



Security Council

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Letter dated 26 November 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the fourteenth monthly report of the Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), submitted pursuant to paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) (see annex). The report covers the period from 23 October to 22 November 2014.

I am pleased to note that the Director General of OPCW advises of the imminent start of the destruction of the 12 chemical weapons production facilities remaining in the Syrian Arab Republic.

During the period under review, OPCW technical experts continued their dialogue with the Syrian authorities regarding the country's initial declaration and subsequent amendments. In view of the importance of this matter, I encourage the Syrian authorities to continue to extend to OPCW and my Special Coordinator for the OPCW-United Nations Joint Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic, Sigrid Kaag, all the cooperation necessary to achieve an outcome that is satisfactory to all parties, in line with Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.

As OPCW continues to finalize the reports of the fact-finding mission in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Director General of OPCW will provide information on progress made in this regard.

I should be grateful if you could bring the present letter and its annex urgently to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) **BAN** Ki-moon



Annex

I have the honour to transmit to you my report entitled “Progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme”, prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of OPCW Executive Council decision EC-M-33/DEC.1 and Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), both dated 27 September 2013, for transmission to the Security Council. My report covers the period from 23 October 2014 to 22 November 2014 and also covers the reporting requirements of Executive Council decision EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013.

(Signed) Ahmet **Üzümcü**

Enclosure

Note by the Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

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 fourteenth 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 that 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 23 October to 22 November 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 was required to complete the elimination of all chemical weapons material and equipment in the first half of 2014. As reported previously, all declared chemicals have been removed from the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, while all declared stocks of the Category 1 chemical have been destroyed. Progress achieved within the current reporting period by the Syrian Arab Republic in fulfilling other obligations is described below:
 - (a) With respect to the destruction and verification of the 12 chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) (aircraft hangars and underground structures) in the Syrian Arab Republic as per Council decision EC-M-43/DEC.1 (dated 24 July 2014), intensive meetings were held in Damascus between representatives of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the two Syrian companies pre-selected by the Syrian Arab Republic in order to agree on the terms of the contracts for the services and equipment for destruction operations at the 12 CWPFs. In light of meetings organised with these two pre-selected companies, discussions with the Syrian Arab Republic representatives were held to ensure the necessary level of support from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. With regard to the planned time frame agreed with UNOPS, should the contracts with the services and equipment providers be concluded under acceptable conditions for the OPCW, it is expected that destruction activities will commence

soon and that the first CWPFF will be destroyed by no later than December 2014. Destruction of all 12 CWPFFs is expected to be completed by the end of June 2015.

(b) As reported previously, on 12 September 2014, the Syrian Arab Republic had submitted a detailed plan for the destruction of the “Al-Maliha” ricin production facility (EC-77/P/NAT.2, dated 12 September 2014) that was declared on 14 July 2014 as a result of the work of the Declaration Assessment Team. At its Forty-Sixth Meeting, the Council considered and adopted a decision on the combined plan for the destruction and verification of the facility (EC-M-46/DEC.1, dated 19 November 2014), in the context of a Note by the Director-General on the same subject (EC-M-46/DG.2, dated 27 October 2014).

(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 CWPFFs. The twelfth such report was submitted to the Secretariat on 13 November 2014 (EC-78/P/NAT.1, dated 13 November 2014).

(d) In accordance with subparagraph 1(e) of EC-M-33/DEC.1 and paragraph 7 of United Nations Security Council 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 during the reporting period.

Progress in the elimination of Syrian chemical weapons by States Parties hosting destruction activities

5. Following the complete removal of identified chemicals from the Syrian Arab Republic on 23 June 2014, destruction activities are nearing completion. The following subparagraphs provide information on the destruction of the remaining Syrian chemical weapons at commercial facilities selected pursuant to paragraph 24 of EC-M-34/DEC.1, and at facilities sponsored by States Parties pursuant to paragraph 7 of decision EC-M-36/DEC.2 (dated 17 December 2013):

(a) As at the cut-off date of this report, 100 per cent of the received Category 1 and 2 chemicals had been destroyed by Ekokem in Finland. Of the DF effluent delivered by the MV Cape Ray on 30 and 31 August 2014, a total of 24.7 per cent had already been destroyed.

(b) As at the cut-off date of this report, Veolia ES Technical Solutions, LLC in the United States of America, the other commercial facility selected alongside Ekokem through the tender process organised by the OPCW, had destroyed 65 per cent of the received chemicals.

(c) As at the cut-off date of this report, there was only one remaining chemical to be destroyed at Mexichem UK Limited, with the destruction activities planned for late 2014. The Secretariat verified the complete destruction of all other chemicals at Veolia Environmental Services (UK) as announced by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 7 August 2014.

(d) The HD effluent produced by the neutralisation process on board the MV Cape Ray was delivered to the port of Bremen in Germany on 5 September 2014 and transported from there to the GEKA facility. As at the cut-off date of this report, 34.3 per cent of the effluent had already been destroyed.

6. Taken together, the destruction activities described in subparagraphs 5(a) to 5(d) above mean that, as at the cut-off date of this report, 100 per cent of the Category 1 chemicals and 88.8 per cent of the Category 2 chemicals had been destroyed, representing a combined total of 97.8 per cent, including the isopropanol previously destroyed in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Secretariat will continue to provide such information during briefings to States Parties in The Hague and through the monthly reports. Timelines for the completion of the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons were provided in the overall report on the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme (paragraph 25 of EC-76/DG.16, dated 4 July 2014), which was noted by the Council at its Seventy-Sixth Session. The remaining Category 2 chemicals are scheduled to be destroyed by early January 2015. At this stage, all effluents resulting from neutralisation operations aboard the MV Cape Ray are expected to be destroyed by mid-2015.

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

7. Effective cooperation with the United Nations has continued in the context of the OPCW Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic. As at the cut-off date of this report, two OPCW staff members were deployed as part of the OPCW Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic. At the same time, one additional OPCW staff member present in Damascus has been dealing with the negotiations related to the destruction of Syrian CWPFs involving UNOPS, the Syrian authorities and Syrian companies. At the Forty-Sixth Meeting of the Council, the Director-General informed States Parties that he had appointed Ambassador José Artur Denot Medeiros of Brazil as Special Adviser to the Director-General on Syria. Ambassador Medeiros, together with two OPCW staff members, travelled to Damascus for meetings with senior Syrian officials and UNOPS staff from 21 to 25 November 2014.

8. The Director-General has continued to meet with senior representatives of the States Parties hosting 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 regular information briefings to States Parties in The Hague on behalf of the Director-General.

9. As stipulated by the Council at its Seventy-Sixth Session (paragraph 6.17 of EC-76/6, dated 11 July 2014), the Secretariat and the Syrian authorities continue to cooperate on outstanding issues regarding the Syrian declaration. The latest meeting took place in Damascus from 2 to 10 November 2014. At the Forty-Sixth Meeting of the Council, the Secretariat provided a follow-up briefing on the activities of the Declaration Assessment Team. The consultations on outstanding issues regarding the Syrian declaration continue and the Declaration Assessment Team is planning its next visit to Damascus during the week of 8 December 2014.

10. With regard to the implementation of additional special monitoring measures as specified in Note EC-M-43/DG.1/Rev.1 (dated 21 July 2014), and following discussions held with experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, the OPCW decided on the use of a vault monitoring system, which is based on a well-known technology already in use by the IAEA. This system is based on electronic optical sealing system (EOSS) seals, which are connected to loops of fibre optical cables installed inside the interior plug of the underground structures

defined as CWPFs. Light data transmitted by the EOSS seals to the cables will be remotely monitored at the OPCW Headquarters, and will provide information about any damage to those cables and, consequently, to the interior plugs. As a result of these technical meetings, a long-term collaborator of the IAEA, Aquila Technologies, came forward as supplier to the OPCW for design and procurement of required components for the special monitoring equipment. Therefore, various meetings were held in Damascus and Beirut to agree with the Syrian Arab Republic on the modalities for the implementation of the vault monitoring system. Currently, the OPCW is finalising all the administrative requirements with Aquila Technologies in order to conclude a phased approach for implementing the above-mentioned system in the underground structures, in accordance with the agreed time frame for planned construction activities related to the interior plugs.

Supplementary resources

11. As at the cut-off date of this report, the total contribution received in the Syria Trust Fund for the Destruction of Chemical Weapons stood at EUR 50.3 million. Contributions have been received from Argentina, 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.

Conclusion

12. The main focus of future activities for the OPCW Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic will continue to be on the destruction of the 12 remaining CWPFs, which is scheduled to begin in November 2014. The Declaration Assessment Team will also continue its work in the Syrian Arab Republic.

13. The Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) looking into allegations of use of toxic chemicals as weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic is continuing its work. The key findings presented in its second report remain valid and in its next report, the FFM will offer further, supplementing details. The report is expected to be issued in the first half of December 2014.
