



Forty-Second Meeting
17 June 2014

EC-M-42/DG.1
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NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL**PROGRESS IN THE ELIMINATION
OF THE SYRIAN CHEMICAL WEAPONS PROGRAMME**

1. In accordance with subparagraph 2(f) of the decision by the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) at its Thirty-Third Meeting (EC-M-33/DEC.1, dated 27 September 2013), the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) reports to the Council on a monthly basis regarding the implementation of that decision. In accordance with paragraph 12 of United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), the report by the Secretariat is also submitted to the Security Council through the Secretary-General. This is the eighth such monthly report.
2. The Council, at its Thirty-Fourth Meeting, adopted a decision entitled “Detailed Requirements for the Destruction of Syrian Chemical Weapons and Syrian Chemical Weapons Production Facilities” (EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013). In paragraph 22 of this decision, the Council decided that the Secretariat should report on its implementation “in conjunction with its reporting required by subparagraph 2(f) of Council decision EC-M-33/DEC.1”.
3. This report is therefore submitted in accordance with both above-mentioned Council decisions and includes information relevant to their implementation during the period from 25 April to 22 May 2014.

Progress achieved by the Syrian Arab Republic in meeting the requirements of EC-M-33/DEC.1 and EC-M-34/DEC.1

4. In accordance with subparagraph 1(c) of EC-M-33/DEC.1, the Syrian Arab Republic is required to complete the elimination of all chemical weapons material and equipment in the first half of 2014. Previous reports have described the progress made by the Syrian Arab Republic against intermediate completion dates established under paragraphs 2 and 3 of EC-M-34/DEC.1 for the removal and destruction of Syrian chemical weapons outside its territory. Progress achieved within the current reporting period by the Syrian Arab Republic in fulfilling its obligations is described below:
 - (a) As at the cut-off date of this report, the total number of movements of chemicals from chemical weapons storage facilities (CWSFs) to the port of embarkation at Latakia remained as it was at the end of the previous reporting period, namely, 18 movements. The Syrian authorities informed the Secretariat that the lack of further movements was due to the inaccessibility of the CWSF holding the remaining chemicals. They further informed the



Secretariat that, pending a more permissive security situation, preparatory activities have been carried out at the site concerned following calls from some States Parties on the Syrian Arab Republic to undertake preparations at this particular site so that the chemicals are ready for transportation once an opportunity to transport is made available. This included transport by the Syrian Government of required material to the site by chartered aircraft, for which funds have been made available by the OPCW-UN Joint Mission (hereinafter “the Joint Mission”). All material to be removed is now ready for loading into shipping containers for onward transport to the port of embarkation at Latakia. The totals of chemicals removed remain as in the previous monthly report: 96.45% of declared Priority 1 chemicals and 81.09% of declared Priority 2 chemicals (making a combined total of 92.03% of Priority 1 and 2 chemicals) planned for destruction outside the Syrian Arab Republic have now been removed from Syrian territory. In addition, 100% of the declared isopropanol has now been verified as destroyed on Syrian territory. Verification of destruction of the remaining isopropanol was carried out through remote monitoring and sample analysis;

- (b) As reported previously, pursuant to subparagraph 2(b) of EC-M-34/DEC.1, the target date for the destruction of all of the Syrian Arab Republic's chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) was not later than 15 March 2014. During the reporting period, no further destruction activities at declared CWPFs were carried out by the Syrian Arab Republic. Activities relating to the destruction of aircraft hangars and underground structures at 12 of the CWPFs are awaiting a decision by the Council on the combined plans for destruction and verification. A team of experts from the Secretariat and contracted personnel from Global Offshore Projects Ltd. (GOP) from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland attended a meeting in Beirut on 19 and 20 May 2014 to discuss with representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic issues related to the destruction of seven CWPFs (aircraft hangars). During this technical meeting, it was agreed between representatives of the Secretariat and the Syrian Arab Republic that a representative from the Secretariat and an expert from GOP would travel to the Syrian Arab Republic between 22 and 27 May 2014 to undertake technical visits to two CWPFs (one single hangar and one double hangar). The information gathered during such visits will support and facilitate the technical and financial evaluations needed for the destruction of the seven aircraft hangars;
- (c) Pursuant to paragraph 19 of EC-M-34/DEC.1, the Syrian Arab Republic is required to submit a monthly report to the Council regarding activities on its territory related to the destruction of its chemical weapons and CWPFs. The sixth such report was submitted to the Secretariat on 15 May 2014 and made available to the Council (EC-M-41/P/NAT.1, dated 15 May 2014); and
- (d) In accordance with subparagraph 1(e) of EC-M-33/DEC.1 and paragraph 7 of resolution 2118 (2013), the Syrian Arab Republic shall cooperate fully with all aspects of the implementation of the decision and the resolution. The Syrian authorities have continued to extend the necessary cooperation to the Joint

Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic in the conduct of its activities during the reporting period.

Activities carried out by the Secretariat with respect to the Syrian Arab Republic

5. Effective cooperation with the United Nations in the context of the Joint Mission has continued with close coordination between the two organisations and between the offices in The Hague, New York, Damascus, and Cyprus. As at the cut-off date of this report, eight OPCW staff members had been deployed as part of the Joint Mission in Damascus, and one logistics officer in Beirut.
6. The Director-General and the Special Coordinator of the Joint Mission, Ms Sigrid Kaag, have maintained regular contact. Ms Kaag visited The Hague on 2 May to discuss the future orientation of the Joint Mission. Recommendations from that meeting were also discussed between the United Nations Secretary-General and the Director-General. Once all chemicals are removed, a limited number of tasks will remain, including activities related to the destruction and verification of CWPFs, as well as possible visits by teams of technical experts from the Secretariat to Damascus as part of continuing efforts to streamline and complete the data regarding the initial declaration submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic. The Joint Mission will ensure implementation of remaining tasks within a certain time frame. This could be followed, if required, by support from the United Nations through other mechanisms to be agreed.
7. The Director-General has continued to meet with senior representatives of the States Parties offering to host a destruction facility or otherwise providing assistance with transport or destruction of Syrian chemical weapons, and to communicate regularly with senior officials from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. As requested by the Council at its Seventy-Fifth Session (paragraph 7.12 of EC-75/2, dated 7 March 2014), the Secretariat has continued to provide weekly information briefings to States Parties in The Hague on behalf of the Director-General.
8. As at the cut-off date of this report, all declared chemicals in the Syrian Arab Republic, except for those chemicals consolidated at one site near Damascus, had been transported to Latakia. Therefore, 11 out of the 12 declared CWSFs had been verified as empty and final inspection reports submitted to the Director-General.
9. As mentioned in the last report (EC-M-40/DG.4, dated 25 April 2014), between 22 and 28 April 2014, a team of technical experts from the Secretariat travelled to Damascus to meet with Syrian authorities as part of continuing efforts to streamline and complete the data regarding the initial declaration submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic in October 2013, and subsequent amendments, as well as the verification work. On return to the Headquarters, the information was analysed and it was felt that the team needed to undertake another visit. Accordingly, four team members travelled to Damascus on 21 May 2014 to hold further talks with the Syrian authorities.
10. As reported previously, the Secretariat, as required by paragraph 13 of EC-M-34/DEC.1, has developed a draft facility agreement for Syrian CWSFs and submitted the draft to the Syrian authorities for their comments, which are still pending.

11. OPCW personnel continued to carry out pre-operational visits to commercial facilities selected pursuant to paragraph 24 of decision EC-M-34/DEC.1 or sponsored by States Parties pursuant to paragraph 7 of decision EC-M-36/DEC.2. From 30 April to 2 May, a visit took place in the United States at the Veolia ES Technical Solutions, L.L.C., in Port Arthur, Texas, selected for the disposal of Priority 2 inorganic chemicals through the solicitation process conducted by the OPCW, and at the actual port of Port Arthur. During the visit, OPCW personnel reviewed all practical aspects related to the receipt, transportation, temporary storage, and destruction/disposal of the Syrian chemicals at the facility, and discussed practical arrangements to ensure the adequate verification of these activities in accordance with the draft facility agreement (EC-M-40/DEC/CRP.2, dated 31 March 2014) and the draft arrangements that will govern the verification activities to be conducted by the OPCW inspection teams at the port of Port Arthur. A visit is also planned to the relevant facility in Germany.

Supplementary resources

12. As reported in the previous monthly reports, several States Parties are providing assistance and resources for the purposes of the transportation, removal, and destruction of Syrian chemical weapons. All equipment requested by the Syrian Arab Republic has now been provided, either through the Joint Mission or under bilateral arrangements, and all the elements necessary for the removal of chemical weapons from the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic and their subsequent destruction are now in place.
13. As at the cut-off date of this report, the balance in the Syria Trust Fund for the Destruction of Chemical Weapons stood at EUR 48.3 million. Contributions have been received from Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, the Czech Republic, the European Union, Finland, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. This includes the contributions that were originally made to the first OPCW Trust Fund for Syria and which have, at the request of the donor, subsequently been transferred, in part or in whole, to the Syria Trust Fund for the Destruction of Chemical Weapons. A further contribution of EUR 2 million is expected from Italy.

Conclusion

14. While the amount of priority chemicals remaining on Syrian territory is approximately 8%, complete removal of such chemicals is a precondition for the destruction operations to begin. Delays in completing the removal of chemicals have been a source of increasing concern and cast doubts about the feasibility of complete destruction by the 30 June 2014 deadline. It is now crucial to ensure that the remaining, comparatively small quantities of chemicals are removed at the earliest, so that the destruction process can commence immediately. In this connection, it is important to keep in mind the unprecedented undertaking requiring the coordination of several elements, as well as arrangements and commitments undertaken by a number of States Parties for this phase, which has involved complex planning and sequencing, at a considerable cost.

15. As the Council was informed at its Fortieth Meeting on 29 April, the Syrian Arab Republic agreed to the Director-General's proposal to conduct a mission with a view to establishing the facts surrounding the allegations of the use of toxic chemicals (reported to be chlorine) for prohibited purposes in a number of locations on the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic. An advance team from the Secretariat travelled to Damascus on 2 May, while the Mission has now reached its full strength with 12 persons deployed. The alleged use of chlorine in the Syrian Arab Republic is of grave concern to the OPCW and the international community. It is now crucial that all efforts are made—by all parties to the conflict—to ensure safe access for the team, enabling it to conduct its important work.

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