



**OPCW**

**Technical Secretariat**

---

Office of Special Projects

S/555/2006

10 March 2006

Original: ENGLISH

**NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

**INITIAL PREPARATIONS FOR THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

**Background**

1. The tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) falls on 29 April 2007. This date has important symbolic value both as a milestone in itself and as a catalyst for further efforts to consolidate the goals of the first multilateral, non-discriminatory disarmament treaty—a unique instrument for non-proliferation and verifiable arms-control that offers a credible and effective response to the threat posed by chemical weapons.
2. The present Note gives the States Parties an initial indication of the approach the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) will be taking to the observance of the tenth anniversary, and of the initial preparations that are already in hand.

**Coordinator for tenth-anniversary activities**

3. The Director-General is pleased to advise Member States that he has designated the Director of the Office of Special Projects as the coordinator of all activities associated with the observance of the tenth anniversary.

**Scope of activities, and stakeholders**

4. These activities, whose success will depend on the active involvement of the States Parties, will include:
  - (a) preparations for the establishment of a permanent memorial in The Hague to victims of chemical warfare;
  - (b) preparations for the ceremonies to take place on or around 29 April 2007; and
  - (c) a series of conferences and symposia on issues related to the Convention—events that will bring together representatives from government, industry, the scientific and educational communities, non-governmental organisations, and the media.



5. These activities can also serve as an opportunity to highlight the work of the OPCW, in an appropriate way, among these stakeholders. The Office of Special Projects and other units of the Secretariat will consult with them, and of course with the Member States, as it moves ahead with preparations.
6. In view of the special relationship between the OPCW and the Netherlands as Host Country, the Secretariat has already initiated consultations on the tenth anniversary with the Permanent Representation of this State Party, in particular as regards the activities referred to in paragraph 4.

#### **Tenth-Anniversary Trust Fund**

7. No funds have been allocated in the OPCW Programme and Budget for any activities associated with the tenth anniversary. The Director-General therefore encourages Member States to consider making voluntary contributions to support these activities, and to this end has directed that a Tenth-Anniversary Trust Fund be established. The Fund will be administered in accordance with the OPCW Financial Regulations and the Draft Financial Rules.

--- 0 ---