



Office of Special Projects
S/661/2007
31 October 2007
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

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. A third and a fourth update were provided by S/605/2006 (dated 29 November 2006) and S/620/2007 (dated 7 March 2007), respectively.
2. In the present Note, the Director-General is pleased to provide information on all global activities and initiatives undertaken by the Secretariat and OPCW Member States in relation to the tenth anniversary.

The tenth-anniversary process

3. The year 2007 marked the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention. The anniversary was highly symbolic, both as a milestone in itself and as a catalyst for further efforts to consolidate the goals of the first non-discriminatory, multilateral, disarmament and non-proliferation treaty—a unique instrument that offers a credible and effective response to the threat posed by chemical weapons.
4. The tenth-anniversary year offered the OPCW an opportunity to take stock of its achievements and challenges, as well as to define the way forward for accelerating its quest to accomplish the goals of the Convention.
5. During this year expressions of support and commitment from the Member States for the Convention and the OPCW were received. This support demonstrated their conviction that the Convention has made, and is making, a significant contribution towards peace and security, and that the OPCW is effectively advancing towards the achievement of its mission.



6. All tenth-anniversary events organised by the Secretariat were undertaken after extensive consultations with Member States, all of which concurred with the approach the Secretariat has taken to this event; they shared the view that the observance of the tenth anniversary was a unique opportunity to publicly renew their commitment to multilateralism and to the object and purpose of the Convention.

Coordination for the tenth-anniversary activities

7. The Director of the Office of Special Projects was designated as the coordinator of all activities associated with the tenth anniversary of entry into force of the Convention.
8. The Secretariat created a specially designed website in order to make all up-to-date information related to tenth-anniversary activities readily available. This website, which is regularly updated by the Secretariat, provides the most comprehensive information on the various past, current, and upcoming activities, together with useful information for the Member States and other stakeholders.

Cooperation with the Host Country in relation to tenth-anniversary activities

9. The Secretariat highly appreciates the indispensable advice and technical and financial support it has received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, the municipality of The Hague, and a number of Dutch institutions in relation to tenth-anniversary events.
10. The Government of the Netherlands graciously funded the commissioning of the Permanent Memorial to All Victims of Chemical Weapons, and the municipality of The Hague has provided funds for its placement and maintenance. In addition, the Government also funded the OPCW Academic Forum, played a leading role in organising a High-Level Meeting at the United Nations (UN) in New York, and facilitated a number of local events held in The Hague and elsewhere in the Netherlands.

Scope of activities, and stakeholders

11. The main activities, the success of which depended on the active involvement of OPCW Member States and other key stakeholders, included the following:
 - (a) the establishment of a Permanent Memorial to All Victims of Chemical Weapons, which was unveiled on 9 May 2007 in The Hague;
 - (b) the OPCW Academic Forum, which took place in The Hague on 18 and 19 September 2007;
 - (c) a High-Level Meeting to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention, which took place at UN Headquarters in New York on 27 September 2007;

- (d) a series of national conferences and symposia on issues related to the Convention—events that brought together representatives from OPCW Member States, including representatives from industry, the scientific and educational communities, non-governmental organisations, and the media; and
 - (e) the OPCW Industry and Protection Forum, which will take place on 1 and 2 November 2007, The Hague;
12. Important stakeholders, including the OPCW Member States, the UN, the European Union (EU), the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC), the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), and internationally recognised scientific institutions and agencies have all contributed to the organisation of the events related to the tenth anniversary.

Tenth-Anniversary Trust Fund

13. No funds were allocated in the OPCW Programme and Budget for any activities associated with the tenth anniversary. Therefore, during the preparatory stages, the Director-General encouraged Member States to consider making voluntary contributions in support of tenth-anniversary events; this led to the establishment of a Tenth-Anniversary Trust Fund, which was administered in accordance with OPCW Financial Regulations and the Draft Financial Rules.
14. The following 10 States Parties contributed to the Tenth-Anniversary Trust Fund: China, El Salvador, Finland, Greece, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. These States Parties deserve especial thanks.

Permanent Memorial to All Victims of Chemical Weapons

15. The unveiling on 9 May 2007 of the Permanent Memorial to All Victims of Chemical Weapons by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands constituted the central activity at OPCW headquarters. This solemn commemorative event on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention was attended by the Foreign Minister of the Netherlands, H.E. Maxime Verhagen, as well as by representatives from Member States of the OPCW, international organisations, parliamentary and government officials of the Netherlands, the chemical industry, and civil society.

The OPCW Academic Forum in The Hague, 18 to 19 September 2007

16. The OPCW Academic Forum brought together over 250 leading academics, scientists, diplomats, and policy-makers involved in shaping and implementing disarmament and non-proliferation policies, particularly those related to the prohibition of chemical weapons.
17. The Forum, which was financially supported by the Government of the Netherlands, was organised in association with the Netherlands Institute for International Relations Clingendael and the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research – TNO.

18. The aims of the Forum were:
 - (a) to examine the OPCW's accomplishments in relation to its mandate under the Convention, to analyse the political and technical challenges the Organisation is being confronted with today, and its role in non-proliferation efforts around the world; and
 - (b) to discuss how the OPCW can adapt to the evolving security environment and the changing nature of the chemical industry.
19. The Academic Forum focussed on four major themes: chemical-weapons destruction, the non-proliferation of chemical weapons, the impact of advances in science and technology on the verification regime, and the OPCW's role in the future. Papers and reports in relation to the Forum will be published in the near future.

The High-Level Meeting at United Nations Headquarters, New York, 27 September 2007

20. At the sixty-second session of the UN General Assembly, two Member States, Poland and the Netherlands, at the initiative of the Director-General, organised a High-Level Meeting devoted to the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention. The Foreign Ministers of the Netherlands and Poland, Their Excellencies Mr Maxime Verhagen and Ms Anna Fotyga, respectively, co-chaired the Meeting, which was organised with the assistance of the OPCW Secretariat and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).
21. Over 40 Foreign Ministers attended the Meeting, which reaffirmed the international community's strong commitment to multilateralism and to the goals of the Convention; it drew together representatives from more than 120 UN Member States and a number of international organisations. During the Meeting, statements were made voicing support for the Convention and its implementation; in addition, those attending reaffirmed their Governments' resolve to achieve a full and effective chemical-weapons ban.
22. The UN Secretary-General, H.E. Mr Ban Ki-moon, and the Director-General of the OPCW attended the High-Level Meeting and both delivered an address. The UN Secretary-General's High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, H.E. Mr Sergio Duarte, was also present.
23. In his address, the UN Secretary-General referred to the Convention as a truly significant accomplishment in the field of disarmament, the embodiment of the world's determination to eliminate one of the most inhumane kinds of weapons. Welcoming the progress that had been made by possessor States towards completely eliminating their chemical-weapons stockpiles, he also paid tribute to the OPCW and the contribution it has made to disarmament efforts over the last ten years. At the same time, he invited all States that have not yet joined the Convention to do so without delay, pledged his full readiness to continue to promote its full implementation, and called for a joint effort by the UN, the OPCW and its Member States, and civil society to achieve this goal.

24. The Director-General of the OPCW, in his address, drew attention to the achievements of the first decade, and underscored the spirit of cooperation and consensus that has emerged vis-à-vis the Convention. In referring to the global threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, he emphasised that the effectiveness of the Convention lay in its comprehensive approach to chemical disarmament and non-proliferation. Thanking the OPCW Member States for their dedication and goodwill, the Director-General drew attention to the fact that the Convention and the OPCW are a living example of how the UN Charter and its principles of promoting international peace and security can be transformed into action.

National events in Member States

25. A number of States Parties have organised various activities to mark this tenth anniversary. Activities have included exhibitions, the publication of articles and monographs, and the organisation of conferences or symposia on issues related to the Convention. The Secretariat provided practical assistance, on request, in this regard.
26. These commemorative events highlighted how successfully the OPCW functions as an organisation, and the great contribution it has made over the years to global peace and security. The Secretariat is grateful to all those Member States that have organised such events, and commends them for this tangible proof of their commitment to the object and purpose of the Convention.
27. All the tenth-anniversary events that have been organised are listed in the Annex to this Note.

Cooperation with the United Nations

28. As a key partner of the OPCW, the UN offered extensive cooperation to the Secretariat in relation to activities and events to mark the tenth anniversary of entry into force. The aim of this was to further promote the international community's goals in the field of international peace and security, and, in that context, a number of additional events were organised.
29. On 7 August 2007, a seminar co-hosted by the UNODA and Pugwash International was held in one of the meeting rooms in the *Palais des Nations*, the venue where the Convention was negotiated. At the seminar, the speakers presented the history of the negotiations that had taken place vis-à-vis the Convention, the relevance of this instrument, and the current status of its implementation (especially in regard to the verification regime). The seminar was opened by the Director-General of the OPCW and the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Mr Sergei Ordzhonikidze.
30. On 19 October 2007, at the UN Headquarters, the UNODA and the OPCW co-hosted a panel discussion dedicated to the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention. This event was held during the sixty-second session of the First Committee of the UN General Assembly, and focussed on such issues as national implementation, the destruction of chemical weapons, verification, international cooperation and assistance, chemical terrorism, and the OPCW's Second Special

Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Director-General and UN Secretary-General's High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, H.E. Mr Sergio Duarte, attended and addressed the meeting.

31. During the sixty-second session of the First Committee of the UN General Assembly, the United Nations Headquarters also hosted an OPCW tenth-anniversary exhibition, which exemplified the work and achievements of the OPCW over the past ten years.
32. During 2007, with the support of the UNODA, the UN issued a number of publications dedicated to the tenth anniversary and discussing the work of the OPCW.

The OPCW tenth-anniversary rolling exhibition

33. The Secretariat, in order to promote the achievements of the Convention and the work of the OPCW, has developed a tenth-anniversary rolling exhibition.
34. The exhibition, consisting of banners that display various aspects of the work of the Organisation, has been available to Member States upon request; the exhibition is meant to accompany events organised by Member States to commemorate the tenth anniversary. During this year, the exhibition has travelled around the globe and has been part of the celebrations in a number of Member States and of events organised by international organisations.

The OPCW Industry and Protection Forum, The Hague, 1 and 2 November 2007

35. The OPCW Industry and Protection Forum is being organised with the financial support of the EU under its Joint Action in support of OPCW activities in the framework of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. The Forum is also supported by CEFIC and the ICCA.
36. The Forum, which aims to promote the implementation of the Convention and awareness of its requirements, will discuss the practical experience gained in implementing it, and will help to foster international cooperation in relevant key areas. In addition, the Forum will:
 - (a) contribute to building synergies and strengthening collaboration amongst the chemical industry, the OPCW, National Authorities, relevant international organisations and national institutions, and laboratories; and
 - (b) discuss how the OPCW can adapt to the new security environment and the changing nature of the chemical industry, and how the safety and security of chemical plants and shipments can be enhanced.
37. Over 200 participants and experts from governments, the chemical industry, relevant international organisations, the media, and companies involved in protection against chemical weapons have registered for the Forum. The following three main themes will be addressed during this event: issues surrounding verification and implementation that are of relevance to the chemical industry (including sampling and

analysis), assistance and protection against chemical weapons, and the safety and security at chemical plants. Papers on the proceedings will be published.

38. The Forum will be accompanied by a non-commercial exhibition of protective equipment and of OPCW inspection-related equipment.

Annex: A List of Tenth-Anniversary Events

Annex

A LIST OF TENTH-ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Date	Location	Event
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"
30 March 2007	The Hague, the Netherlands	Haganum Festival
3 April 2007	Buenos Aires, Argentina	High-level meeting of Mercosur States and Associate Members ¹ , on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the OPCW
14 and 15 April 2007	Cavtat, Croatia	Workshop on the "OPCW 10th anniversary"
18 to 20 April 2007	Krynica, Poland	Workshop on the national implementation of the Convention, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the OPCW
19 April 2007	Rome, Italy	"International conference on the 10 th 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 Convention"
25 and 26 April 2007	Havana, Cuba	National workshop on the implementation of the Convention
9 May 2007	The Hague, the Netherlands	Unveiling of the Memorial to All Victims of Chemical Weapons
9 May 2007	Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran	A commemoration ceremony attended by Iranian officials and heads of foreign missions and embassies in Tehran
11 to 25 May 2007	The Hague, the Netherlands	OPCW tenth-anniversary exhibition at the City Hall of The Hague
15 May 2007	Brussels, Belgium	Conference on "the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Convention" in association with the Royal Institute of International Relations (IRRI)
1 June 2007	Lima, Peru	National workshop on the prohibition of chemical weapons

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

17 June 2007	Algiers, Algeria	Exhibition dedicated to the tenth anniversary of entry into force of the Convention
21 June 2007	Bucharest, Romania	“10 years since the entry into force of the Convention”
29 June 2007	Sardashat, the Islamic Republic of Iran	Seminar in Sardasha on chemical weapons
9 to 11 July 2007	Tshwane, South Africa	Exhibition dedicated to the tenth anniversary of entry into force of the Convention
7 August 2007	Geneva, Switzerland	Seminar on the tenth anniversary of entry into force of the Convention, co-hosted by the OPCW, the UNODA and Pugwash International
27 to 29 August 2007	Sapporo, Japan	Session on the tenth anniversary of the Chemical Weapons Convention
5 September 2007	Helsinki, Finland	Workshop on “the analysis related to chemical weapons”
18 and 19 September 2007	The Hague, the Netherlands	OPCW Academic Forum
27 September 2007	New York, UN Headquarters	High-Level Meeting at the UN
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”
19 October 2007	New York, UN Headquarters	Panel discussion on the tenth anniversary of entry into force of the Convention at UN Headquarters
22 and 23 October 2007	Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran	International seminar: “The Use of Chemical Weapons against the Islamic Republic of Iran, Its Impacts and Consequences”
1 and 2 November 2007	The Hague, the Netherlands	OPCW Industry and Protection Forum
11 November 2007	Ypres, Belgium	Armistice Day Commemoration/10 th anniversary of the OPCW