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**OPENING STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL
TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES AT ITS EIGHTEENTH SESSION**

Mr Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

1. I welcome all delegations to the Eighteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties at the end of what has been a truly historical year for the OPCW.
2. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you, Ambassador Sa'ad Abdul Majeed Ibrahim Al-Ali of Iraq, on assuming the Chairmanship of the Conference. You bring deep knowledge and a wealth of diplomatic skills to this role, which I am sure will serve you well in leading this session of the Conference to a successful conclusion. To assist you in this endeavour, you can be assured of the full support of the Secretariat.
3. I take this opportunity to acknowledge, with deep appreciation, the work done by your predecessor, Ambassador Peter Goosen of South Africa. He has acquitted himself with distinction over what has been, and continues to be, a challenging time for the Organisation. I would also like to express appreciation to Ambassador Olexander Horin of Ukraine for his able guidance of the Executive Council, since May of this year, in what has been a crucial period of our work. My appreciation also extends to his predecessor, Ambassador Bhaswati Mukherjee, for her successful leadership of the Council.
4. I would like to acknowledge Mr Jarmo Sareva, Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, who is attending the Conference on behalf of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-moon.
5. I also welcome Ms Kaag, Special Coordinator of the OPCW-UN Joint Mission, to this session of the Conference.
6. Earlier this year, the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic reminded the international community of the dangers posed by these weapons. I joined the United Nations Secretary-General and the international community in condemning, in the strongest possible terms, the confirmed sarin attack in the Damascus suburb of Ghouta on 21 August. At the request of the Secretary-General, the Organisation has



placed its resources at his disposal and provided experts to deploy with the United Nations Mission to Investigate Allegations of the Use of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic. We have also provided facilities for the analysis of the data and samples collected. The United Nations Mission Head, Professor Sellström, is planning to submit the final report of the investigation by mid-December.

7. 2013 witnessed an unprecedented challenge for the Organisation in the form of the elimination of Syrian chemical weapons. Never before have we been called on to undertake such a challenge in an active war zone. The accelerated programme of destruction agreed by the Executive Council on 27 September in its decision entitled “Destruction of Syrian Chemical Weapons” (EC-M-33/DEC.1, dated 27 September 2013), and endorsed by United Nations Security resolution 2118 (2013), is ambitious. These decisions were informed by the Framework Agreement negotiated in Geneva by the Russian Federation and the United States of America on 14 September. This was followed by the submission of the Syrian Arab Republic, also on 14 September, of its instrument of accession to the Convention and its request for provisional application of the Convention until its accession on 14 October.
8. We have made good progress, in close partnership with the United Nations, in the ongoing Joint Mission. The Syrian Government has provided the necessary cooperation, consonant with the relevant requirements.
9. This historic mission remains the focus of the Organisation’s efforts, with several milestones to reach before the targeted completion date of the first half of 2014. The Council decision on the “Detailed Requirements for the Destruction of Syrian Chemical Weapons and Syrian Chemical Weapons Production Facilities” (EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013) provides completion dates for the removal of relevant chemicals for destruction outside Syrian territory, as well as the destruction of all chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs).
10. The support of States Parties has been instrumental for the successful implementation of the relevant Council decisions. Contributions to the two trust funds and in-kind technical assistance will continue to play a vital role in the process. I take this opportunity to thank States Parties for their generous contributions to date. I also draw their attention to the Secretariat Note requesting contributions to the special trust fund for destruction, so that we can initiate the tender process in a timely manner, in order to meet the timelines (S/1141/2013, dated 19 November 2013).
11. Syria’s accession to the Convention on 14 October, and that of Somalia on 28 June, have increased the number of States Parties to 190 and brought the prospect of full universality more clearly into view, with only six States now remaining outside the Convention. I reiterate my call upon these six States to join the Convention without delay or preconditions.
12. The Nobel Committee’s decision to award the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize to the OPCW, announced on 11 October, was a source of immense pride for all of us. This is clear recognition of sixteen years of past achievement of the OPCW, representing a valuable contribution to global peace and security. This recognition will inspire us in our ongoing and future work. Next week I will travel to Oslo together with some

Ambassadors and colleagues to accept the prize on behalf of the Organisation, States Parties, and Secretariat staff past and present.

13. As a means of preserving this legacy, the money awarded by the Nobel Committee, supplemented by donor contributions, will be used to create a fund for an annual OPCW award. This award will recognise outstanding contributions in advancing the objectives of the Convention.
14. In April, the successful Third Review Conference¹ adopted a final document that reaffirms States Parties' commitment to the global chemical weapons ban and outlines a comprehensive review of the Convention's implementation since 2008. Importantly, this review also maps out the Organisation's priorities for the next five years as well as future policy guidance. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addressed the Conference, sending a clear signal about the unique success that chemical disarmament has enjoyed.
15. We continue to make solid progress, with verification of the destruction of nearly 82% of all declared stocks, with those remaining possessor States prior to the accession of the Syrian Arab Republic. I welcome the efforts undertaken by the possessor States and the progress that has been made in the past year regarding the destruction of their stockpiles.
16. We have continued to pare down expenditure in keeping with the economic circumstances imposed by tighter global financial conditions. The Draft Programme and Budget for 2014 reflects a carefully negotiated balance, which strives to safeguard the Organisation's operational integrity from major unanticipated obligations, in part through a slight one-off increase in the Budget.
17. My report to the Conference at its Eighteenth Session is detailed. While the full text of my statement will be circulated to delegations as an official document, I will now present the highlights for various programme areas, beginning with chemical demilitarisation and verification.

Chemical demilitarisation and verification

18. As at 31 October 2013, in total 70,475 metric tonnes (MTs) of Category 1 chemical weapons had been declared by the possessor States; this quantity includes the Category 1 chemical weapons recently declared by the Syrian Arab Republic. Of this amount, 57,410 MTs, or 81%, of Category 1 chemical weapons had been destroyed under verification by the Secretariat. The aggregate amount destroyed includes 2,914 MTs that have been withdrawn from Category 1 chemical weapons stockpiles pursuant to Article VI of the Convention and subparagraph 2(d) of Part VI of the Verification Annex for purposes not prohibited under the Convention. A State Party, Albania, and India had already previously completed the destruction of their declared Category 1 chemical weapons stockpiles.
19. In total, 2,055 MTs of Category 2 chemical weapons have been declared by the possessor States Parties, including the Category 2 chemical weapons recently declared

¹ Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention

by the Syrian Arab Republic. The aggregate amount of Category 2 chemical weapons destroyed as at 31 October remained unchanged at 920 MTs, or 45%, of the total amount declared. Albania, India, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America have completed the destruction of all their declared Category 2 chemical weapons, whereas Libya has destroyed 39.64% of the amount it had declared. As for the Category 3 chemical weapons, A State Party, India, Libya, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America had already previously completed the destruction of these weapons.

The United States of America

20. The United States of America has destroyed 24,924 MTs, or nearly 90%, of the total declared amount of Category 1 chemical weapons. According to its detailed plan for the destruction of chemical weapons remaining after 29 April 2012 (EC-68/NAT.2, dated 13 April 2012), the United States of America plans to complete the destruction of its remaining chemical weapons by September 2023. The United States of America has also destroyed all of its Category 2 (0.010 MTs) and Category 3 chemical weapons.
21. In total, 11 chemical weapons destruction facilities (CWDFs) in this State Party have completed operations, while two others—at Pueblo and Blue Grass—are expected to commence destruction in December 2015 and April 2020, respectively. The United States of America has informed the Secretariat that it has completed the construction of the Pueblo destruction plant, and systemisation has reached the level of 49%. At Blue Grass, 72% of the construction work has been completed, and systemisation has reached 11% at this facility.
22. Destruction operations at the Explosive Destruction System (EDS) at the Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant are scheduled to begin in September 2014. The EDS will be used for processing problematic munitions that have proven difficult to process.
23. The United States of America has informed the Secretariat that it is pursuing a number of measures, including implementation of contract incentives, hiring of experienced personnel from former destruction facilities, using additional destruction technologies to augment the current processes, and minimising risks associated with first-of-kind facilities and equipment to ensure the commencement and completion of destruction at both Pueblo and Blue Grass without compromising safety and security.
24. From 18 to 24 May, a delegation of the Council visited, pursuant to the decision of the Conference on the final extended deadline (C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011), the chemical agent destruction pilot plants in Pueblo, Colorado and Blue Grass, Kentucky, at the invitation of the United States of America. The delegation was able to witness first-hand the efforts made to move the destruction process forward through utilising systemisation activities in parallel with the ongoing construction work.

The Russian Federation

25. The Russian Federation continued its efforts in carrying out the destruction of its chemical weapons. Thus, as at 31 October 2013, the total declared amount of Category 1 chemical weapons destroyed was 30,795 MTs, or 77.05%, of the total

amount declared. According to its detailed plan for the destruction of chemical weapons remaining after 29 April 2012 (EC-68/P/NAT.1, dated 11 April 2012), the Russian Federation plans to destroy the remaining amount of Category 1 chemical weapons by December 2015. The Russian Federation has also destroyed all of its Category 2 (10.616 MTs) and Category 3 chemical weapons.

26. Four CWDFs in the Russian Federation—at Leonidovka, Maradykovsky, Shchuchye, and Pochev—have been operating in 2013. At the beginning of November, the Secretariat conducted a final engineering review of the new chemical weapons destruction facility being built at Kizner. This facility is planned to become operational in December.
27. The Russian Federation continues to gradually bring its CWDFs into operation, through the commissioning of individual units designed for the destruction of a particular type of chemical agent or munitions. The second process building at the Shchuchye chemical weapons destruction facility became operational in February, following the final engineering review by the Secretariat. The Secretariat also conducted a final engineering review of the new destruction unit designed for the destruction of aerial bomb blocks at Maradykovsky in September; this unit became operational in November.

Libya

28. Libya resumed Category 1 chemical weapons destruction operations in April of this year. The destruction of the remaining sulfur mustard stored in transportation tanks was completed on 4 May. As at 31 October, the total amount of Category 1 chemical weapons destroyed by Libya stood at 22.295 MTs, or nearly 85%, of its declared stocks. With respect to the remaining Category 2 chemical weapons, Libya has destroyed 555.71 MTs, or 39.64%, of its declared stockpiles. This State Party has also destroyed all the remaining Category 3 chemical weapons it declared in November 2011.
29. Libya has continued to demonstrate its commitment to the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons. With the assistance of other States Parties, Libya has finalised the arrangements for the start of destruction operations in relation to chemical munitions using the static detonation chamber. A final engineering review of the destruction unit was conducted on 4 November, during which the OPCW team confirmed the readiness of the facility to commence operations. Procedures for the verification of the chemical weapons destruction were agreed and the Secretariat reviewed the health and safety, and security arrangements in place to allow for the deployment of the inspection team. The destruction operations commenced at this facility on 18 November under verification by the OPCW inspection team.
30. In accordance with the detailed plan for the destruction of chemical weapons remaining after 29 April 2012 submitted by Libya (EC-68/NAT.4, dated 18 April 2012), the destruction of the remaining Category 1 chemical weapons is planned to be completed by the end of this month. The destruction of Category 2 chemical weapons is scheduled to be completed by December 2016.

Iraq

31. Iraq, in cooperation with the Secretariat and a number of States Parties, has continued to work towards completing the assessment of the declared chemical weapons and deciding on appropriate destruction methods. This State Party has recently submitted to the Secretariat the detailed facility information for the destruction of its chemical weapons.

The Syrian Arab Republic

32. Further to the adoption of the historic decision (EC-M-33/DEC.1) by the Council on 27 September regarding the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme, which was endorsed by the United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), the activities conducted by the Secretariat have conformed to the priority tasks identified in those documents and subsequent decisions adopted by the Council.
33. An advance team of OPCW and United Nations staff was deployed in Damascus as early as 1 October. On 16 October, following close consultations between me and the United Nations Secretary-General, the establishment of the OPCW-UN Joint Mission in Syria was announced. That same day, Ms Sigrid Kaag was appointed as Special Coordinator of the Joint Mission.
34. The Joint Mission successfully completed the crucial initial tasks assigned to the team within the target dates of 27 October and 1 November. These included assistance provided to the Syrian Arab Republic towards its submission of its initial declaration, verification of disclosed sites, and functional destruction of chemical weapons production, mixing, and filling facilities.
35. In accordance with EC-M-33/DEC.1 and UNSCR 2118 (2013), I provided, on 25 October and 25 November, detailed monthly reports on the progress made in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme and the activities carried out by the Secretariat. A further report, pursuant to paragraph 25 of EC-M-34/DEC.1 (dated 2 December 2013) was issued on Monday of this week.
36. I have transmitted my monthly reports to the United Nations Secretary-General for his subsequent transmission to the United Nations Security Council under the cover of a letter by the Secretary-General reporting on the activities conducted by the United Nations regarding the implementation of resolution 2118 (2013).
37. The current phase of our work is guided by the decision adopted by the Council on 15 November, which sets forth the detailed requirements for the destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons and CWPFs and the relevant completion dates. I supported the option of removal of the Syrian chemical weapons for destruction outside its territory, which the Syrian Arab Republic had proposed in its destruction plan submitted in accordance with the Convention. The Council decision approved the removal of chemicals from the Syrian Arab Republic to a location outside its territory for destruction. This decision was preceded by a plan submitted by the Operational Planning Group, in close consultation with a delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic, after a meeting in The Hague from 6 to 9 November.

38. Preparations by the Joint Mission for the removal of the Syrian chemical weapons for destruction outside its territory are currently under way. Materials and items necessary for the safe and secure packaging of chemicals have begun to arrive in Damascus, from where they will be distributed to the various sites. An important development in the context of planning the removal of chemicals from the Syrian Arab Republic is the decision of the United States of America, communicated to me, that it will contribute a destruction technology and full operational support to neutralise the priority chemicals that will be removed from the Syrian Arab Republic. It will also cover the costs associated with this activity. The neutralisation operations are proposed to be conducted on a United States vessel at sea, using hydrolysis. Currently, a suitable naval vessel is undergoing modifications to support the neutralisation operations and to accommodate verification activities by the Technical Secretariat. I thank the United States of America, which, in addition to its significant financial and material support, has now announced this critical contribution to the Joint Mission.
39. The Secretariat has also, in accordance with EC-M-34/DEC.1, commenced pursuing the option of the destruction of chemicals removed from Syria in commercial chemical disposal facilities. This includes binary chemical weapons components and any associated reaction masses. On 21 November, the Secretariat issued a call for expressions of interest (EOI) from commercial companies, with a view to initiating tenders for the treatment and disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous organic and inorganic chemicals and related packaging materials and containers. The Secretariat has received 35 EOIs, which are being evaluated. The Secretariat has developed a set of technical selection criteria, which will serve as the basis for the evaluation of the tenders. This has been circulated for the information of States Parties as a non-paper and is available on the external server.
40. From the operational point of view, the security situation in the Syrian Arab Republic has deteriorated. The most obvious impact this has had is on a number of planned activities, especially relating to the cluster of sites in the Homs area. This situation could affect plans for the removal of chemicals from the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as the ability of the OPCW to carry out its verification activities.
41. The verification of the destruction of Category 3 chemical weapons and the destruction of specialised features of CWPFs remains on the work plans of the Joint Mission. The Syrian Arab Republic has reported all of its declared 774 Category 3 chemical weapons as destroyed, of which 63% have been verified by the team to date. Verification of the destruction by the Syrian Arab Republic of all items of specialised equipment at the declared CWPFs has been completed.
42. The Syrian Arab Republic is continuing the destruction of the special features at relevant CWPFs and has completed such destruction at seven of these facilities. Secretariat personnel have verified the destruction of special features at three of these seven CWPFs.
43. The Secretariat has also begun developing the combined plan for destruction and verification for all declared Syrian CWPFs that remain to be destroyed, in close consultation with the Syrian Arab Republic.

44. I would like to thank all those States Parties that have made voluntary financial and in-kind contributions and I wish to stress once again that the successful implementation of the relevant decisions will continue to rely on such support from the international community.
45. As at 29 November, the OPCW trust fund to provide funding to facilitate the technical activities of the OPCW in support of the verification of the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons (S/1132/2013, dated 16 October 2013) had utilised EUR 3.8 million on verification activities. Contributions totalling EUR 11.2 million had been received from Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.) A further four States Parties (Andorra, the Czech Republic, Italy, and Sweden) had made formal commitments to contribute to the trust fund.
46. As required pursuant to paragraph 6 of the decision, on 19 November 2013 the Technical Secretariat established a special trust fund, which I have already mentioned in my introduction, for the financial resources needed for the activities related to the complete destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons outside the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic (S/1141/2013). As at 29 November, the Secretariat had received a contribution to the fund from Luxembourg in the amount of EUR 250,000. In addition, Malta, Poland, and Turkey had made formal commitments to contribute and some States Parties that had formally committed to contribute to the trust fund created pursuant to the appeal contained in S/1132/2013 indicated that their contribution can be transferred to the special trust fund.

Old and abandoned chemical weapons

47. The destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China has continued this year in Shijiazhuang. The second stage of destruction operations was concluded in July. Since operations started at Shijiazhuang, a total of 1,142 abandoned chemical weapons items have been destroyed at this location.
48. China and Japan continue to work together to facilitate the redeployment of the mobile destruction facility from Nanjing to Wuhan to continue destruction operations at that location. In Northern China, excavation and recovery operations have commenced in Haerbaling, whilst preparations are ongoing for the construction of the destruction facilities at that location.
49. Following a joint invitation by China and Japan, a delegation of the Executive Council visited the Haerbaling abandoned chemical weapons site from 9 to 13 September. This visit allowed the delegation to better understand the status of the project and further enhanced transparency.
50. During the past year, three inspections of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China have been conducted at four sites in China.
51. Inspections have also been conducted at six old chemical weapons sites in five States Parties, namely, Belgium, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. While the destruction operations

have made considerable progress in this regard, recoveries of significant quantities of old chemical weapons continue to be made.

Chemical weapons production facilities

52. Out of the 96 CWPFs declared by 14 States Parties, including the Syrian Arab Republic, 43 have already been destroyed and 22 have been converted for purposes not prohibited under the Convention. Twelve States Parties have completed the destruction or conversion of all their declared CWPFs. All converted production facilities remain under systematic verification by the OPCW to ensure that they are fully consistent with the approved conversion requests.
53. In 2013, the Technical Secretariat has conducted systematic inspections at five converted CWPFs in the Russian Federation. The last CWPF in the Russian Federation has been certified as converted from 17 July 2013. One Iraqi CWPF is yet to be converted, pending the approval by the Conference at this session. The Secretariat is awaiting the submission, by Iraq, of the detailed plans for destruction of four CWPFs (Falluja I, II, III, and Al-Muthanna).
54. Following the decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.7, dated 16 February 2012) on the nature of continued verification measures at converted CWPFs 10 years after certification of their conversion, in 2013 the Secretariat has inspected one such CWPF in the Russian Federation and two in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Declarations

55. Following a decision by the Council at its Fifty-First Session, (EC-51/DEC.1, dated 27 November 2007), the Secretariat has continued to publish status reports on the timely submission of declarations under Article VI of the Convention.
56. With regard to initial declarations, as at 28 November 2013, 183 States Parties had submitted their initial declarations in accordance with Articles III and VI of the Convention. Since the last session of the Conference, the Secretariat has received initial declarations from five States Parties, including the declaration made by the Syrian Arab Republic. Five States Parties have not yet submitted their initial declarations under Articles III and VI, and an additional two States Parties have yet to submit initial declarations under Article VI.
57. This year, the number of timely submissions of annual declarations on past activities (ADPA) showed no significant change compared to the last year. As at 14 November 2013, a total of 91 States Parties had submitted ADPA for 2012, including eight nil declarations. Of 91 States Parties, 59 States Parties, including three nil declarations, made their declaration on time. Of 83 States Parties that have submitted a declaration for declarable facilities or activities for ADPA 2012, 56 were on time in submitting at least part of their declarations as compared to 55 for ADPA 2011. In other words, approximately 67% of these declarations, excluding nil declarations, were received on time this year. The Secretariat has continued to engage with those States Parties that submit their declarations more than 30 days late, highlighting the problem to them and seeking improvements. Of the 20 States Parties that submitted their ADPA for 2011

more than 30 days late, five were on time for their ADPA 2012. Thirteen States Parties continued to submit their ADPA 2012 more than 30 days late.

58. In the case of annual declarations of anticipated activities (ADAA) for 2014, the timeliness of submissions has improved in comparison to last year. The number of States Parties submitting Schedule 1 declarations by the deadline of 2 October increased slightly. Eighty-seven percent of submissions were made by the deadline this year, as compared to 71% of timely submissions last year. Regarding Schedule 2 and 3 declarations, 40 of the 42 declarations received as at 14 November 2013 were on time. It is expected that an additional eight declarations will be made. Overall, approximately 80% of Schedule 2 and 3 declarations were received on time.

Transfer discrepancies related to the import and export of Schedule 2 and Schedule 3 chemicals

59. In the Verification Implementation Report (VIR) for 2012 (EC-73/HP/DG.1, dated 16 May 2013 and Corr.1, dated 8 July 2013), as well as its supplement (EC-74/HP/DG.1, dated 18 September 2013), the Secretariat reported again that a significant number of States Parties were involved in transfers of Schedule 2 and Schedule 3 chemicals, without making the necessary declarations in accordance with the Convention. The Secretariat has continued to work with these States Parties over the last year and, as a result, in 2013 three of them have resumed making import and export declarations. The Secretariat will continue to work with the remaining States Parties with a view to fulfilling their requirements under the Convention, and to provide assistance to this end.

Survey on the implementation of Schedule 2A/2A* low-concentration guidelines

60. The Secretariat is undertaking a third survey (S/1125/2013, dated 17 September 2013) in order to gather data for the third report on the status of implementation of decision C-14/DEC.4 (dated 2 December 2009), which established guidelines on low-concentration limits for declarations of Schedule 2A and 2A* chemicals. The Secretariat had reported in the VIR for 2012 that only 27 States Parties had informed the Secretariat that they had fully implemented this decision. I encourage all States Parties to complete this survey by the deadline of 31 December 2013.

Aggregate national data (AND) trend analysis for Schedule 2 chemicals

61. The AND trend analysis project aims at analysing the trends over the past five years in the AND declarations to identify potential additional declarable activities involving Schedule 2 chemicals. In 2013, one State Party declared two additional Schedule 2 plant sites and amended its import/export data on the basis of this analysis. The Secretariat continues to work with States Parties on this matter.

Update of the Declarations Handbook

62. The Secretariat has finalised the 2013 version of Declarations Handbook, incorporating relevant decisions and reports agreed by the Secretariat and the OPCW policy-making organs, as well as views and comments received from States Parties. This new version of the Declarations Handbook, which will be made available before the end of this year, also provides detailed guidance on resolving transfer

discrepancies. In addition, the Secretariat is working on the update of the Handbook on Chemicals, which will be released in 2014.

Electronic processing

63. In 2013 the Secretariat has worked on the new version of the electronic declaration tool for National Authorities (EDNA), version 3.0. It will be made available to States Parties in preparation for the forthcoming declaration round, upon conclusion of applicable quality-assurance activities. The main feature in this version is the inclusion of a dedicated module for the declaration of Schedule 1 facilities and activities. It is envisaged that this tool can contribute to a significant reduction in declarations made on paper and enhance the timeliness of declarations.
64. Another important initiative in 2013 was the project on the secure information exchange (SIX). The project aims at establishing a secure electronic channel for the exchange of information, including information of a classified nature, between States Parties and the Secretariat. The pilot programme for this project has been completed with the participation of several States Parties from all regional groups. The system will likely be made available in the first quarter of 2014. I encourage States Parties to explore the utilisation of this optional mechanism and to approach the Secretariat with any questions they may have.
65. The Secretariat also organised the fourth EDNA user-group forum as part of the Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the National Authorities last week. The participants received an update on the new version of EDNA and discussed the SIX project in detail. The representatives of the National Authorities had the opportunity to share their experiences regarding electronic declarations and the secure electronic transmission of information. The report of the fourth user-group forum will be made available to States Parties.
66. The Secretariat has continued to provide training regarding electronic declarations. Two basic courses on this topic were delivered as part of the basic course for personnel of National Authorities held at the OPCW Headquarters in The Hague from 12 to 15 March and from 16 to 20 September. In addition, the Secretariat provided a two-day training course on electronic declarations and the use of the EDNA as part of the seventeenth training course on National Authority and chemical databases organised by VERIFIN², which took place in Helsinki, Finland, from 12 to 23 August. Several other meetings were held at the OPCW Headquarters with those States Parties interested in submitting their declarations electronically in the future.
67. The electronic processing of declarations continued to register positive developments. The Secretariat received declarations from 44 States Parties for ADPA 2012 in electronic format, amounting to a total of 91% declared plant sites. In 2013, three States Parties used EDNA for the first time. The Technical Secretariat is also organising training sessions and presentations for EDNA and the secure information exchange in the margins of this session of the Conference; details are available in the OPCW Journal. I encourage you to contact the Secretariat should you require

guidance or assistance on the electronic submission of declarations, or in order to request support and training regarding the use of the software.

Industry verification

68. With regard to inspections under Article VI, 216 were completed by 30 November, amounting to 94.3% of the 229 Article VI inspections provided for in the Programme and Budget for 2013. Of these, seven inspections, which included sampling and analysis, were conducted at Schedule 2 plant sites. I expect that the planned Article VI inspection programme for 2013 will be completed as scheduled.
69. The results of the revised methodology for selection of other chemical production facilities (OCPFs) continue to show a positive trend in terms of geographical distribution. As reported in S/1102/2013 (dated 5 June 2013), the Secretariat developed a computer program incorporating the changes in the revised methodology in 2011. The Office of Internal Oversight analysed the logic of the software program and found that both the logic and the output were in accordance with the revised methodology for OCPF site selection. The Secretariat will continue to work to make improvements in the software code.

Analysis of Schedule 3 inspections

70. In 2013, on the basis of the analysis contained in S/843/2010 (dated 7 May 2010) and as a result of the application of the updated data, the Secretariat issued an updated assessment of the methodology for the selection of Schedule 3 plant sites for inspection (S/1088/2013, dated 11 April 2013). The analysis confirmed, once again, that by 2014 there will likely remain only one State Party with Schedule 3 plant sites at which an initial inspection can be conducted, unless new inspectable Schedule 3 plant sites are declared by other States Parties.
71. As I have reported previously, the current level of initial Schedule 3 inspections (20 per year) cannot, therefore, be continued. My previous recommendation that the overall number of Schedule 3 inspections be reduced, has subsequently been endorsed by States Parties in the Industry Cluster consultations, and is reflected in the Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2014.

Optimisation of the industry verification regime

72. In order to more efficiently utilise the resources allocated to verification activities, the Secretariat has reduced the size of inspection teams further. It has also conducted sequential inspections, namely, the conduct of two inspections in one mission, during 56 missions this year. These combinations of inspections are not only applied to inspections within a State Party but are now more often utilised to combine inspections between two States Parties. These measures have especially been applied when inspection sites were a great distance from the OPCW Headquarters. This led to cost savings in air fares and a reduction of inspectors' time required for the inspection.

Consultations on industry issues

73. Several topics related to Schedule 1 inspections have been discussed in sessions of the Council and in the Industry Cluster facilitations throughout 2013. These included the development of a procedure to be used when the Secretariat becomes aware of undeclared Schedule 1 facilities and activities (EC-72/DG.6, dated 24 April 2013). This procedure was subsequently supplemented with a procedure for handling cases of Schedule 1 activities not yet declared and discovered during an Article VI inspection of a Schedule 1 site (S/1120/2013, dated 31 July 2013). Schedule 1 verification activities were further discussed when the Secretariat presented a non-paper on the procedures used for selection and planning of Schedule 1 inspections at the Industry Cluster meeting held on 19 September.

Technical support from the OPCW Laboratory

74. The network of partner laboratories available for off-site analysis of samples remains strong. Twenty-one laboratories from 17 States Parties have met the requisite criteria to become OPCW designated laboratories. Eighteen laboratories from an additional 16 States Parties have participated in the proficiency-testing programme during the past year and are working toward designated status.
75. The analysis of biomedical samples, in support of investigations of alleged use, is a challenging task. A third confidence-building exercise on biomedical sample analysis was conducted in February of this year. The exercise registered significantly improved results, and highlighted the skill and expertise of States Parties' laboratories. A fourth exercise will commence in February 2014. The goal of these exercises is to lead to a programme to designate laboratories for the off-site analysis of biomedical samples.
76. In support of the United Nations Mission to Investigate Allegations of the Use of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, several partner laboratories have collaborated with the OPCW to perform more than 300 analyses. These laboratories expended a significant effort in a short period of time, and their results were essential to enabling the United Nations team to reach its conclusions.

Verification policy and reporting

77. As in past years, the Secretariat has reported on verification activities during the year. Comprehensive summaries of verification activities in 2012 are contained in the aforementioned VIR for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2012 (EC-73/HP/DG.1 and Corr.1). The unclassified summary of verification activities is also available (S/1124/2013, dated 9 September 2013).
78. Following a three-year review, the Secretariat issued a Note on refinements in the conduct of inspections to improve the consistency, effectiveness, and efficiency of the Article VI verification regime (S/1066/2013, dated 11 February 2013). The Secretariat used three methods to review the Article VI regime: a quality review of 21 Article VI inspections; systematic analysis of final inspection reports for all 417 Article VI inspections that were conducted during 2010 and 2011; and identification of trends and patterns through systematic participation in Article VI inspection debriefings. The analysis points to good practices that other organisations could

conceivably learn from, and points also to opportunities for the OPCW to further improve the Article VI verification regime.

Inspectorate staffing and training

79. At the beginning of 2013, the Inspectorate Division had 110 inspectors to cover its Article IV, V, and VI-related inspections. This number was increased to reach the budgeted number of 126 in September. The new inspector group (Group M) is comprised of staff from nine different countries and covers all four specialist areas. The inspectors underwent an eleven-week training programme and are currently deployed in on-the-job training inspections.
80. Inspector training in 2013 focused on maintaining the mandatory qualifications for the conduct of inspection activities, as well as preparing experienced inspectors and inspection team leaders to perform inspection duties for “non-routine” missions and contingency operations, such as challenge inspections and investigations of alleged use. Since March of this year, inspector training also has a new focus on activities in non-permissive and conflict-affected environments. The exercises undertaken during the past years, notably, in 2009, 2010, and 2011, on challenge inspections and investigations of alleged use have contributed to the more effective functioning of the Secretariat.
81. The 2013 Inspectorate Training Programme commenced on 14 January, and is likely to last until 18 December. The programme, excluding the new inspector training, was comprised of 54 individual training courses, with a total of 49 calendar weeks of training.
82. The Inspectorate Division would like to acknowledge the following Member States that assisted in the delivery of the training programme either as Host Nations or through voluntary contributions, and the provision of technical and/or administrative assistance: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Serbia, Slovakia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

Follow-up to the Third Review Conference

83. The report of the Third Review Conference (RC-3/3*, dated 19 April 2013) provided a thorough review of past implementation of the Convention, as well as policy guidance for the future. States Parties reaffirmed the key norms of the Convention, highlighting its role as a bulwark against chemical weapons. At the request of the Executive Council at its Seventy-Second Session (paragraph 10.1 of EC-72/4, dated 7 May 2013), the Secretariat provided a matrix document based on the report of the Third Review Conference, focusing on actionable items and taking into account specific requests of the Council. Such a document was submitted to the Council prior to its Seventy-Third Session (EC-73/S/2, dated 4 June 2013). An update of the Secretariat’s analysis of actions to implement the recommendations of the Third Review Conference was made available to States Parties on 30 September (EC-74/S/3, dated 30 September 2013).

Knowledge management

84. The Third Review Conference expressed its “commitment that the OPCW remain the global repository of knowledge and expertise on the implementation of the Convention” and provided the Technical Secretariat with a mandate to “present proposals for ensuring continuity in its knowledge base and expertise” (paragraph 9.14 of RC-3/3*). In addition, the Third Review Conference “requested the Secretariat to identify and implement ways of ensuring continuity in its knowledge base and expertise” (subparagraph 9.155(h) of RC-3/3*).
85. In response to this request, the Secretariat developed two non-papers on knowledge management that were made available to States Parties in June and October, respectively. In addition, presentations were given to the ABAF and during the informal consultations for the 2014 Programme and Budget. In 2014, the Secretariat will explore how best to implement effective knowledge management in the future.

Results-based management

86. A results-based management (RBM) roadmap for the period 2013 to 2015 has been developed. The roadmap contains a phased approach to further enhancing RBM practices in the Organisation.

The Scientific Advisory Board and science and technology

87. The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) held its Twentieth Session during the year. Three of its temporary working groups (TWGs)—on convergence of chemistry and biology, education and outreach, and verification matters, respectively—have met. At its Twentieth Session, I requested the SAB to consider the matter of riot control agents, as well as assistance and protection. The SAB is expected to provide responses during the course of 2014. In the margins of the Twentieth Session of the SAB, the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson again engaged with States Parties; the presentation given at the event is available on the external server.
88. The TWG on Convergence of Chemistry and Biology, whose mandate ends at the end of this year, will organise a side event in the margins of next week’s Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention and provide a plenary presentation.
89. The third meeting of the TWG on Education and Outreach was held last week, in parallel with the Annual Meeting of National Authorities. Interaction with the representatives of National Authorities included break-out groups on education and outreach and science and technology. Members of the TWG, inter alia, introduced tools and materials for awareness-raising of the OPCW and the Convention.
90. During the course of 2013, the Secretariat has initiated the development of educational tools and materials, which are now available for use by educators and students. Supported by a voluntary contribution from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, a group of chemistry teachers in local Dutch and international high schools is finalising work on educational materials about the OPCW and ethics in science. The Secretariat has also worked with the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), with financial support from the European Union, to update interactive web-based materials on the multiple uses of

chemistry. The updated version is available on the OPCW and IUPAC websites. Recently, the OPCW, together with the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, co-organised an international workshop for relevant international organisations on disarmament and non-proliferation education and capacity development. This meeting was supported by the Governments of Austria and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

91. The Third Review Conference highlighted the importance of scientific developments in the context of implementation of the Convention and the context of the work of the SAB. The Secretariat is now developing further the recommendations that I made to the Third Review Conference in relation to science and technology (RC-3/DG.2, dated 31 January 2013), and developing policy advice for the policy-making organs, as appropriate, on this basis.
92. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the SAB who have completed their terms during 2013, in particular Mr Stefan Mogl of Switzerland, who chaired three sessions of the SAB. I would also like to welcome all those members of the SAB who have taken up their first term of office in 2013.
93. I would also like to thank the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for its contribution to the SAB trust fund in 2013. Such contributions allow the SAB to continue providing important advice. I wish to express the hope that States Parties will respond favourably to my request for voluntary contributions to the SAB trust fund (S/1119/2013, dated 24 July 2013).

Education and outreach

94. As requested by States Parties at the Third Review Conference, the Secretariat has developed an education and outreach strategy, as well as a two-year plan for its implementation. This period will be marked by the award of the Nobel Peace Prize 2013 and, in 2015, the centennial commemoration of the first large-scale use of lethal chemical weapons in warfare. These represent valuable occasions for the Secretariat to further enhance awareness-raising for the Convention among a broad range of stakeholders. I therefore propose to make 2014 the year of education and outreach, with a view to stepping up our efforts in this domain, together with our partners.

Interaction with the chemical industry

95. The Third Review Conference recommended the further enhancement of interaction between the Secretariat and the chemical industry. The Secretariat has continued to engage with representatives of the International Council of Chemical Associations during 2013, with a view to developing practical initiatives related to implementation of the Convention. During the course of 2014, the Secretariat will meet with representatives of national chemical industry associations. In order to make these consultations as inclusive as possible, the Secretariat is aiming to liaise with more than 90% of the relevant associations worldwide.

Counter-terrorism and chemical security

96. The Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism has met twice this year, under the able stewardship of H.E Dr Nimota Nihinlola Akanbi OON, Ambassador of Nigeria. In July, the OEWG discussed proposals made by the previous facilitator at the beginning of the year. In October, the OEWG invited Dr Jonathan Lucas, Director of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, who addressed the working group. Key points from both meetings have been posted on the OPCW external server.
97. The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) has approved a project proposal developed by the Secretariat as co-Chair of the Working Group on Preventing and Responding to WMD³ Terrorist Attacks of the CTITF. The project focuses on ensuring effective inter-agency interoperability, as well as coordinated and effective communication in the event of chemical and/or biological attacks.
98. During the year, the Secretariat participated, together with other relevant international and regional organisations, as an observer in three meetings of the G8 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction. In the Chemical Security Sub-Working Group (CSWG) of the Global Partnership, the Secretariat submitted project proposals for funding in the areas of knowledge management, education and outreach, and inter-agency interoperability in the context of a request for an investigation of alleged use or assistance in case of use or threat of use of chemical weapons. The Secretariat will continue to participate in the meetings of the CSWG as an observer.

International cooperation and assistance

99. The Secretariat has continued to assist States Parties in achieving the full and effective implementation of the Convention and in developing relevant national capacities. In 2013, the Secretariat delivered 77 courses, workshops, seminars, and events for over 2,050 participants from around the world, at a cost of approximately EUR 4 million. I would like to thank all States Parties and relevant organisations and institutions for their valuable contributions and support.

Implementation support

100. In 2013, more than 30 courses, events, and activities related to Article VII were conducted by the Secretariat.
101. States Parties welcomed the focus on tailor-made support in the area of national implementation and relevant capacity-building initiatives, including the development and adoption of the necessary national legislation; the effective implementation of the transfers regime; the improvement of the capability of National Authorities to prepare and submit accurate and timely Article VI declarations; and the management of industry inspections.

³

WMD = weapon(s) of mass destruction

102. The Annual Meeting and the regional meetings of National Authorities provided opportunities for the exchange of experiences and best practices among National Authorities. The regional meetings were hosted by Croatia, Cyprus, Congo, and Ecuador for the States Parties in their respective regions, namely, Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean.
103. In order to sensitise customs authorities and build adequate capacity in States Parties to support the implementation of the transfers regime of the Convention, the Secretariat organised six regional and subregional courses on technical aspects of the transfers regime of the Convention for customs officers. These were held in Azerbaijan, Colombia, Ghana, Malaysia, Namibia, and Qatar. These courses focus increasingly on delivery of training the trainers from customs academies, so as to maximise impact.
104. The Secretariat organised two training courses this year to assist National Authorities in the timely preparation and submission of Article VI declarations. The courses were conducted in Qatar for States Parties from Asia, and in Mexico for States Parties from Latin America and the Caribbean.
105. The Secretariat undertook additional activities in the area of capacity-building and training. These activities included three national capacity evaluation visits to Botswana, Indonesia, and the Philippines, which provided assistance regarding legislative obligations and annual declarations. Two basic courses were held at the OPCW Headquarters. In collaboration with the National Authority of the Netherlands, the Secretariat also conducted, for the first time at OPCW Headquarters, a training course for national escorts for inspections. Simultaneous translation into French and Spanish was provided at this course. The Secretariat also carried out a special workshop for lusophone States Parties, held in Lisbon, which focused on all programme areas under Articles VII, X, and XI. This course was attended, in addition to other participants, by representatives of a State not Party to the Convention, namely, Angola.
106. Under the National Authority mentorship programme, two mentorship projects, one between Pakistan and Yemen and the other between Malaysia and Sudan, are currently under way. A number of additional mentorships are planned for 2014. The Secretariat also continued to assist States Parties in the drafting of national legislation in the context of the legal internship programme. Nine States Parties, from Africa, Asia, and the GRULAC region, respectively, benefitted from four internships this year.
107. With financial support from the European Union, six modules of the OPCW e-learning project have been completed and are available on the OPCW website. I encourage National Authorities to disseminate these tools as widely as possible among stakeholders at the national level. The publication of the six initial modules in both French and Spanish is planned for early 2014.

Assistance and protection

108. In the field of assistance and protection, 26 capacity-building activities were conducted by the Technical Secretariat during 2013, with the participation of 549 individuals from States Parties. The activities covered various subjects and skills sets

including basic, advanced, laboratory, medical, and refresher levels of training, as well as exercises.

109. As at 1 November, 92 States Parties had submitted information about their national programme related to protective purposes under Article X of the Convention. Contributions to the Voluntary Fund for Assistance currently amount to EUR 1,512,625. Furthermore, a bilateral agreement on the procurement of assistance between the Technical Secretariat and the Government of Peru entered into force on 30 October.
110. The Secretariat co-organised international assistance-and-protection training courses related to offers made under Article X of the Convention with the Governments of Belarus, China, the Czech Republic, Finland, India, Pakistan, Poland, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Switzerland, and Ukraine.
111. In May, the Secretariat conducted at its Headquarters the second international training course for instructors, which provided advanced training to an international team of first responders. In collaboration with hosting Member States, the Secretariat also conducted two regional capacity-building courses for specialists charged with responding to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals. These courses were conducted in Argentina and Brazil, in May and August, respectively. Together with the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC) in Rakitje, Croatia, the Secretariat organised the tenth annual seminar on the implementation of the Convention for States Parties of South Eastern Europe.
112. A regional workshop on assistance and protection against chemical weapons for representatives of States Parties in Africa, co-organised by the Government of Mozambique and the OPCW, was held in Maputo, Mozambique, in March.
113. Two regional workshops on assistance and protection and issues of regional coordination were held in 2013. The first course was held for States from the GRULAC⁴ region in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in October. The second was held in Doha, Qatar, in November for States Parties in the Asian region. Other courses, integrated into subregional projects, were also held throughout the year in and for various subregions. These included a course in Serbia for West African English-speaking States Parties; a course in South Africa for instructors from African States Parties; a course in Switzerland for West-African French-speaking States Parties; a course in Jamaica for the Caribbean subregion; and an additional course in El Salvador for Central American States Parties.
114. The first meeting of training centres for assistance and protection under Article X of the Convention was jointly organised in July by the Government of Switzerland and the Technical Secretariat at the ABC Training Centre in Spiez, Switzerland. Several important recommendations emerged from this meeting, including on the harmonisation of training curricula, the development and use of e-learning modules, the cooperation between training providers, and the further development of regional cooperation and exchange in assistance and protection-related training.

115. Key operational and procedural issues of international assistance and consequence management were addressed at a table-top exercise that took place in Jakarta, Indonesia, in August. Participants tested their skills and organisational processes in a scenario involving a major chemical incident in Southeast Asia. A follow-up table-top exercise was held for the same group of participants in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in October, aimed at providing training in planning and building a support team in civilian defence for chemical emergencies and with regard to incidents involving toxic chemicals.
116. The Secretariat also continued its close cooperation with other relevant international organisations, such as the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the World Health Organization, and others. In this context, the Technical Secretariat designated an Assistance Coordination and Assessment Team to participate in TRIPLEX 2013, an exercise organised by the International Humanitarian Partnership and the UNOCHA in Denmark and Germany from 28 September to 4 October. Important stakeholders in international assistance operations such as United Nations agencies, national assistance organisations (both civil and military) and non-governmental organisations participated in this large-scale, multi-agency exercise designed to test cooperation, coordination, and interoperability in a complex disaster-management scenario.
117. The Secretariat issued a new call for nominations of qualified experts (S/1126/2013, dated 23 September 2013). Suitable candidates in various disciplines have been invited to send nominations to the Secretariat before 20 December this year. I encourage the Member States to give significant consideration to nominating appropriate experts for this programme.
118. In the context of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons and in accordance with decision C-16/DEC.13 (dated 2 December 2011), a subpage was created within the official website of the OPCW as an information platform. A new voluntary contribution to the trust fund of EUR 5,000 was received from the Government of Iraq in July. I also encourage States Parties in a position to do so, to contribute to the voluntary fund created for the Network.

International cooperation

119. In the area of integrated chemical management, the fourteenth edition of the Associate Programme was successfully conducted. A total of 329 participants from 108 States Parties have benefited from this flagship programme of the OPCW since its inception in the year 2000. The Associate Programme Alumni Association, which was launched last year, contributes to interaction between the Associates.
120. Eleven analytical-skills-development courses were held in 2013 to meet the needs of chemists in developing countries and countries in transition. Four of the courses were held in the context of the longstanding cooperation with the Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN), one of which was for African Member States of the OPCW under the European Union Council decision of 2012 on support for OPCW activities. Two of the courses covered the enhancement of laboratory skills and one was designed for laboratory managers and dealt specifically with laboratory quality management.

121. The analytical-skills-development courses were offered in different languages. A course was held in French at laboratories of the National Institute for Research and Physical and Chemical Analysis in Sidi Thabet, Tunisia; in Russian at Taras Shevchenko National University in Kyiv, Ukraine; and in Spanish at the Laboratorio de Verificación para las Armas Químicas, LAVEMA, Instituto Tecnológico La Marañosa in Madrid, Spain.
122. Under the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation in Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention, three courses were held, namely, at Protechnik Laboratories in Pretoria, South Africa; at VERIFIN, Finland; and at the Institute of Bioproduct Development, Universiti Teknologi, Malaysia.
123. Additional courses were held at the Institute of Industrial Organic Chemistry in Warsaw, Poland, for personnel from customs laboratories in the Eastern European region, and the second laboratory workshop for the Middle Eastern region on the analysis of chemicals related to the Convention was held at Ben Hayyan Aqaba International Laboratories in Jordan.
124. A workshop on the peaceful development and use of chemistry for Member States of the OPCW in the Asian region took place in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 25 to 27 June. The workshop aimed to promote the use of chemistry related to the Convention and to enhance the national capacities in regional development, based on experiences in chemical technology and industrial development of the Republic of Korea. Twenty-seven participants from 17 States Parties took part in the workshop.
125. Under the Internship-Support Programme, one internship was undertaken at the Spiez Laboratory, Switzerland and two at VERIFIN. Six new industry internships began during 2013. Two African participants have also undertaken chemical engineering internships at the Beijing University of Technology. The Programme for Support of Research Projects currently has 33 directly funded research projects under way. Twenty-seven new research projects have been approved for co-funding, together with the International Foundation for Science, Stockholm, Sweden. Under the Conference-Support Programme, the Secretariat supported 22 scientific events, enabling 92 scientists and researchers to participate in various scientific fora. Five of these events were held in Africa and 31 sponsorships were offered to African nationals. Under the Equipment-Exchange Programme, the OPCW also provided sponsorship in terms of grants to cover the shipping costs of donated equipment coming from laboratories in the United States of America to be distributed among several laboratories in Cameroon. In addition, the Technical Secretariat donated eight complete desktops to Sudan.
126. In response to a decision by the Conference of the States Parties at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011) workshops on Article XI were organised for the Eastern European region in Budapest, Hungary and for the African region in Nairobi, Kenya.
127. I wish to thank States Parties which supported and hosted international-cooperation and assistance activities, and those which extended financial support.

Chemical safety and chemical security

128. A Secretariat Note on “The contribution of the OPCW to chemical safety and chemical security” was issued on 30 September (S/1129/2013). The Secretariat commenced the organisation of various activities in the field of chemical safety and security shortly after the Seventeenth Session of the Conference, held in November 2012.
129. The Technical Secretariat held two seminars on the Chemical Weapons Convention and chemical safety and security management, with a view to increasing the capacity in and awareness of the importance of safe and secure management of chemicals among Member States. The seminars were held in Doha, Qatar and in Kathmandu, Nepal.
130. The Secretariat, in cooperation with the National Authority of India, hosted an experts’ meeting on the development of a chemical safety rating system for the chemical industry in India. The meeting took place in New Delhi on 25 and 26 February 2013, with 22 local experts and two international experts attending. Following a review of the major existing chemical safety rating systems, the meeting endeavoured to compile a draft system that would be suitable and effective for small and medium-sized enterprises in India.
131. A seminar on the Chemical Weapons Convention and chemical-safety-and-security management was held for Member States of the OPCW in the Asian region. The event took place from 10 to 12 September in Doha, Qatar. This was the third year time that this event—the third of its kind in Qatar—was organised under the auspices of the Doha Regional Centre for CBRN⁵ Training, which was inaugurated during my visit to Qatar last year. Twenty-five international and over 20 local participants attended the seminar.
132. In cooperation with the National Authority of Mexico, the OPCW held a seminar on the Chemical Weapons Convention and chemical-safety-and-security management for Member States of the OPCW in the GRULAC region, followed by a national seminar on chemical-safety-and-security management, addressing local participants. The first event took place on 22 and 23 October and the second on 24 and 25 October, in Mexico City, Mexico. This seminar was attended by 82 participants from 13 Member States from the region.
133. The fourth chemical-safety-and-security management course for the African region was organised in 2013 in cooperation with the Bergische University of Wuppertal, Germany. Participants from 11 African States Parties benefitted from this training course.

Privileges-and-immunities agreements with the OPCW

134. In 2013, the Council approved privileges-and-immunities agreements between the OPCW and two States Parties, namely Gambia and Sudan. Bulgaria, Chile, and South Africa have also completed the necessary steps leading towards the entry into

⁵ CBRN = chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear

force of their respective privileges-and-immunities agreement with the OPCW. The number of privileges-and-immunities agreements concluded between the OPCW and States Parties now stands at 51, while the number of such agreements currently in force stands at 32. I invite all States Parties that have not yet begun negotiating a privileges-and-immunities agreement to enter into negotiations with the Secretariat.

Confidentiality Commission

135. The Fifteenth Meeting of the Commission for the Settlement of Disputes Related to Confidentiality (known as the “Confidentiality Commission”) met in The Hague from 22 to 24 May 2013. Mrs Nineta Bărbulescu of Romania was elected to serve as the Chairperson of the Confidentiality Commission for a term of two years.
136. The meeting undertook a review of the rules of procedure of the Confidentiality Commission and developed proposals for amendment of the rules of procedure, submitted to the Conference for consideration at this session.

Universality and external relations

137. The Conference has before it the “Annual Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention During the Period from 16 August 2012 to 15 September 2013” (EC-74/DG.11 C-18/DG.12, dated 30 August 2013).
138. This year, the number of States Parties to the Convention has increased from 188 to 190. The Convention entered into force for Somalia on 28 June and for the Syrian Arab Republic on 14 October.
139. The OPCW continues to record one of the fastest-growing rates of accession to an international disarmament and non-proliferation instrument. Achieving universal adherence to the Convention remains a key objective, and an important task. To this end, we continue to encourage the six States remaining outside the Convention, of which two are signatory and four are non-signatory States, to ratify and/or accede to the Convention at the earliest opportunity. The Secretariat and States Parties will maintain their efforts in this area. The facilitation of discussions on universality is in the capable hands of Ambassador Dziunik Aghajanian of Armenia.
140. I would also like to seize this opportunity to welcome the representatives from States not Party who are attending this session of the Conference.
141. Earlier this year, the Third Review Conference highlighted the importance of achieving universal adherence to the Convention and reiterated that “the universality of the Convention is essential to achieving its object and purpose and to enhancing the security of States Parties, as well as international peace and security” (paragraph 9.33 of RC-3/3*). It underlined that the objectives of the Convention will not be fully realised as long as there remains even a single State not Party that could possess or acquire chemical weapons. The Third Review Conference also reaffirmed the importance of the action plan on universality (EC-M-23/DEC.3, dated 24 October 2013) and subsequent Conference decisions to regularly review the results and implementation of the action plan.

142. The Third Review Conference noted that the proposal for the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East is consistent with the objective of universality of the Convention and welcomed the provision of background information by the OPCW to the facilitator for the planned conference to this end.
143. Throughout the year, meetings were held with a number of representatives of States not Party to discuss their accession to the Convention at the earliest opportunity, including on the sidelines of events organised by the OPCW. Bilateral consultations have taken place with various senior officials from a number of States not Party, including Angola, Myanmar, and South Sudan, to encourage these countries to join the Convention at an early date.
144. Myanmar, a signatory State, received a technical-assistance visit (TAV) by the Secretariat from 4 to 6 February 2013. The TAV comprised a three-day national awareness workshop, and was a part of the OPCW's ongoing engagement with Myanmar with a view to encouraging and assisting its early ratification of the Convention. The visit aimed at familiarising key policy-makers and senior stakeholders at the national level with the rights and obligations under the Convention. The Secretariat provided briefings on various subjects, including the establishment and functioning of a National Authority; the drafting of requisite national legislation; and the requirements, in accordance with the verification regime, regarding declarations and verification. The 25 participants concluded the workshop with the preparation and adoption of a roadmap for further engagement.
145. As in previous years, the Secretariat invited representatives of States not Party to participate in activities conducted by the OPCW and provided sponsorships for their participation as needed. Representatives of Angola, Israel, and Myanmar participated as observers in the Third Review Conference. The Secretariat also provided sponsorships for ten representatives of Myanmar and four representatives of Angola to attend OPCW-related events during the year.
146. Representatives of Angola and South Sudan also participated in OPCW events held at the OPCW Headquarters in The Hague, namely the basic course for National Authorities personnel and the induction workshop for diplomatic personnel involved in the work of the OPCW, as well as the previously mentioned training course for lusophone countries on matters related to international cooperation and assistance.
147. Upon accession of Somalia, the Secretariat conducted a tailor-made two-day induction workshop on 12 and 13 September for a delegation from Somalia, with a view to assisting that country in the implementation of the Convention.
148. I would like to thank Poland for its sponsorship of the annual resolution on the "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction," which was again adopted unanimously by the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly at its 68th session.
149. Since the last session of the Conference, the Deputy Director-General and I had the opportunity to visit some States Parties and attend meetings and conferences relevant to the implementation of the Convention.

150. At the end of last year, I visited Qatar, where I met the State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar, H.E. Dr Khalid bin Mohammad Al-Attiyah. In March, I addressed the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. On the occasion of this visit, I met with the CTBTO⁶ Executive Secretary, H.E. Mr Tibor Tóth; the IAEA⁷ Director General, H.E. Mr Yukiya Amano; and the OSCE⁸ Secretary General, H.E. Mr Lamberto Zannier. I also called on the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Austria, H.E. Dr Reinhold Lopatka. In April, I extended a bilateral visit to Azerbaijan, where I held bilateral meetings with the First Deputy Prime Minister, H.E. Mr Yagub Eyyubov, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr Elmar Mammadyarov. In May, I visited Saudi Arabia, where I was received by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince. In June, I paid bilateral visits to Sweden, Norway, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. During this trip, I met with Mr Frank Belfrage, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, and the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Espen Barth Eide. I joined the visit of the Executive Council to China in September and met with H.E. Mr Zhai Jun, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China. In the same month, I visited the Vatican and had an audience with His Holiness Pope Francis. During my stay in Italy, I met with H.E. Ms Marta Dassù, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy. I paid a visit to Finland in October, and met with H.E. Mr Erkki Tuomioja, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland, and H.E. Mr Jaakko Laajava, Under Secretary of State of Finland. During my visit to Surrey University in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, I met with H.E. Mr Ahmet Davutoğlu, the Foreign Minister of Turkey. This year, I met twice with the United Nations Secretary-General, H.E. Mr Ban Ki-moon, to discuss issues related to Syrian chemical weapons.
151. I have also addressed a number of academic forums and conferences, including the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction symposium at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C. in the United States of America; the Academic Forum of the CTBTO; the 16th International Chemical Weapons Disarmament Conference in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; VERIFIN; and the 11th International Symposium on Protection against Chemical and Biological Warfare Agents in Stockholm, Sweden.
152. The Deputy Director-General visited Croatia, Cyprus, Ecuador, Japan, Nepal, and Turkey and met with various government officials. During her visit to Nepal, she called upon the Deputy Prime Minister, H.E. Mr Narayan Kaji Shrestha Prakash, who also serves as Minister of Foreign Affairs.
153. The Deputy Director-General also addressed several international fora, including the 2012 Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention and the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly at its 68th session. On the sidelines of her visit to the General Assembly in New York, the Deputy Director-General called on H.E. Mr Kyaw Tin, Permanent Representative of Myanmar at the Permanent Mission of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations. In November 2013, the Deputy Director-General also attended the “WMD and Security Forum: WMDfz in the Middle East”, held in Amman, Jordan.

⁶ CTBTO = Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

⁷ IAEA = International Atomic Energy Agency

⁸ OSCE = Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

154. Throughout the year, I also met with dignitaries and high-level representatives who visited the OPCW Headquarters. These included the United Nations Secretary-General, H.E. Mr Ban Ki-moon; the President of Croatia, H.E. Mr Ivo Josipović; Federal Foreign Minister of Germany, Mr Guido Westerwelle; the Minister for External Relations of Brazil, H.E. Mr Antonio de Aguiar Patriota; the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia, H.E. Mr Miroslav Lajčák; and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy, H.E. Ms Emma Bonino.

Thirteenth induction workshop for diplomatic personnel

155. On 25 September, the Secretariat convened the thirteenth consecutive induction workshop for new diplomatic personnel at OPCW Headquarters in The Hague. More than 73 participants from 44 countries participated in the one-day event, which provided an overview of core aspects of the Convention and featured presentations on key areas of the work of the OPCW.

Host Country Committee

156. The Conference of the States Parties at its Eleventh Session adopted a decision (C-11/DEC.9, dated 7 December 2006) that established a Committee on Relations with the Host Country. The Conference has before it two reports of this committee, which met twice during the period covered by this statement (EC-71/HCC/1 C-18/HCC/1, dated 13 February 2013; and EC-74/HCC/1 C-18/HCC/2, dated 30 September 2013).

Administrative and financial matters

157. Since I presented the Draft Programme and Budget for 2014 to Member States in July, extensive consultations have taken place to incorporate the unforeseen requirements in the 2014 Budget related to the verification of the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons. The Executive Council has endorsed changes to the initial draft and has submitted for the approval of the Conference a Draft Programme and Budget for 2014 (EC-74/CRP.1/Rev.1, dated 22 November 2013 and Corr.1, dated 26 November 2013) of EUR 73.3 million, which represents an increase of 5.01% compared to 2013.
158. As regards the financial management of the Organisation, the External Auditor has placed another unqualified audit opinion on the OPCW's Financial Statements for the period that ended on 31 December 2012 (EC-74/DG.5 C-18/DG.5, dated 30 July 2013). I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the External Auditor for the support and advice that he and his team continue to provide to the OPCW.
159. The Conference has before it the income-and-expenditure report of the Secretariat for the period ending June 2013 (EC-74/DG.2 C-18/DG.4, dated 30 July 2013 and Corr.1, dated 9 August 2013). I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the outstanding 2013 assessed contributions as at 27 November 2013 reflected a receipt level of 91.17%, compared to 95.44% on the same date last year. I encourage States Parties that have not paid their outstanding contributions yet, to please do so at the earliest and in full. I also encourage States Parties in arrears that have lost their

voting rights to consider entering into a multi-year payment plan to settle their outstanding unpaid assessed contributions.

160. The Conference also has before it the Secretariat's recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and losses of assets (EC-74/DG.4 C-18/DG.6, dated 31 July 2013). I would like to draw to your attention that a total of EUR 18,666 in value-added tax receivables has had to be written off because some suppliers in the European Union have not reimbursed taxes to the Secretariat despite the European Union's Council Directive 2006/112/CE on the common system of value added tax, exempting the OPCW from such taxes. I appreciate the support of the relevant States Parties in reminding their respective tax authorities that the OPCW is exempt from value-added taxes in European Union member countries.
161. Moving on to personnel matters, Mr Babacar Carlos Mbaye, Director of the Office of Internal Oversight, completed his assignment in November. I express to him my appreciation for the contribution he has made to the work of the Secretariat.
162. Since the last session of the Conference, a number of colleagues have joined us in senior management positions in the Secretariat. I wish to welcome Mr Attila Zimonyi as the Director of Strategy and Policy. Mr Alberto Dojas has taken up a new assignment as the Director of the Office of Internal Oversight, and I would like to thank him for his valuable contribution as Legal Adviser during the past year. Furthermore, I welcome Mr Olufemi Elias, who has just joined the Organisation as its Legal Adviser.
163. This concludes my report.

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