process that has led to the good reputation enjoyed today by the OPCW.
75. As I take my leave, I will forever remain grateful to the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and to their representatives for their trust and constant support, and indeed to you, distinguished delegates.
76. I am equally grateful to all my colleagues in the Technical Secretariat, whose professionalism, technical excellence, honesty, and loyalty deserve the highest commendation. I would like to mention in particular Mr John Freeman, the Deputy Director-General, who has played a key role in ensuring the effectiveness of the Secretariat, as well as all the other top managers, who I will not name now but who you all know, the Branch Heads, the professional and general staff, and last, but not least, my Chief of Cabinet, Mr Richard Ekwall. I am also indebted to several former members of the Secretariat, including Mr Brian Hawtin and Mr Rafael Grossi.
77. Finally, I wish all the very best to the OPCW and also to my successor, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, who, I am sure, will guide the OPCW to yet higher achievements.
78. Let the ethos of consensus continue to inspire your deliberations; let success crown your work.
79. Again, Mr Chairperson, thank you and goodbye.

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