



NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

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

Background

1. In S/555/2006, dated 10 March 2006, the Director-General submitted information on the initial preparations the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) is making for the events that will mark the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”). The present Note provides an update on these preparations.
2. Since the issuance of the first Note, the Secretariat has held extensive consultations with Member States, which have concurred with the approach it is taking and with the view that the observance of the tenth anniversary is a unique opportunity to publicly renew their commitment to the multilateral-treaty system and to the object and purpose of the Convention. Tenth-anniversary events will also provide an opportunity for the OPCW to show that its mission is continuing successfully.
3. Important stakeholders, including the European Union, the European Chemical Industry Council (known as CEFIC), the International Council of Chemical Associations, and internationally recognised scientific institutions, have expressed their readiness to help organise events related to the tenth anniversary. The Secretariat is also approaching other international organisations in all regions for the same purpose.

Main ceremony

4. The main ceremony for the tenth anniversary will be the unveiling in The Hague, on the afternoon of 9 May 2007 by Her Majesty, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, of a Permanent Memorial to All Victims of Chemical Weapons.
5. The Secretariat will be inviting high-level delegations from Member States and from other international organisations to attend the ceremony. Preparations for the Memorial itself are in hand (see below).



6. On the morning of the same day, a Special High-Level Session will be held in the Ieper Room at OPCW headquarters, at which Member States will have the opportunity to make statements to mark the occasion. Details on this Session will be provided in due course.

Other events

7. Together with representatives of the chemical industry and of certain prestigious academic institutions, with whom it is now consulting, the Secretariat is planning two major fora for the second half of 2007—one, primarily for scientists and academics, on various aspects of implementation; the other, on protection and on issues relevant to the chemical industry. Representatives from the industry, from National Authorities, and from the scientific and academic communities will be invited to participate. Member States are invited to contribute to preparations for these events.
8. The Government of the Netherlands has indicated that it is considering making a financial contribution to support the organisation of the scientific and academic forum.

Tenth Anniversary Trust Fund

9. S/555/2006 noted that no funds have been allocated in the OPCW Programme and Budget for any activities associated with the tenth anniversary, and that a Tenth-Anniversary Trust Fund has been established to which Member States are encouraged to contribute.

Permanent Memorial to All Victims of Chemical Weapons

10. Preparations are underway for the establishment in The Hague of a Permanent Memorial to All Victims of Chemical Weapons.
11. The Government of the Netherlands has graciously indicated that it will fully fund the establishment of the Permanent Memorial. In addition, the Municipality of The Hague has confirmed that it is ready to assist the Secretariat with practical aspects of planning for the Memorial, including as regards the eventual site for it, not far from OPCW headquarters.
12. On behalf of the OPCW, the Director-General would like to express his sincere gratitude to the Government of the Netherlands for the significant financial contribution mentioned above, and to the Host Country and its institutions more generally for the fine spirit of support and cooperation that has been manifested in all quarters.

Possible initiatives by Member States

13. The Secretariat encourages Member States and their institutions to organise their own activities in connection with the tenth anniversary, such as holding exhibitions, promoting the publication of articles and monographs, issuing stamps, and organising conferences or symposia on issues related to the Convention.

The Secretariat stands ready to render practical assistance, on request, in this connection.

14. The participation of Member States is essential to the success both of preparations for events related to the tenth anniversary, and of the events themselves. The Secretariat therefore encourages Member States to continue to offer their support in the lead-up to this important milestone in the history of the Convention and of the OPCW.

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