



Verification Division
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NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF ANNUAL DECLARATIONS ON PAST ACTIVITIES
AS AT 31 MAY 2013**

Introduction and overview

1. Arrangements have been in place since 2006 for States Parties to submit their declarations in electronic form. This helps to improve the quality of the data received in a number of ways—for example, by facilitating the electronic importation of data into the Verification Information System (VIS) of the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”).
2. During the National Authorities days in November 2008, the Secretariat released for the first time the software tool, “Electronic Declarations tool for National Authorities” (EDNA), the use of which further enhances the quality of the data received. The first version of the tool enabled annual declarations of other chemical production facilities (OCPFs) and of aggregate national data (AND) to be prepared and submitted in electronic format. In November 2009, the second version of the EDNA was released. This version has been improved by the introduction of additional functions—one which enables States Parties to generate declarations of Schedule 2 and Schedule 3 facilities and another function that has expanded the AND module by the inclusion of an option for the automated aggregation of the information on chemicals declared by States Parties in regard to Schedule 2 and 3 facilities. The most current version of EDNA, version 2.5, has been available since September 2012 and includes various improvements and resolutions of known errors, as well as new enhanced functionality for data quality control and reporting.
3. This Note presents an update on the overview of the status of submission of ADPAs in electronic format, information that was first provided in a Note by the Secretariat in 2009 (S/773/2009, dated 18 June 2009).

Declarations received in electronic format

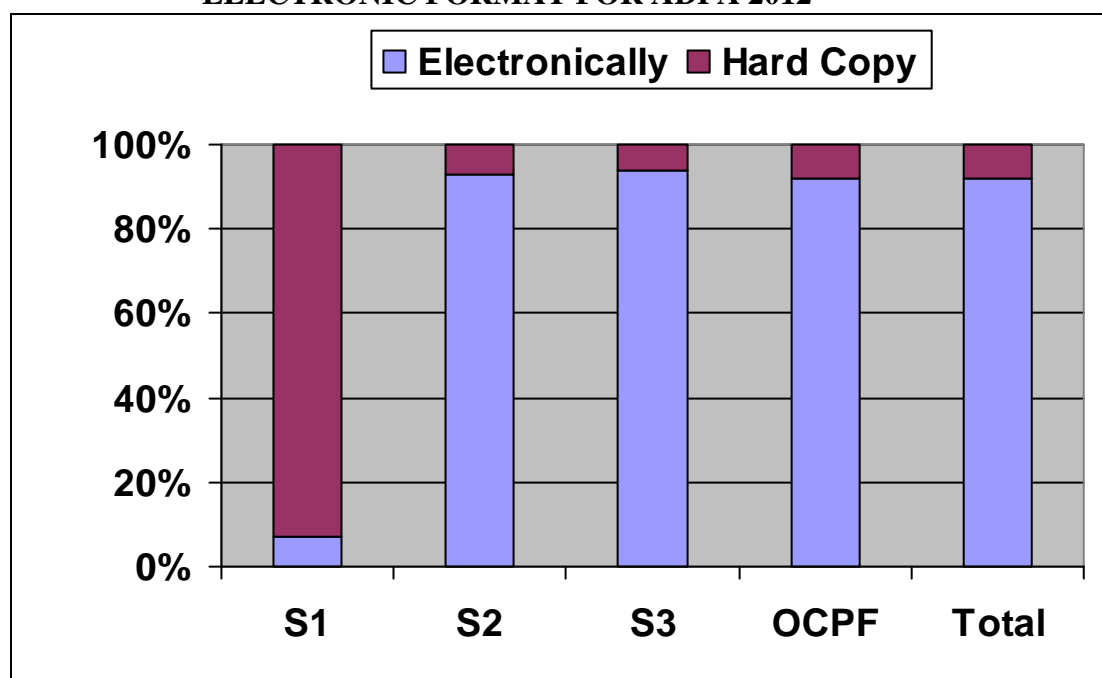
4. As at 31 May 2013, an ADPA for 2012 has been submitted by 83 States Parties, including seven nil declarations. Of the 76 declarations that therefore are required to be processed, 42 declarations—or 55%—were submitted electronically¹. One whole declaration and two partial declarations were made in common transmission file

¹ Only declarations which include CTFS or XML files are counted as electronic declarations



structure (CTFS) format. Forty-one declarations were submitted in Extensible Mark-up Language (XML) format; 38 of these 41, submitted in XML format, were prepared using the EDNA. States Parties submitting declarations for ADPA 2012 submitted a total of 5,045 sites, of which 92% were submitted electronically; the number of electronically submitted sites by States Parties that made all or part of their submission electronically was 4,633.

CHART 1: PERCENTAGE OF PLANT SITES DECLARED IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT FOR ADPA 2012



Processing of electronic declarations

5. The Secretariat has worked with the States Parties concerned to resolve any technical problems they have encountered when submitting electronic declarations. While some technical problems can be resolved by the Secretariat, continued successful implementation of electronic declarations also depends on States Parties closely following the relevant protocols and guidelines that have been issued by the Secretariat.
6. Some States Parties that submit an electronic declaration also submit a hard-copy declaration as the “authoritative” version. This requires the Secretariat to validate the consistency between both versions. As developments with electronic declarations continue, it is recommended that, whenever possible, States Parties consider making their formal submissions in electronic format, thus removing the need for a hard copy.²

²

The Secretariat is aware that this might not be possible for all States Parties, given that some have legislation that always requires a hard copy to be submitted; this hard copy takes precedence.

Summary and perspective

7. The introduction of the EDNA—versions 1.0, 2.0, 2.1, and 2.5 has led to a slight increase in the number of States Parties submitting declarations in electronic format. This trend can be summarised as follows:
 - (a) The number of States Parties submitting ADPAs for 2012 in electronic form increased by one to 41 compared to 40 electronic submissions of ADPA 2011.
 - (b) Three States Parties used EDNA for the first time to prepare their ADPA 2012.
 - (c) In terms of ADPAs for 2012, more than 92% of the declared plant sites were submitted in electronic format, compared to 91% in 2011.

8. The Secretariat welcomes the rising trend of submission of declarations in electronic format. Support and training are available to those States Parties wishing to use the EDNA; interested States Parties are requested to contact the Declarations Branch, Data Analytics, Reporting and Quality Control Section (vis@opcw.org).

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