

**NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL****STATUS REPORT ON TIMELY SUBMISSION BY STATES PARTIES OF
DECLARATIONS UNDER ARTICLE VI OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS
CONVENTION FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 MAY 2016****1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This Note, which is being submitted to the Executive Council for consideration at its Eighty-Second Session, provides an update to the information and analysis related to the implementation by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) and States Parties of the decision “Timely Submission by States Parties of Declarations under Article VI of the Convention” (EC-51/DEC.1, dated 27 November 2007); it covers the period from 1 January to 31 May 2016.¹
- 1.2 In response to the above-mentioned decision, which requires “all States Parties to meet their obligations regarding annual declarations in a timely manner”, the Secretariat sent further notes verbales to all Member States (NV/VER/DEB/202548/16, dated 3 February 2016) reminding them of the requirements of the decision and of the deadline for submission of annual declarations on past activities (ADPA) for the year 2015.
- 1.3 The decision also requests the Secretariat “to make its requirements known at regional meetings and at any other venues that the Secretariat deems effective”. During the reporting period, the decision was highlighted at four events: two regional meetings of National Authorities (in Asia and Eastern Europe), and two training courses for representatives of National Authorities on fulfilling Article VI obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention (in The Hague and Qatar). Furthermore, the Secretariat has held several bilateral meetings with Permanent Representatives and National Authorities to highlight the importance of the timely submission of declarations, and has conducted continuous follow-ups via email and telephone to resolve pending issues related to declarations.

¹

Previous Notes on this topic are EC-53/DG.8, dated 5 June 2008; EC-55/DG.12, dated 5 February 2009; EC-57/DG.8, dated 11 June 2009 and Corr.1, dated 18 June 2009; EC-59/DG.8, dated 29 January 2010; EC-61/DG.11, dated 11 June 2010; EC-63/DG.5, dated 18 January 2011; EC-65/DG.8*, dated 27 June 2011; EC-67/DG.4, dated 19 January 2012; EC-69/DG.7, dated 18 June 2012 and Corr.1, dated 10 July 2012; EC-71/DG.7, dated 23 January 2013; EC-73/DG.6, dated 24 June 2013; EC-75/DG.1, dated 15 January 2014; EC-76/DG.10*, dated 11 June 2014; EC-78/DG.4, dated 12 January 2015; EC-79/DG.13, dated 11 June 2015; and EC-81/DG.4, dated 14 January 2016.



2. Submission of initial declarations under Article VI

During the reporting period, the Secretariat received two initial declarations from Kiribati on 3 February 2016, and Angola on 23 May 2016. Kiribati submitted its outstanding initial declaration after 15 years. This achievement has been the result of the joint effort of the Permanent Representation and the National Authority of those States Parties together with the initiative taken by the Secretariat to provide customized support to States Parties to resolve their outstanding issues. As at 31 May 2016, only one State Party, Tonga, had yet to submit its initial declarations under Article VI. During the reporting period, the Secretariat continued to send reminder emails to Tonga and will continue to work with this State Party towards the submission of its outstanding initial declarations. The current status of the submission of outstanding initial declarations is detailed in Annex 1.

3. Submission of annual declarations under Article VI

- 3.1 The deadline for the submission of ADPA for 2015 was 30 March 2016. As at that date, the Secretariat had received ADPA for 2015 from 82 States Parties, including three States Parties that notified the Secretariat that they had no declarable facilities or activities (“nil declarations”).² An additional 11 States Parties submitted declarable facilities or activities for ADPA 2015 after 30 March 2016, and two more States Parties notified the Secretariat that they had no declarable facilities or activities under the Verification Annex to the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Verification Annex”).
- 3.2 As at 31 May 2016, a total of 90 States Parties submitted declarations for declarable facilities or activities for 2015. Of the 90 States Parties, 79 (88%) were on time in submitting at least part of their declaration. The current status of submissions of ADPA for 2015 is detailed in Annexes 2 and 3 to this report.
- 3.3 The deadlines for the submission of ADAA for 2016 were 2 October 2015 (for Schedule 1 facilities) and 1 November 2015 (for Schedule 2 and 3 plant sites). Since the Eighty-First Session of the Executive Council, there has been no change in the number of States Parties that have declared activities and facilities for 2016. However, during the reporting period, one additional State Party submitted nil ADAA 2016 for Schedule 1, Schedule 2, and Schedule 3 facilities.
- 3.4 Subparagraph 2(b) of EC-51/DEC.1 states that “each State Party that has indicated in its initial declaration that it does not have any declarable activities under Article VI of the Convention, but which now finds that it has declarable activities taking place within its territory, [is requested] to submit the relevant annual declarations no later than 30 March 2008 and, in subsequent years, by the appropriate deadlines”. None of the States Parties that had submitted annual declarations for 2015 specified that they were subject to the provisions of subparagraph 2(b).
- 3.5 Paragraph 4 of EC-51/DEC.1 states that “States Parties that anticipate difficulties in regard to the timely submission of their declarations in accordance with the deadlines

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Although the submission of “nil declarations” is not a requirement of the Chemical Weapons Convention, a number of States Parties choose to provide the Secretariat with that information voluntarily.

in the Convention [are requested] to inform the Secretariat at the earliest possible date of the circumstances of such difficulties”. Of the 11 States Parties that submitted at least part of their ADPA after the deadline (excluding nil declarations), four States Parties (36 %) submitted information to that effect, thus meeting the requirements specified in this paragraph of the decision. The remaining seven did not do so.

3.6 Previous Notes issued by the Secretariat (see footnote 1 above) identified five reasons given by States Parties for missing the deadlines for the submission of their declarations:

- (a) difficulties with drafting and/or obtaining approval for the required legislation or establishing implementation measures;
- (b) difficulties with identifying declarable activities;
- (c) difficulties with collecting data;
- (d) difficulties with preparing declarations; and
- (e) logistical difficulties in regard to the transmission of declarations to the Secretariat.

3.7 Of the four States Parties that informed the Secretariat of the circumstances leading to the delays in submission of their ADPA, all four cited logistical difficulties (subparagraph 3.6(e) above) as the reason for late submissions.

4. Ongoing efforts to assist States Parties

4.1 As mentioned in paragraph 3.5 above, paragraph 4 of EC-51/DEC.1 indicates that States Parties that anticipate difficulties with submitting their declarations on time are requested to inform the Secretariat of that fact and whether they would welcome any assistance in this regard. During the reporting period, no State Party requested or indicated that it would welcome assistance from the Secretariat in order to meet its obligations on time.

4.2 The Secretariat continued its support to States Parties in using the new Secure Information Exchange (SIX) system for the exchange of confidential information in particular declarations. There are currently 61 users from 36 States Parties registered for the SIX. The system has already been used for the submission of ADPA for 2014 (by 15 States Parties), ADAA for 2016 (by 20 States Parties) and ADPA for 2015 (by 31 States Parties). Further details and updates regarding the system are available in the Notes by the Secretariat (S/1192/2014, dated 1 July 2014, and S/1327/2015, dated 13 November 2015). The SIX project team is available for questions from States Parties and can be contacted via email at six@opcw.org.

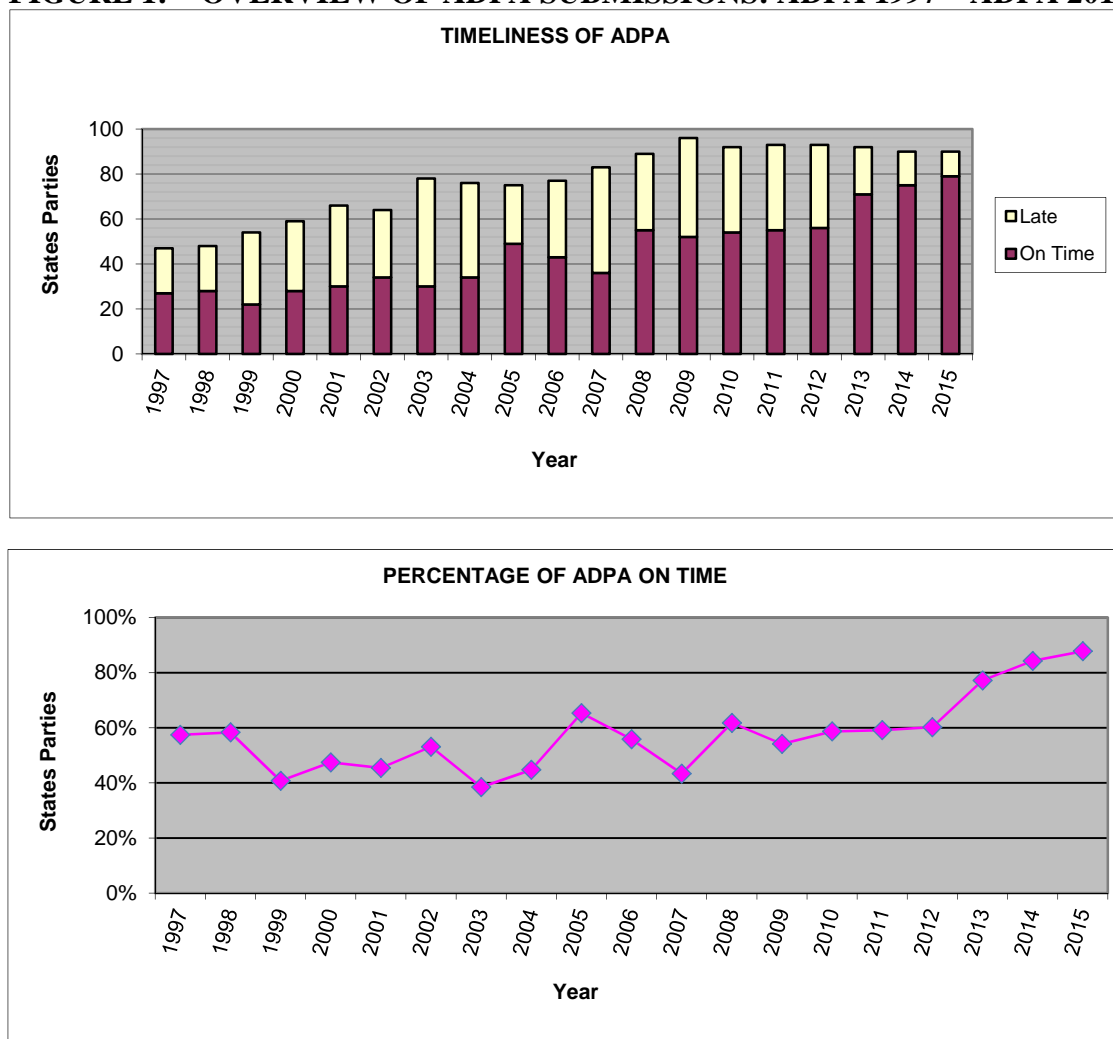
5. Analysis of trends in the timeliness of past ADPA³

5.1 Although the number of submissions received on time for the first declaration submitted after the approval of EC-51/DEC.1 (ADPA 2007) dropped in comparison to the previous year, for ADPA 2008 there was a significant improvement in the number

³ The numbers and percentages of States Parties in this section do not include submissions of “nil declarations”.

and percentage of submissions received on time, which was maintained for ADPA 2009, ADPA 2010, ADPA 2011, ADPA 2012, ADPA 2013, and ADPA 2014. For ADPA 2015, there was a significant increase in the number and percentage of submissions received on time, with 79 (88%) out of 90 States Parties submitting their ADPA on time, compared to 75 (83%) out of 90 for ADPA 2014. This is the highest number and percentage of declarations submitted on time since 1997. This improvement was achieved as a result of the commitment of the States Parties and continuous efforts made by the Secretariat to provide customised support and to continue reminding States Parties of their declaration obligations through various means, including bilateral consultations with Permanent Representatives and National Authorities, education and outreach at regional and subregional meetings, courses, seminars, and workshops, and continuous follow-ups via email and telephone. A timeline of ADPA submissions from 1997 to 2015 is shown in Figure 1 below.

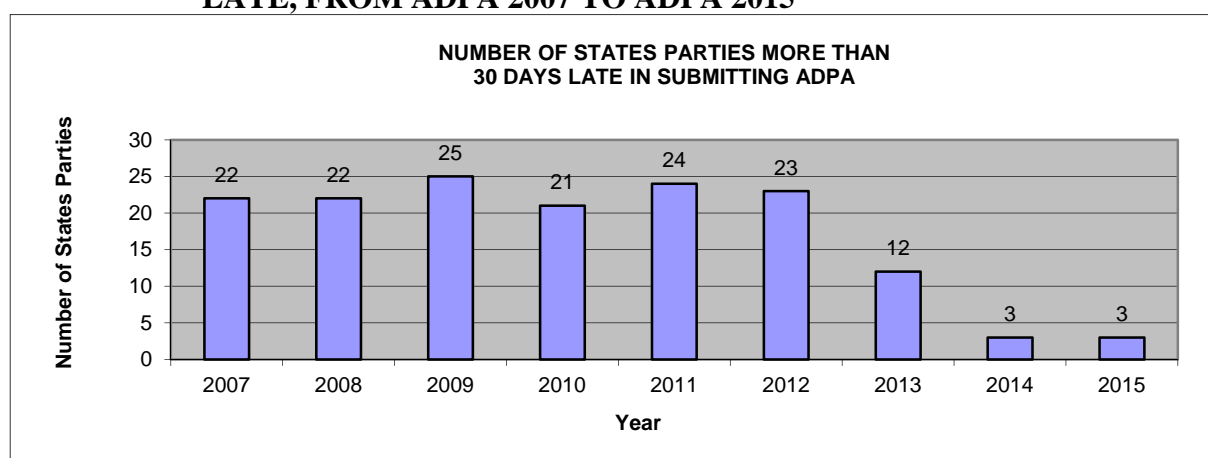
FIGURE 1: OVERVIEW OF ADPA SUBMISSIONS: ADPA 1997 – ADPA 2015



5.2 Although many States Parties are occasionally one or two days late in submitting their declarations, a number of States Parties are regularly several weeks or months late with their submissions.

- 5.3 Since early 2010, the Secretariat has held bilateral meetings with representatives of States Parties that have submitted annual declarations more than 30 days late at least twice since the approval of EC-51/DEC.1. These meetings are held specifically to stress the importance of timely submissions and to offer advice and assistance where needed. As the result of this initiative, two of the eight States Parties that fell into that category submitted their ADPA 2015 on time⁴.
- 5.4 As at 31 May 2016, three States Parties had submitted declarable activities for ADPA 2015 more than 30 days late. Of the three States Parties that submitted ADPA 2014 more than 30 days late, two submitted ADPA 2015 on time. The number of States Parties that submitted ADPA 2007 to ADPA 2015 more than 30 days late is shown in Figure 2 below.

FIGURE 2: OVERVIEW OF SUBMISSIONS THAT WERE MORE THAN 30 DAYS LATE, FROM ADPA 2007 TO ADPA 2015



- 5.5 The Secretariat will continue to monitor and report on the timeliness of submissions and to highlight this issue at every opportunity.

Annexes:

- Annex 1: Submission of Initial Declarations by States Parties under Article VI (as at 31 May 2016)
- Annex 2: Timely Submissions of Annual Declarations on Past Activities for 2015 (as at 30 March 2016)
- Annex 3: Additional Submissions of Annual Declarations on Past Activities for 2015 (as at 31 May 2016)

⁴ If the most recent ADPA is received on time, the State Party is removed from the list of late ADPA submitters.

Annex 1

**SUBMISSION OF INITIAL DECLARATIONS BY STATES PARTIES
UNDER ARTICLE VI
(AS AT 31 MAY 2016)**

	State Party	Due Date for Submission of Initial Declaration (EIF⁵ + 30 days)	Date of Submission of Initial Declaration
1.	Angola	15-Nov-15	23-May-16
2.	Kiribati	06-Nov-00	03-Feb-16
3.	Tonga	28-Jul-03	

⁵ EIF = entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Annex 2

**TIMELY SUBMISSIONS OF ANNUAL DECLARATIONS ON PAST ACTIVITIES FOR 2015
(AS AT 30 MARCH 2016)^{6, 7}**

	State Party	Schedule 1 Facilities	Schedule 1 Transfers	Schedule 2 Plant Sites	Schedule 2 AND	Schedule 3 Plant Sites	Schedule 3 AND	OCPF Update
1.	Algeria						18-Mar-16	18-Mar-16
2.	Argentina			29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16		29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16
3.	Armenia*	11-Feb-16*	11-Feb-16*	11-Feb-16*	11-Feb-16*	11-Feb-16*	11-Feb-16*	11-Feb-16*
4.	Australia	23-Mar-16		23-Mar-16	23-Mar-16	23-Mar-16	23-Mar-16	23-Mar-16
5.	Austria			29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16		29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16
6.	Bangladesh							16-Mar-16
7.	Belarus					30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16
8.	Belgium	17-Mar-16		23-Mar-16	23-Mar-16	23-Mar-16	23-Mar-16	23-Mar-16
9.	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)						30-Mar-16	
10.	Bulgaria			14-Mar-16	14-Mar-16		14-Mar-16	14-Mar-16
11.	Canada	15-Feb-16		04-Mar-16	04-Mar-16		04-Mar-16	04-Mar-16
12.	Chile						29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16
13.	China	29-Mar-16		14-Mar-16	14-Mar-16	14-Mar-16	14-Mar-16	14-Mar-16
14.	Costa Rica						25-Feb-16	25-Feb-16
15.	Croatia		30-Mar-16				30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16
16.	Cuba						29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16
17.	Cyprus							21-Mar-16
18.	Czech Republic	01-Feb-16	01-Feb-16	15-Mar-16	15-Mar-16	15-Mar-16	15-Mar-16	15-Mar-16
19.	Denmark			29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16		29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16
20.	Ecuador				23-Mar-16		23-Mar-16	23-Mar-16
21.	El Salvador	17-Mar-16*	17-Mar-16*	17-Mar-16*	17-Mar-16*		17-Mar-16	
22.	Estonia							30-Mar-16
23.	Ethiopia						29-Mar-16	
24.	Finland	22-Mar-16	22-Mar-16	22-Mar-16	22-Mar-16		22-Mar-16	22-Mar-16

⁶ States Parties that submitted ADPA for 2015 by the deadline.

⁷ Here and throughout, an asterisk denotes the submission of a “nil declaration”.

	State Party	Schedule 1 Facilities	Schedule 1 Transfers	Schedule 2 Plant Sites	Schedule 2 AND	Schedule 3 Plant Sites	Schedule 3 AND	OC PF Update
25.	France	05-Feb-16		18-Mar-16	18-Mar-16	18-Mar-16	18-Mar-16	18-Mar-16
26.	Georgia					15-Mar-16	15-Mar-16	15-Mar-16
27.	Germany		24-Mar-16	24-Mar-16	24-Mar-16	24-Mar-16	24-Mar-16	24-Mar-16
28.	Greece			29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16		29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16
29.	Guatemala						30-Mar-16	
30.	Hungary					29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16
31.	India	29-Mar-16		29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16
32.	Indonesia				14-Mar-16		14-Mar-16	
33.	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	18-Mar-16		18-Mar-16	18-Mar-16	18-Mar-16	18-Mar-16	18-Mar-16
34.	Iraq							30-Mar-16
35.	Ireland			23-Mar-16	23-Mar-16		23-Mar-16	23-Mar-16
36.	Italy			30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16
37.	Japan	11-Mar-16		30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16
38.	Kazakhstan					11-Feb-16	11-Feb-16	11-Feb-16
39.	Kenya						29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16
40.	Latvia			23-Feb-16	23-Feb-16			23-Feb-16
41.	Lebanon*	30-Mar-16*	30-Mar-16*	30-Mar-16*	30-Mar-16*	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16*	30-Mar-16*
42.	Lithuania						15-Mar-16	15-Mar-16
43.	Luxembourg				04-Mar-16		04-Mar-16	
44.	Malaysia				29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16
45.	Malta						23-Mar-16	
46.	Mauritius						17-Mar-16	
47.	Mexico			29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16
48.	Morocco						16-Mar-16	16-Mar-16
49.	Netherlands	30-Mar-16		30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16
50.	New Zealand						23-Mar-16	23-Mar-16
51.	Nigeria						29-Mar-16	
52.	Norway	17-Feb-16			17-Feb-16		17-Feb-16	17-Feb-16
53.	Pakistan	29-Mar-16					29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16
54.	Paraguay						30-Mar-16	

	State Party	Schedule 1 Facilities	Schedule 1 Transfers	Schedule 2 Plant Sites	Schedule 2 AND	Schedule 3 Plant Sites	Schedule 3 AND	OCPF Update
55.	Peru						30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16
56.	Poland			22-Mar-16	22-Mar-16	22-Mar-16	22-Mar-16	22-Mar-16
57.	Portugal		06-May-15		30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16
58.	Qatar						15-Mar-16	15-Mar-16
59.	Republic of Korea	23-Mar-16		29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16
60.	Romania				21-Mar-16		21-Mar-16	21-Mar-16
61.	Russian Federation			30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16
62.	Saudi Arabia					25-Mar-16	25-Mar-16	25-Mar-16
63.	Serbia	29-Mar-16			29-Mar-16		29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16
64.	Seychelles*	15-Mar-16*	15-Mar-16*	15-Mar-16*	15-Mar-16*	15-Mar-16	15-Mar-16*	15-Mar-16*
65.	Singapore	29-Mar-16			29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16
66.	Slovakia	29-Mar-16					23-Feb-16	23-Feb-16
67.	Slovenia			17-Mar-16	17-Mar-16		17-Mar-16	17-Mar-16
68.	Spain	22-Feb-16	22-Feb-16	17-Mar-16	17-Mar-16	17-Mar-16	17-Mar-16	17-Mar-16
69.	Sri Lanka						30-Mar-16	
70.	Sweden	14-Mar-16		14-Mar-16	14-Mar-16	14-Mar-16	14-Mar-16	14-Mar-16
71.	Switzerland	23-Mar-16	23-Mar-16	23-Mar-16	23-Mar-16	23-Mar-16	23-Mar-16	23-Mar-16
72.	Syrian Arab Republic						15-Feb-16	
73.	Thailand					29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16	29-Mar-16
74.	Turkey			30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16
75.	Ukraine			24-Mar-16	24-Mar-16	24-Mar-16	24-Mar-16	24-Mar-16
76.	United Arab Emirates						30-Mar-16	
77.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	18-Mar-16	18-Mar-16	18-Mar-16	18-Mar-16	18-Mar-16	18-Mar-16	18-Mar-16
78.	United States of America	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16
79.	Uruguay						15-Mar-16	15-Mar-16
80.	Uzbekistan					07-Mar-16	07-Mar-16	07-Mar-16
81.	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)						09-Mar-16	09-Mar-16
82.	Viet Nam						30-Mar-16	30-Mar-16

Annex 3

**ADDITIONAL SUBMISSIONS OF ANNUAL DECLARATIONS ON PAST ACTIVITIES FOR 2015
 (AS AT 31 MAY 2016)^{8,9}**

	State Party	Schedule 1 Facilities	Schedule 1 Transfers	Schedule 2 Plant Sites	Schedule 2 AND	Schedule 3 Plant Sites	Schedule 3 AND	OCPF Update	Notification of Difficulties¹⁰	Request for Assistance
1.	Azerbaijan							20-May-16	None submitted	None submitted
2.	Bahrain				11-May-16		11-May-16	11-May-16	(e)	None submitted
3.	Bosnia and Herzegovina						01-Apr-16	01-Apr-16	None submitted	None submitted
4.	Brazil					08-Apr-16	08-Apr-16	08-Apr-16	None submitted	None submitted
5.	Colombia						29-Apr-16	29-Apr-16	None submitted	None submitted
6.	Dominican Republic						29-Apr-16		None submitted	None submitted
7.	Kuwait				03-May-16		03-May-16	03-May-16	(e)	None submitted
8.	Liechtenstein*	01-Apr-16*	01-Apr-16*	01-Apr-16*	01-Apr-16*	01-Apr-16*	01-Apr-16*	01-Apr-16*	n/a	n/a
9.	Myanmar						31-Mar-16	31-Mar-16	None submitted	None submitted
10.	Oman						22-Apr-16	22-Apr-16	(e)	None submitted
11.	Panama*						13-May-16*		n/a	n/a
12.	South Africa	31-Mar-16			31-Mar-16	31-Mar-16	31-Mar-16	31-Mar-16	(e)	None submitted
13.	Sudan						31-Mar-16		None submitted	None submitted

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⁸ States Parties that submitted ADPA for 2015 after the deadline.

⁹ Here and throughout, an asterisk denotes the submission of a “nil declaration”.

¹⁰ Difficulties encountered in timely submissions of declarations, as categorised in paragraph 3.6 of this Note.