

**REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL****OVERALL PROGRESS WITH RESPECT TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE  
REMAINING CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKPILES****Introduction**

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 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 2018.
3. The Russian Federation and Libya completed the destruction of their entire declared chemical weapons stockpiles on 27 September 2017 and 23 November 2017, respectively.

**United States of America**Progress achieved to meet the planned completion date

4. The United States of America has declared 27,770 metric tonnes (MT) of Category 1 chemical weapons.
5. As at 31 May 2018, the Secretariat had verified the destruction by the United States of America of 25,154 MT, or 90.6%, of its Category 1 chemical weapons stockpile. This includes 2.682 MT of chemical warfare agents withdrawn from Category 1 chemical weapons stocks pursuant to Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) and subparagraph 2(d) of Part VI of the Verification Annex for purposes not prohibited under the Convention. The United States has also destroyed all of its Category 2 and Category 3 chemical weapons.



6. In accordance with the detailed plan submitted by the United States of America for the destruction of its remaining chemical weapons (EC-68/NAT.2, dated 13 April 2012), this State Party plans for the destruction of its remaining Category 1 chemical weapons to be completed by September 2023.

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

7. In its latest report on progress achieved towards complete destruction of its chemical weapons stockpile (EC-88/NAT.3, dated 18 June 2018), the United States of America states that it “continues to act on opportunities to accelerate the completion of chemical weapons destruction. By using a combination of new technologies, contract incentives, and the transfer of experienced personnel, [it] is working to complete destruction before the scheduled timelines”.
8. The United States of America reported in the aforementioned report that it will use explosive destruction technologies to eliminate a portion of munitions at the Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) in Pueblo, Colorado and at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) in Richmond, Kentucky. In addition, the United States is evaluating supplemental destruction technologies for the PCAPP. One of the supplemental destruction options under consideration is the use of one static detonation chamber (SDC) or more to augment the PCAPP main plant.
9. 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’ chemical weapons stockpile”. Furthermore, “[e]xperienced and trained personnel from former CWDFs were hired to facilitate the transition from construction to systemisation and from systemisation to destruction operations at the PCAPP and the 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”.
10. In relation to the PCAPP, the United States of America has implemented engineering improvements to address the technical challenges experienced with the Agent Neutralization Reactor. On 17 May 2018, the United States notified the OPCW of the phased restart of destruction operations. The Agent Neutralization Reactor restart will be a progression, starting with hot-water-only batches working toward agent batches to reduce current inventories. Meanwhile, Secretariat inspectors were on site during the final phase of reconfiguration of 105 mm boxed ammunition at PCAPP, which was completed on 15 February 2018. Reconfiguration of 4.2-inch mortars began on 13 April 2018.
11. The United States of America also stated that a total of 88 problematic munitions will be destroyed during the second campaign of destruction operations at the Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant Explosive Destruction System (PCAPP EDS). The campaign was scheduled to begin in summer 2018.

12. The United States of America has informed the Secretariat that it has completed the construction work at the BGCAPP and 62.6% of the systemisation. All activities previously reported continue to progress. Continuity checking, testing and demonstration testing of a series of systems and equipment have been completed or commissioned. The United States of America plans to begin destruction operations at the BGCAPP in April 2020.
13. The BGCAPP SDC has completed 93.3% of the construction and 80% of the systemisation. In its progress report (EC-88/NAT.3), the United States of America noted that the schedule for the BGCAPP SDC is still under review. Destruction operations are planned to start in summer 2019. No impact on the overall BGCAPP planned completion date is expected.
14. The United States of America has informed the Secretariat that it “continues to review opportunities to optimise performance at the facility. Planning is underway to develop initiatives for more efficient destruction of the remaining stockpile without compromising safety or the environment”. Moreover, “[t]he 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 United States’ chemical weapons stockpile. Personnel at both facilities continue to share and apply their broad knowledge and technical experience to address emerging challenges”. Finally, the United States stated that it is on track to meet its planned completion date.
15. The Director-General, based on the independent information he has received from the Organisation’s inspectors undertaking verification activities in accordance with Part IV(A) of the Verification Annex, and on the information he has received from the United States of America, is in a position to confirm that the United States 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, will inform the policy-making organs in accordance with C-16/DEC.11.