



---

Office of Special Projects

S/620/2007

7 March 2007

Original: ENGLISH

**NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

**FURTHER 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 by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) to mark the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”). In S/578/2006, dated 20 June 2006, the Director-General updated States Parties on the status of preparations. S/605/2006, dated 29 November 2006, provided a further update on the status of preparations. The present Note provides a fourth update.
2. Since the issuance of S/605/2006, the Secretariat has continued to hold consultations and provide information to States Parties on preparations for the various events that will mark the tenth anniversary. For example, on 3 December 2006, during the Eighth Annual Meeting of National Authorities, it made a presentation to National Authority representatives. It has also distributed background-information packages to National Authorities, and briefed regional groups on tenth-anniversary preparations.

**Status of preparations**

3. Preparations for a series of events to mark the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention are well in hand. The Secretariat is in regular contact with all key stakeholders to coordinate these efforts. It is grateful to those States Parties that have already contributed to the Tenth-Anniversary Trust Fund. Since there are no allocations in the OPCW Programme and Budget for any activities associated with the tenth anniversary, States Parties are encouraged to contribute to the Fund.

**Permanent Memorial to All Victims of Chemical Weapons**

4. The unveiling of the Permanent Memorial to All Victims of Chemical Weapons by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands will take place on the afternoon of 9 May 2007 in The Hague. High-level delegations from States Parties, Signatory States, and international organisations have been invited to attend. The unveiling will be followed by a reception and then by a performance by the world-renowned



*Nederlands Danstheater* (Dutch Dance Theatre) at the *Lucent Danstheater* in The Hague. The performance has been made possible through the generosity of the Municipality of The Hague.

#### **Academic Forum and Industry-and-Protection Forum**

5. A programme committee is being formed to make preparations for the Academic Forum, which will be held on 18 and 19 September 2007. The Secretariat encourages all regional groups to nominate candidates to this committee and thus help ensure broad geographical representation.
6. The Secretariat will be jointly organising the Industry-and-Protection Forum with the European Chemical Industry Council and the International Council of Chemical Associations. The Forum, which will be funded by the European Union through its Joint Action 2007, will take place on 1 and 2 November 2007 at the World Convention Centre in The Hague. It will promote national implementation of the Convention and international cooperation in support of the peaceful uses of chemistry.

#### **Initiatives by States Parties and international bodies**

7. A number of States Parties have announced that they will be organising events to mark the tenth anniversary. The events that have been announced thus far are listed in the Annex to this Note.
8. In addition to these events, the Secretariat has received further information on other plans that States Parties and organisations are making to mark the tenth anniversary. For example, the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced that it is considering issuing a commemorative stamp, and holding a photo and video exhibition on victims of chemical weapons, to mark the occasion.
9. The United Nations Office at Geneva has indicated its intention to mark the tenth anniversary in one of the meeting rooms in the *Palais des nations* where the Convention was negotiated.
10. Consultations are underway with the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs, and with a number of States Parties, about a high-level event to be held in the margins of the Sixty-Second Session of the United Nations General Assembly.
11. The Secretariat continues to encourage States Parties and their institutions to organise their own activities in connection with the tenth anniversary, such as holding exhibitions, fostering 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.

Annex (English only): Tenth-Anniversary Events to Be Held in States Parties

## Annex

## TENTH-ANNIVERSARY EVENTS TO BE HELD IN STATES PARTIES

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Event</b>
17 and 18 March 2007	Noordwijk, the Netherlands	Pugwash Workshop: "10 years of OPCW: taking stock and looking forward"
26 and 27 March 2007	London, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	National event: "UK celebrations of the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the CWC"
3 April 2007	Buenos Aires, Argentina	High-level meeting of Mercosur States and Associate Members <sup>1</sup> , on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the OPCW
14 and 15 April 2007	Cavtat, Croatia	Workshop on the "OPCW 10th Anniversary"
19 April 2007	Rome, Italy	"International Conference on the 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention"
25 to 27 April 2007	Berlin, Germany	Symposium on "the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the CWC"
9 May 2007	Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran	A commemoration ceremony with the attendance of Iranian officials and heads of foreign missions and embassies in Tehran
15 May 2007	Brussels, Belgium	Conference on "the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the CWC" in association with the Royal Institute of International Relations (IRRI)
29 June 2007	Sardashat, the Islamic Republic of Iran	Seminar on chemical weapons in Sardashat
27 to 29 August 2007	Sapporo, Japan	Session of the Tenth Anniversary of the Chemical Weapons Convention
5 September 2007	Helsinki, Finland	Workshop "the analysis related to chemical weapons"
8 October 2007	New York, the United States of America	Symposium on "Effective Multilateralism- as exemplified by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons"
October 2007 (two days)	Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran	International seminar: "The Use of Chemical Weapons against the Islamic Republic of Iran, Its Impacts and Consequences"
11 November 2007	Ypres, Belgium	Armistice Day Commemoration/10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the OPCW

- - - 0 - - -

<sup>1</sup> The Mercosur States are Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela; the Associate Members are Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.