



**OPCW**

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## **REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

### **OVERALL PROGRESS WITH RESPECT TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE REMAINING CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKPILES**

1. In its decision entitled the “Final Extended Deadline of 29 April 2012” (C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011), the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) requested that the Director-General provide a written report at each regular session of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) on the overall progress being made by possessor States Parties in regard to the destruction of their remaining chemical weapons stockpiles. The Council further requested that these reports be based on the independent information that is received by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) from the Organisation’s inspectors, who undertake verification in accordance with section D of Part IV(A) of the Verification Annex to the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Verification Annex”), and that they include information on the progress achieved to meet the planned completion date(s) and a statement as to the effectiveness of any specific measures that have been undertaken to overcome problems in the destruction programmes.
2. The information included in this report relates to the cut-off date of 31 May 2016.

#### **Libya**

##### **Progress achieved to meet the planned completion date**

3. Libya has declared 26.345 metric tonnes (MTs) of Category 1 chemical weapons (a blister chemical agent).
4. To date, the Secretariat has verified the complete destruction by Libya of the Category 1 chemical weapons declared by this State Party. No withdrawals pursuant to Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) and subparagraph 2(d) of Part VI of the Verification Annex have taken place in this State Party. Libya has also completed the destruction of its entire Category 3 chemical weapons stockpile.
5. Libya informed the Secretariat that it had completed the destruction of 19.257 MTs of pinacolyl alcohol in a non-contiguous facility in the Al-Osta Milad area and that the measures agreed upon for the remote verification of pinacolyl alcohol destruction



were fully implemented during these operations (EC-81/NAT.1, dated 18 February 2016). Thus, Libya has destroyed so far 689.066 MTs, or 49.15%, of its Category 2 chemical weapons.

6. In accordance with the “Detailed Plan for the Destruction of Chemical Weapons Remaining After the Final Extended Deadline of 29 April 2012 (as per C-16/DEC.11)” submitted by Libya (EC-68/NAT.4, dated 18 April 2012), the destruction of the remaining Category 2 chemical weapons is scheduled for completion by December 2016.

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

7. On 3 February 2016, Libya informed the Secretariat that, in view of the current situation in Libya and due to the unavailability of the technology needed for the disposal of the remaining chemical weapons, it was not realistic to expect that the destruction of these chemical weapons would be completed within the specified time frame without effective international assistance.
8. In this respect, the Libyan National Authority has addressed a letter to the Director-General, dated 12 February 2016, requesting him to consider the option of transporting the four remaining Category 2 chemicals to a waste disposal facility outside Libyan territory in order to dispose of them as early as possible.
9. On 24 February 2016, the Council convened a meeting, in which it considered and adopted a decision regarding the destruction of Libya’s remaining Category 2 chemical weapons stockpile (EC-M-51/DEC.1, dated 24 February 2016). The Council noted letters received from the Libyan authorities and requested the Director-General, in coordination with all relevant States Parties, to identify and evaluate technical, operational, security, financial, and legal factors to address the destruction of the remaining Libyan Category 2 chemical weapons. Furthermore, it was requested that the Director-General inform the United Nations Secretary-General of the decision taken by the Council.
10. Due to the deteriorating condition of containers holding the remaining Category 2 chemical weapons at Ruwagha, new tanks were purchased with the assistance of the Canadian government. On 24 May, 2016, the Libyan National Authority informed the Secretariat that despite the security situation in the region, decanting of the Category 2 chemical weapons had been completed. The decanting operations were conducted under the verification measures agreed with the Secretariat. The Secretariat has received video tapes of the operations from the Libyan National Authority, which are currently under review.
11. In a letter dated 24 May 2016, Libya requested the assistance of the Secretariat in obtaining global positioning tracking devices that could be affixed to the containers to aid in the continued verification of the reloaded containers prior to their eventual disposal.
12. The Director-General, on the basis of the information he received from Libya, is in a position to confirm that Libya has requested assistance in order to meet the planned

completion date for the destruction of its remaining chemical weapons. However, any delays with respect to a decision regarding the destruction of the remaining Category 2 chemical weapons in conjunction with the prevailing situation in Libya may have an impact on whether the planned completion date is met.

13. The Secretariat, in a timely manner, shall inform the policy-making organs of any further developments in this regard, in accordance with C-16/DEC.11.

### **Russian Federation**

#### Progress achieved to meet the planned completion date

14. The Russian Federation has declared 39,967 MTs of Category 1 chemical weapons (nerve and blister chemical warfare agents).
15. As at 31 May 2016, the Secretariat had verified the destruction by the Russian Federation of 37,368 MTs, or 93.5%, of the Category 1 chemical weapons stockpile. This includes 0.026 MTs of chemical warfare agents withdrawn from Category 1 chemical weapons stocks pursuant to Article VI of the Convention and subparagraph 2(d) of Part VI of the Verification Annex for purposes not prohibited under the Convention. In addition, the Russian Federation has destroyed all of its Category 2 and Category 3 chemical weapons.
16. In the period under review, destruction of the remaining Category 1 chemical weapons continued at the Kizner facility in the Udmurt Republic. In accordance with the Detailed Plan for the Destruction of Category 1 Chemical Weapons Remaining After the Extended Deadline of 29 April 2012 and its addendum submitted by the Russian Federation (EC-68/P/NAT.1, dated 3 April 2012 and Add.1, dated 6 October 2014) the destruction of the remaining Category 1 chemical weapons at the Maradykovsky, Leonidovka, Pochev, and Shchuchye chemical weapons destruction facilities (CWDFs) was completed by December 2015, whereas at the Kizner facility, destruction operations will be carried on until December 2020.

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

17. In its latest report on the progress it has made towards the complete destruction of its remaining stockpiles of chemical weapons (EC-82/P/NAT.5, dated 23 June 2016), the Russian Federation informed the Secretariat that, as at 31 May 2016, the amount of chemical weapons that had been destroyed at the Kizner facility had reached 54.8%, or 3,146 MTs of chemical agent. The remaining amount of Category 1 chemical weapons to be destroyed stands at 2,598 MTs of chemical agent.
18. Furthermore, the Russian Federation specified that work is under way at the Kizner facility to design and build the last train (Building 1041A) for the destruction of chemical weapons filled with lewisite.
19. The Director-General, on the basis of independent information that he received from the Organisation's inspectors undertaking verification in accordance with Part IV(A) of the Verification Annex, as well as the information he received from the Russian

Federation, is in a position to confirm that the Russian Federation has taken the necessary measures to complete the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons stockpile at the Kizner facility by the planned completion date of 31 December 2020. The Secretariat will continue to receive regular evaluations from its experts, as well as updates from the Russian Federation. Should the situation change, the Secretariat, in a timely manner, shall inform the policy-making organs, in accordance with C-16/DEC.11.

### **United States of America**

#### Progress achieved to meet the planned completion date

20. The United States of America has declared 27,770 MTs of Category 1 chemical weapons (nerve and blister chemical agents, as well as binary weapons components).
21. As at 31 May 2016, the Secretariat had verified the destruction by the United States of America of 24,925 MTs, or 89.76%, of the total amount of Category 1 chemical weapons declared. This includes 2.682 MTs of chemical-warfare agents withdrawn from Category 1 chemical weapons stocks pursuant to Article VI of the Convention and subparagraph 2(d) of Part VI of the Verification Annex for purposes not prohibited under the Convention. The United States of America has also destroyed all of its Category 2 (0.010 MTs) and Category 3 chemical weapons.
22. During the period under review, the United States of America destroyed 0.021320 MTs of mustard agent at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Explosive Destruction System (PCAPP EDS), Pueblo, Colorado.
23. In accordance with the detailed plan submitted by the United States of America for the destruction of remaining chemical weapons (EC-68/NAT.2, dated 13 April 2012), this State Party plans that the destruction of its remaining Category 1 chemical weapons will be completed by September 2023.

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

24. The United States of America has stated in a recently submitted progress report (EC-82/NAT.1, dated 20 June 2016) that it “continues to act on opportunities to accelerate the completion of chemical weapons destruction”, and that, by the use of “a combination of new technologies, contract incentives, and the transfer of experienced personnel”, it is “working to complete destruction before the scheduled timelines”.
25. The United States of America reported in the aforementioned national paper that it will use explosive destruction technologies (EDT) to eliminate a portion of problematic munitions at both the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) in Pueblo, Colorado, as well as at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) in Richmond, Kentucky. More specifically, the explosive destruction system (EDS) has been used to destroy problematic mustard-filled munitions in a safe and efficient manner at the PCAPP since

18 March 2015. The Static Detonation Chamber, selected as the preferred EDT, will be used to destroy problematic mustard-filled munitions at the BGCAPP.

26. The United States of America also informed the Secretariat that it intends to use contract incentives “similar to those used successfully in accelerating the destruction efforts at six other chemical weapons destruction facilities (CWDFs). These contract incentives will be applied to the operations and closure phases of both the PCAPP and the BGCAPP to accelerate the destruction of the remainder of the United States of America’s chemical weapons stockpile”. Furthermore, “experienced and trained personnel from former CWDFs were hired to facilitate the transition from construction to systemisation and from systemisation to destruction operations at PCAPP and BGCAPP. By virtue of their familiarity with safety and environmental compliance requirements, these personnel will assist the programme in avoiding problems or delays during systemisation and operations”.
27. The United States of America stated in its latest progress report that it has completed 100% of the construction work at the PCAPP and that systemisation is currently 98% complete. The extensive equipment testing performed during systemisation has identified the need for additional work to optimise the performance of several plant systems. The previously reported date for the start of destruction operations, June 2016, has changed. The start of destruction operations is currently forecast for September 2016. Steps are being taken to support an earlier start date without compromising the safety of the community, the workforce, or the environment.
28. This State Party has also informed the Secretariat that it has completed 100% of the construction work at the BGCAPP and that systemisation is 51% complete. The United States of America plans to begin destruction operations at Blue Grass in April 2020. The BGCAPP has made progress in the construction (72%) and systemisation (35%) of the Static Detonation Chamber (BGCAPP SDC) that will be used to destroy problematic munitions. The destruction operations are scheduled to begin in 2017.
29. The United States of America has informed the Secretariat that “steps are being taken to mitigate impacts to the planned completion dates that could result from the additional work required to optimise performance of the PCAPP. These measures include contractor incentives to complete destruction operations ahead of schedule without compromising safety, as well as additional quality assurance/quality control procedures and enhancements to oversight processes”. Moreover, “the United States of America continues to anticipate and address potential issues and will use risk mitigation strategies to address and eliminate concerns as early as possible to facilitate the safe and environmentally sound destruction of the remaining chemical weapons stockpile of the United States of America. Personnel at both facilities continue to share and apply their broad knowledge and technical experience to address emerging challenges”. Finally, the United States of America stated that it is on track to meet its planned completion date.
30. The Director-General, on the basis of information he has received from the United States of America, is in a position to confirm that this State Party has taken the necessary measures to meet the planned completion date for its destruction activities and that measures have been put in place to shorten the construction, systemisation and operation schedule at both the PCAPP and BGCAPP by, inter alia, using a

combination of new technologies and equipment, contract incentives, and transfer of experienced personnel from former CWDFs. Should the situation change, the Secretariat, in a timely manner, shall inform the policy-making organs, in accordance with C-16/DEC.11.

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