
ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS (OPCW)

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), based in The Hague, the Netherlands, came into being at the entry into force of the [Chemical Weapons Convention \(CWC\)](#). The OPCW Technical Secretariat has a staff of approximately 500, nearly 200 of which are inspectors.

Membership: 188 State Parties (plus two additional signatories to the CWC)

Principal Organs:

Conference of the States Parties — The conference is the OPCW's principal organ, composed of representatives of all States Parties. A regular session of the conference is to be held annually unless otherwise decided, and special sessions convened when necessary. The conference can make decisions on any matters brought to its attention by the Executive Council or any of the States Parties. It elects members of the Executive Council and appoints the director-general. The conference is responsible for taking measures necessary to ensure compliance and for redressing situations of non-compliance. It has the power to suspend the rights and privileges of States Parties in non-compliance upon the recommendation of the Executive Council, and may recommend collective measures if a State Party engages in activities prohibited by the Convention. In cases of particular gravity, the conference is to inform the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly.

Executive Council — The council consists of 41 rotating members, representing five regional groupings: Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western European and Others Group.

Ambassador Oksana Tomová, Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the OPCW, is the chair for the 2008-2009 Executive Council. Membership since 2001 is as follows:

Africa: 2008-2009: Algeria, Cameroon, Ghana, Lesotho, Libya, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia; 2007-2008: Algeria, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Morocco, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia; 2005-2007: Algeria, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Morocco, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia; 2002-2004: Al-

geria, Benin, Morocco, South Africa; 2001-2003: Botswana, Cameroon, Nigeria, Sudan, Tunisia.

Asia: 2008-2009: China, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Kuwait, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka; 2007-2008: China, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Thailand; 2006-2007: China, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Thailand; 2005-2006: China, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka; 2002-2004: Bangladesh, Iran, Pakistan, Sri Lanka; 2001-2003: China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia.

Eastern Europe: 2008-2009: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; 2007-2008: Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, the Russian Federation; 2006-2007: Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation; 2005-2006: Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Ukraine; 2002-2004: Belarus, Hungary, Russian Federation; 2001-2003: Bulgaria, Croatia.

Latin America and the Caribbean: 2008-2009: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, Peru; 2007-2008: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru; 2006-2007: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru; 2005-2006: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay; 2002-2004: Chile, Columbia, Panama, Peru; 2001-2003: Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Uruguay.

Western Europe and Other States: 2008-2009: Australia, Austria, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America; 2007-2008: Australia, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America; 2006-2007: Australia, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America;

2005-2006: France, Greece, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America; 2002-2004: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Portugal, Turkey; 2001-2003: France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom, United States.

The Executive Council is the executive organ of the OPCW. Each member has one vote, and the council decides on matters of substance by a two-thirds majority. The national chemical industry and political and security interests are among the factors that determine the composition of the Executive Council. The council can request States Parties to take measures to redress situations of non-compliance. If the State Party concerned fails to take the requested action, the council may inform the other States Parties and make recommendations to the conference. In cases of particular gravity and urgency, the council is to bring the matter directly to the attention of the UN General Assembly and UN Security Council. The council can decide by a three-quarters majority to block challenge inspections.

Technical Secretariat: The Secretariat carries out the practical work of the OPCW, particularly in the area of verification. It is comprised of the Director-General, who is its head and chief administrative officer; an inspectorate responsible for verification activities; and scientific, technical, administrative, and other support personnel.

On 28 September 2007, the OPCW concluded its eighth ten-week Associate Program. The Associate Program is designed to facilitate the application of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in chemical industry, and to enhance the national capacity in the peaceful uses of chemistry, particularly among those countries whose economies are either developing or in transition. Delegates from Bangladesh, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Ethiopia, India, Malawi, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay, Yemen and Zambia attended the program. The OPCW Associate Program is an important part of the OPCW's international cooperation efforts.

Scientific Advisory Board: The Board, composed of independent experts, is established by the Director-General in order to enable him to render specialized advice in areas of science and technology relevant to the Convention to the Conference, Executive Council, or States Parties.

Confidentiality Commission: This group deals with the settlement of disputes relating to confidentiality. The Confidentiality Commission is made up of 20 persons appointed from a list of nominees put forward by the States Parties to the Convention.

Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters: This body focuses on administrative and financial matters. It consists of experts of recognized standing from States Parties.

Developments: Conference of the State Parties

2008: The Third Special Session of the Conference of States Parties was convened on 7 April to amend the Rules of Procedure so that the chairmanship of special sessions would rotate on a geographically equitable basis.

The 13th Session of the Conference of States Parties took place from 2-5 December, 2008 with 126 States Parties participating. Israel participated as a signatory observer, and Iraq and Lebanon participated as non-signatory observers. The conference failed to adopt a final report as consensus could not be reached on text regarding the progress made by States Parties that have been granted extensions of deadlines for destroying chemical weapons.

2007: The Twelfth Session of the Conference of States Parties took place 5-9 November. It was chaired by Abuelgasim Abdelwahid Sheikh Idris, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Sudan to the OPCW.

The Conference approved the OPCW's Programme and Budget for 2008. It was the third consecutive year that the OPCW has agreed to a zero nominal growth budget.

It adopted a decision to continue with the Action Plan on the Universality of the Convention. At its Fourteenth Session, the Conference would review the results and the implementation of this Action Plan.

The Conference also elected 20 new members of the 41-member OPCW Executive Council for a two-year term that started on 12 May 2008.

2006: The Eleventh Session of the Conference of States Parties took place 5-8 December. The session was chaired by Ambassador Alfonso Dastis of Spain.

Based on recommendations of the Executive Council, the Conference approved requests by a State Party, Albania, India, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America to extend interim and final

deadlines for destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles.

The conference approved a decision establishing a mechanism to encourage States Parties that are in arrears of their dues to pay their outstanding contributions. The conference amended a decision made at a Special Session of the Conference in 2003 regarding the tenure policy of the organization.

The conference adopted a decision regarding the implementation of an action plan aimed at achieving universality of the convention. In accordance with an Executive Council recommendation, the conference extended the work of the Open Ended Working Group for the establishment of an OPCW Office in Africa.

The Second Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention convened 7-18 April 2008 to review the activities and implementation of the convention since its entry into force. In preparation for this event, the OPCW and a specially designated working group reviewed the CWC and its implementation to date.

2005: On 7-11 November, the Tenth Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention took place. The session was chaired by Jose Antonio Arróspide from Peru. The conference unanimously approved the renewed appointment of Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter as Director-General of the OPCW.

The conference urged all states and the Secretariat to intensify their universality-related efforts with a view to increasing the number of States Parties to at least 180 by the end of 2006 and to achieving the universality of the convention 10 years after its entry into force. The conference decided to continue with the action plan and to review progress of that plan at its Eleventh and Twelfth Sessions.

The conference also recommended that the Executive Council at one of its sessions establish an open-ended working group to begin, in cooperation with the Secretariat, preparations for the Second Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, which took place in April 2008.

The conference also recommended to the Executive Council the establishment of an ad hoc, open-ended working group to examine a proposal to establish an OPCW office in Africa.

The conference endorsed a proposal for the establishment of a Day of Remembrance of all victims of chemical warfare to be observed each year on 29 April, the anniversary of the entry into force of the CWC. The conference also endorsed the dedication in The Hague of a permanent memorial to these victims.

2004: The Ninth Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention took place from 29 November to 2 December. The session was chaired by Krzysztof Paturej of Poland. In addition to its 120 members, the conference also included five international organizations, specialized agencies, and other international bodies for the purpose of consultation. Signatory states Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Honduras, and Israel also participated. Iraq was admitted as an observer.

Conference discussion was based on recommendations represented in the report of the Executive Council of its activities between 28 June 2003 and 2 July 2004.

The conference considered and adopted the Executive Council recommendation on the inclusion of an additional item on the list of approved equipment (C-9/Dec.5). The conference determined that the device, an environmental temperature logger, is essential to the safe maintenance of medical kits and laboratory work.

Participants also considered and adopted a recommendation to clarify the concept of "captive use" as it pertains to declarations of production and/or consumption of chemicals (C-9/Dec.6). The clarification, which defines the conditions under which certain chemicals may be produced and disposed, seeks to better enable the convention to meet its obligations of verification as listed in the Verification Annex to the convention.

The conference further decided in favor of granting extensions to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Albania in their effort to destroy Category 1 chemical weapons stockpiles. The conference also granted a request by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to convert chemical weapons facilities for purposes not listed by the convention but found to be consistent with its tenants.

Before closing the session, the conference elected 21 members to serve on the Executive Council for a new two-year term. They also considered and adopted the 2005 budget plan. Finally, the conference underlined the importance of international cooperation in the field of chemical activities. International cooperation

and assistance activities, the conference noted, encourage and expedite concrete proposals and are considered a core objective of the organization.

2003: The Eighth Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention was convened from 20-24 October 2003. The Eighth Session of the Conference was chaired by Ambassador Nouredine Djoudi of Algeria. Delegations from 116 member states (including the contracting states Kyrgyzstan and Cape Verde) attended the conference. Chad, Iraq, Israel and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya participated in the conference as observer states.

The conference noted the report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities from 17 July 2002 to 27 June 2003. Ambassador Petr Kubernat of the Czech Republic introduced the report and the recommendations of the council that required the attention of the council. The following is a list of considerations made by the conference in accordance with the recommendations made by the council:

- Considered and adopted a decision on a request by the Russian Federation for an extension of the intermediate and final deadlines for the destruction of its Category 1 chemical weapons.
- Considered and adopted a decision on a request by a State Party for an extension of the intermediate deadline for the destruction of its Category 1 chemical weapons stockpiles.
- Considered and adopted a decision on a request by the United States for an extension of the intermediate and final deadlines for the destruction of its Category 1 chemical weapons

2002: On 25 July, the First Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties reconvened to consider and to make a decision on the recommendation of the Executive Council to appoint Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter of Argentina as the Director-General of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW. The Conference of the States Parties appointed Ambassador Pfirter by acclamation. The new Director-General's four-year term of office commenced immediately upon his appointment. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Pfirter, a lawyer and a career diplomat, was the Under-Secretary for Foreign Policy in the Ministry of External Relations, International Trade and Worship, Argentina.

The Seventh Session of the Conference of States Parties was held from 7-11 October in The Hague. The conference, attended by 109 States Parties, adopted the 2003 OPCW's program of work and budget. The 2003 OPCW budget was increased, for the first time in four years, by around 10 percent, resulting in a significant increase in Verification and International Cooperation and Assistance Programs. The conference adopted a number of other policy decisions including a decision to grant an extension of the Russian Federation's obligation to meet two of the Convention's intermediate deadlines for the destruction of one percent and of 20 percent of its Category 1 chemical weapons stockpiles; a decision to grant an extension of another State Party's obligation to meet the Convention's timeline of April 2003 for the destruction of 20 percent of its chemical weapons stockpile; the adoption of requests for the conversion of nine former chemical weapons production facilities at Volgograd and Novocheboksarsk in the Russian Federation to peaceful purposes; a decision on guidelines for declarations of aggregate national data for the production, consumption, import, and export of Schedule 2 chemicals and for import and export of Schedule 3 chemicals.

The conference also elected 21 new members to the 41-member Executive Council for a two-year term, which commenced on 12 May 2003. The conference agreed that the First Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention would be held in The Hague from 28 April-9 May 2003.

2001: The Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties was held from 14-18 May in The Hague. The conference was attended by 108 States Parties with Ambassador H. Reimann of Switzerland serving as the chair of the conference. Since the Fifth Session, 10 new States Parties had joined the Organization, and the full program of work for 2000 had been completed. Inventory had been taken of all 70,000 tons of declared chemical weapons, nearly 20 percent of the declared munitions and containers had been destroyed, and more than half of the declared chemical weapons production facilities world-wide had been certifiably destroyed or converted to peaceful purposes. The OPCW's Director-General, José M. Bustani, announced that the implementation of the Convention was working smoothly. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, praised the progress of the OPCW in implementing the Convention's provisions, and expanding its activities. He called attention to the importance of garnering the full support of States Parties for the OPCW, especially to provide the necessary resources.

The most important decisions adopted by this session of the conference were the program of work and budget for 2002, and a request from the Russian Federation for the conversion of a former chemical weapons production facility in Dzerzhinsk for peaceful purposes. The necessity of attaining the universality of the CWC was also endorsed. In addition, the conference approved the relationship agreement with the United Nations, which had been signed at UN Headquarters in New York on 17 October 2000. The agreement was submitted to the UN General Assembly for approval in its 2001 session. The relationship agreement provides an opportunity for more intensive cooperation between the two organizations in areas of common interest, especially in the area of disarmament.

The conference adopted a decision on the transfer of Schedule 3 chemicals to states that are not party to the Convention. This decision requires that end-use certificates be prepared when Schedule 3 chemicals are exported to states not party to the CWC, if the product to be exported contains 30 percent or more of a Schedule 3 chemical. An end-use certificate is not required for products identified as consumer goods packaged for commercial or individual purposes. Also prohibited is the re-transfer of Schedule 3 chemicals by the receiving states.

In regard to the budget, the conference examined the cause of the Organization's inability to collect the full amount of its budgeted income in 2000 and 2001. It requested that the Executive Council determine a solution for the structural deficiencies in the budget. As an exceptional one-time measure, the conference authorized the Secretariat to retain the 1999 cash surplus, instead of redistributing it to States Parties. The conference also called for voluntary contributions, to ensure that sufficient resources would be available to the OPCW to effectively carry out its operational mandate. In spite of the Organization's funding problems, Mr. Bustani reiterated his intention to enhance program delivery, particularly in the areas of international cooperation and inspections. In addition, he praised the conference's recognition that operational activities would increase significantly in the coming few years.

2000: The OPCW stated on 25 January that the world's declared stockpiles of 70,000 tons of chemical weapons and more than eight million munitions and bulk containers had been inspected by OPCW inspectors, and were subject to a stringent international verification regime. Three of the four countries that had declared possession of chemical weapons

were now actively destroying them under the continuous scrutiny of OPCW monitoring teams. All of the 60 declared chemical weapons production facilities around the world had been inspected and sealed. Of these, 20 had been certified as destroyed, and five had been approved for conversion to peaceful purposes. To prevent the proliferation of chemical weapons, a stringent industrial verification regime had been put in place, involving inspections of facilities that produce or consume "dual-use" chemicals that could be used for both peaceful purposes and to create chemical weapons. By 11 May, more than 4,000 tons of chemical agents had been destroyed. Over a million chemical bombs, shells, and rockets had been destroyed. OPCW staff had made more than 700 inspections in 35 countries, including 460 visits to weapons storage and destruction sites and over 240 inspections of industrial chemical plants since the entry into force of the Convention. The Organization's routine verification activities gave no indication that States Parties were not in full compliance with their fundamental obligations under the CWC, notwithstanding certain implementation-related inconsistencies and technicalities, which continued to occur. However, they were being addressed and corrected. To sum up, there was at the time no evidence to suggest that the essence of the CWC was not being upheld.

The Fifth Conference of the CWC States Parties held in The Hague from 15-19 May reappointed the Director-General of the OPCW Mr. José Bustani for a second term of four years starting 13 May 2001. The OPCW reported considerable success in efforts to ban the production, stockpiling, or use of chemical weapons. More than 4,000 tons of chemical agents and over a million chemical bombs, shells, and rockets had been destroyed. OPCW staff had made more than 700 inspections in 35 countries, including 460 visits to weapons storage and destruction sites and over 240 inspections of industrial chemical plants. The conference also recommended extending the deadline for Russia to destroy one percent of its chemical weapons. The conference also approved a number of requests from Russia and the United Kingdom for the conversion of former chemical weapons production facilities to peaceful purposes. Delegates also welcomed two new members to the OPCW, Malaysia, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which joined the organization on 20 May.

In October, the OPCW signed a relationship agreement with the UN. Both organizations undertook, *inter alia*, to explore possibilities for cooperation in the provision of assistance if chemical weapons are

used in the future. The agreement addresses the fostering of international cooperation in relation to the peaceful use of chemistry, and will thus contribute to economic and technological development. The CWC is among the 25 multilateral treaties identified by the UNSG as core treaties for the new millennium. The signing of this relationship agreement is accordingly expected to initiate a significant enhancement and intensification of the everyday relationship between the two organizations in the pursuit of their shared goals of enhanced security and peace.

Developments: Executive Council

2009: The 55th session of the Executive Council was held from 17-20 February.

In the intersessional period since the previous meeting, the Vice-Chairpersons held meetings and informal consultations on different clusters of issues. The Vice-Chairpersons presented reports to the Council on their respective issues. Topics included: chemical weapons, the chemical industry, and administrative, financial, and legal issues.

In its [final report](#), the Council “reaffirmed the obligation of possessor States Parties to destroy their chemical weapons” and “emphasised the timely commencement of destruction activities at all chemical weapons destruction facilities.”

Mexican Ambassador Jorge Lomónaco Tonda was elected as Chairperson for the term from 12 May 2009 to 11 May 2010. The representatives from the Netherlands, Iran, Russia, and Sudan were selected as Vice-Chairpersons for the same period.

The 56th session of the Executive Council was held from 21-24 April.

At the session, the Council “welcomed the completion by India of destruction operations on 16 March 2009, thereby India’s achieving the complete destruction of all its chemical weapons.”

The Council “considered and approved a facility agreement with the United States of America regarding on-site inspections” at one of its facilities. It also approved amendments to an existing agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Council also “considered and concluded an [agreement](#) between the OPCW and the Government of the United Arab Emirates on the privileges and immunities of the OPCW.”

2008: The 52nd session of the Executive Council was held from 4-7 March.

The Council considered detailed plans for the destruction of chemical weapons at sites in the United States and Russia and reaffirmed the obligation of possessor States Parties to destroy their chemical weapons within the extended deadlines.

The Council considered and approved a facility arrangement between the OPCW and the United Kingdom regarding inspections at Ellesmere Port.

The Council requested the Conference to convene a Special Session on 7 April 2008 to amend a Rule of Procedure of the Conference.

The Council elected Ambassador Oksana Tomová as its new Chairperson for a term from 12 May 2008-11 May 2009, and the representatives to the Council of Algeria, Costa Rica, Germany, and the Islamic Republic of Iran as its new Vice-Chairpersons for the same period.

The 53rd session of the Executive Council was held from 24-27 June. Iraq was invited to participate as an observer.

Further to its consideration at previous sessions, the Council approved amendments to detailed plans for the destruction of chemical weapons at sites in the United States, Russia, and India. The Council also approved a number of facility agreements and amendments to existing agreements.

The Council approved proposed revisions to the specifications for three items of approved inspection equipment as well as a decision regarding declaration of import and export data for Schedule 2 and 3 chemicals.

The 54th session of the Executive Council was held from 14-17 October.

During the intersessional period, the Vice-Chairpersons served as coordinators for clusters of issues and held informal consultations. Each coordinator reported to the Council. In addition, the Chairperson reported on the activities of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism and the Host Country Committee.

The Council considered and approved amendments to the agreed detailed plan for verification and destruction of chemical weapons at the Recovered Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility in the United States. The Council also approved verification and destruction plans as well as facility agreements for the Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility at Shchuchye in Russia and at the Rabta Toxic Chemicals Destruction Facility in Libya.

The Council took note of progress reports from States Parties that had been granted extensions of deadlines for the destruction of Category 1 chemical weapons and emphasized the timely commencement of destruction activities at all destruction facilities.

2007: The Executive Council met on the following dates: 13-16 March, 26-29 June, 25-28 September, 27-30 November.

The 48th Session of the Executive Council was held 13-16 March 2007. It was chaired by Ambassador Hlengiwe Buhle Mkhize of South Africa.

The Council considered a request from Iraq, not a state party, and invited it to attend the meeting as an observer. It discussed the combined plan for phase 3 of destruction and verification of the chemical weapons production facility, Open Joint Stock Company “Kapolaktam-Dzerzhinsk” in Dzerzhinsk, Russian Federation, and approved this plan.

The Council considered and approved a request by Italy for an extension of the deadlines for the destruction of its old chemical weapons (OCWs).

The Council took note of information by Austria and Germany regarding three OCWs that Austria had discovered in October 2005 and October 2006 and had declared as OCWs in accordance with Article III, subparagraph 1(b)(i), and with Part IV(B) of the Verification Annex to the Convention, and also took note of the technical assessment by the Secretariat that these OCWs pose an imminent danger to the environment. It approved the proposal to transport these OCWs to a chemical weapons destruction facility in Munster, Germany, in order to destroy them.

The Council also concluded an agreement between the OPCW and the Republic of Chile on the privileges and immunities of the OPCW.

The Council elected Ambassador Romeo A. Arguelles of the Philippines as its new Chairperson and the representatives of Algeria, Chile, Ireland, and Russian Federation as its new Vice-Chairpersons for a term of office ending on 11 May 2008.

The Council supported the statement made by the Director-General on 23 February 2007 condemning in the strongest possible terms the recent multiple use of chlorine gas in Iraq, and condemned those attacks.

It firmly rejected the use of toxic chemicals under any circumstances to inflict harm, and emphasized that such abhorrent acts are contrary to the comprehensive prohibition of the use of toxic chemicals as weapons set out in the Convention. The Council

stressed the importance of the universality of the Convention and of achieving the high level of readiness of the OPCW as well as of States Parties to fully implement all relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular Article X, with respect to timely and needed assistance and protection against the use or threat of use of chemical weapons.

The Chairperson informed the Council of the composition of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country. The Committee members are as follows:

- (a) The Chairperson of the Council;
- (b) Two representatives of each regional group:
 - (i) Africa: Algeria and South Africa;
 - (ii) Asia: the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan;
 - (iii) Eastern Europe: Croatia and the Russian Federation;
 - (iv) Latin America and the Caribbean: Guatemala and Mexico;
 - (v) Western Europe and Other States: Switzerland and the United States of America;
- (c) A representative of the Host Country: Ambassador Maarten Lak; and
- (d) the Director-General.

The 49th Session of the Executive Council was held 26-29 June 2007. It was chaired by Ambassador Romeo A. Arguelles of the Philippines.

The Council noted the report by the Director-General on the progress that has been made by Albania in destroying its Category 1 and 2 chemical weapons stockpiles. It also received information by Albania on this matter. The Council restated its concern at the delays reported and noted that the completion of destruction of Albania’s chemical weapons was imminent. It requested Albania to take measures to meet its obligation to complete destruction of

its Category 1 and 2 chemical weapons without any further delay, and to keep the Council informed of its progress.

The Council approved a facility arrangement with the Italian Republic regarding on-site inspections at the following Schedule 2 plant sites: Archimica S.R.L., Issò, and the Sandoz Industrial Products S.P.A., Rovereto Trento, the Italian Republic. The Council considered and approved a facility arrangement with the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland regarding on-site inspections at

the following Schedule 2 plant sites: Fluon Plant – AGC Chemicals Europe, Ltd, Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire and Albemarle Chemicals (UK) Limited, Avonmouth Works, Avonmouth, Bristol.

It considered the draft report of the OPCW for 2006, and forwarded it to the Conference for consideration at its Twelfth Session.

The Council approved the list of mass-spectrometry (MS) data and decided to consider further at its next regular session the list of approved MS data for analytical derivatives of scheduled chemicals, and the list of approved gas-chromatography (retention-index) data for analytical derivatives of scheduled chemicals. It received the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008 that was transmitted to the Conference of the State Parties at its Twelfth Session. It drew up the provisional agenda for the Twelfth Session of the Conference.

The 50th Session of the Executive Council was held 25-28 September 2007 and was headed by Ambassador Romeo A. Arguelles of the Philippines.

The Council noted the Note by the Director-General on the progress made by States Parties that have been granted extensions of deadlines for the destruction of their Category 1 chemical weapons. It also noted a Note by the Director-General on the destruction by Albania of its Category 1 chemical weapons stockpiles and another such Note on the completion by Albania of the destruction of its chemical weapons stockpiles.

The Council took note of the report of the Director-General to its Fiftieth Session on the status of implementation of Article VII of the Convention as at 22 August 2007 and welcomed the progress that had been made in the implementation of Article VII since the adoption of plan of action, while also noting that further efforts were needed in this regard.

The Council considered and noted the report that had been submitted to it and the Conference on the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention by the Director-General from 30 September 2006 to 31 August 2007.

The Council also considered and approved facility arrangements with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland regarding on-site inspections at the converted chemical weapons production facility (CWPF) located at Randle Island Landfill Site (formerly ICI Randle), Astmoor, Runcorn Cheshire, at the former CWPF located at Valley Site (formerly ICI Valley), Rhydymwyn, Mold, North

Wales, at the converted CWPF located at CRP Portreath (formerly Chemical Defence Establishment, Nancekuke), Portreath Redruth, Cornwall .

It also considered and approved a facility agreement with the government of the United States

of America regarding on-site inspections at the Schedule 2 plant site Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corporation-Mcintosh-A, Mcintosh, Alabama.

The Council adopted the Program and Budget of the OPCW for 2008 to be forwarded to the Conference for consideration at its Twelfth Session.

2006: The Executive Council met on the following dates: 14-17 March, 16–19 May, 4-7 July, and 7-10 November.

The 44th Session of the Executive Council was held from 14-17 March 2006. The chair of the meeting was Ambassador Alfonso Dastis of Spain. The council invited Iraq, a non-State Party, to participate in the session as an observer, and indicated that while this decision was not intended to set a precedent, further such requests would be considered on a “case-by-case basis.”

The Executive Council approved the plan for verification of destruction of chemical weapons at Pine Bluff Binary Destruction Facility in Arkansas, USA, and the amendments to the plan for verification of destruction of chemical weapons at Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Alabama, USA.

The council recommended that the organization's member-countries approve 21 December 2009 as the deadline for the completion of the third stage of Russia's chemical weapons disposal program. This amounts to Russia disposing of 45% of its chemical weapon arsenal, or 18,000 tons of chemical agents.

In order to achieve consensus on the most appropriate mechanism to establish an OPCW office in Africa, the council encouraged the working group to “intensify its work.”

The council decided to establish a working group to begin preparations for the Second Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons convention, as recommended by the Conference at the Tenth Session, and requested that the chairperson nominate a facilitator to coordinate activities.

The Open-Ended Working Group for the Second Review Conference (WGRC) held its first meeting on 7 July 2006. The WGRC's chairman, Ambassador Lyn Parker of the United Kingdom, opened the session,

attended by representatives of 44 States Parties, including the vice-chairs from Iran, Mexico, Russia, and Sudan.

The WGRC agreed that the work of the First Review Conference as recorded in the official report serves as a good starting point for establishing a structure for the Working Group's discussions, and that every State Party must have the opportunity to express its views and contribute to the WGRC. OPCW director-general, Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter commended the review process' early start and informed the Working Group of steps taken by the Technical Secretariat in preparation for the Second Review Conference

The WGRC agreed to fix the dates of the Second Review Conference from 7 to 18 April 2008

On 27 April 2006, Remembrance Day for all victims of chemical warfare was observed for the first time at the headquarters of the OPCW. The commemoration was attended by representatives of OPCW member states and international organizations, among them the ICJ, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the OSCE, and the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan sent a message addressing the commemoration.

In his Remembrance Day address, OPCW Director-General Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter, stressed that the aim of the Chemical Weapons Convention and of the OPCW is not only to ensure that those who possess chemical weapons destroy them safely and irreversibly, but also that those planning to misuse chemistry to produce new weapons will not succeed. He underscored the convention's purpose to deal with an inheritance of the past and to address the needs of the future by enhancing international peace and security.

Remembrance Day will be observed every year to raise awareness of the horror and suffering caused by chemical weapons, as well as to call for a world free of chemical weapons. The Remembrance Day concept was endorsed at the Tenth Session of the Conference of the State Parties in November 2005.

The 45th Session of the Executive Council was held 16-19 May 2006. The chair of the meeting was Ambassador Hlengiwe Buhle Mkhize of South Africa.

The council considered and approved the detailed plan for verification of destruction of Category 1 chemicals at Kambarka CWDF (Russian Federation) and approved a facility agreement with the Russian Federation in relation to on-site inspections at Kambarka.

At the meeting, US Ambassador Eric Javits stated that despite a recent request to extend its deadline for the complete elimination of its chemical weapons stockpile to 2012, the United States is committed to "the fullest possible transparency" of its chemical weapons destruction process.

The council reaffirmed the importance of the full implementation of Article X, and noted that only 55 States Parties submitted information under Article X, paragraph 4 (reporting of national protection programs) in 2004, and only 35 States Parties in 2005. Additionally, the council noted that only 66 States Parties had made submissions under Article X, paragraph 7 (offers of assistance) and requested that the Secretariat follow up with States Parties that have not yet fulfilled these obligations.

The council, having received a note from the director-general, commended the work of the open-ended working group on terrorism, and requested that it review the implementation of the council's decision on the OPCW's contribution to global anti-terrorist efforts. The council reconfirmed that the organization is not an anti-terrorism agency, and that it can operate only in strict accordance with its mandate as defined by the convention and decisions by the council and the Conference of States Parties, and in compliance with the OPCW Policy on Confidentiality.

The 46th Session of the Executive Council was held 4-7 July 2006. The Chair of the meeting was Ambassador Hlengiwe Buhle Mkhize of South Africa.

The council considered and approved the detailed plan for verification of destruction of chemical weapons at the Qaf-Molla CWDF, Albania, and similarly approved a facility agreement with Albania regarding on-site inspections at the Qaf-Molla CWDF.

The council considered and approved corrections to the detailed plans for destruction of the CWPF [production of VX-type substance and filling of munitions] Open Joint Stock Company (OJSC) Khimprom in Novocheboksarsk, Russian, and approved corrections to the plans for conversion of the CWPF [production of VX-type substance and filling of munitions, and the filling of munitions with sarin, soman, and viscous soman] OJSC Khimprom, Russia.

At the meeting, the US delegation submitted a formal request for an extension to the deadline for the total abolition of its chemical weapons. Despite a decision having been announced to make a request at the 45th Session, until now no formal draft request was submitted, in order to allow the United States to include

as much information as possible as to why the extension was required.

The council heard the progress reports made by the United States of America and the Russian Federation on the progress they have made in meeting revised deadlines for destruction of Category 1 chemical weapons, and reaffirmed the understanding that nothing in the decisions of the CSP (C-8/DEC.13 and C-8/DEC.15) shall prejudice any of the obligations under the convention of the States Parties mentioned in those decisions.

The council approved a recommendation to the Conference of States Parties on the matter of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya's request for an extension of the phase 4 deadline for destruction of its Category 1 chemical weapons stockpiles, and its proposal for the establishment of specific deadlines for the destruction of 1%, 20%, and 45% of those stockpiles.

The council considered and approved a request by China and Japan to extend the deadline for completing the destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China.

The council welcomed the progress made by States Parties in establishing or designating National Authorities (Article VII), and noted that only 14 states had yet to do so, but noted that the number of States Parties that had yet to enact legislation and to adopt administrative measures to implement the Convention remained unchanged at 68. The council urged each State Party that has not yet established a national authority or taken the necessary steps to enact legislation, including penal legislation, to intensify its efforts, to specify its needs to the organization, and to take advantage of assistance offered by the Secretariat and other States Parties. The council requested that the director-general designate a "help-desk" within the Technical Secretariat to assist States Parties.

The council noted that Article X, paragraph 5 calls for the establishment of a databank of freely available information on protection against chemical weapons and information that may be provided by States Parties (including their offers under Article X, paragraph 7). The council requested that the Secretariat finish setting up the databank and make it available to States Parties by the Eleventh Session of the conference. The council welcomed the increased levels of activity under the Assistance and Protection Branch and requested more timely and detailed reports on program activities.

The council considered and approved the lists of new validated data for inclusion in the organization's Central Analytical Database.

2005: The Executive Council met on the following dates: 15-18 March, 28 June–1 July, 27–30 September, and 6-9 December.

The Executive Council met for its 40th session on 15-18 March. The session was chaired by José Antonio Arróspide of Peru. The council noted states' progress on implementing the Article VII obligations action plan, but added that there was an urgent need to continue these efforts.

The 41st session of the Executive Council was held on 28 June–1 July. It was chaired by José Antonio Arróspide of Peru. The council considered and noted the report by the director-general on the readiness of the Secretariat to conduct challenge inspections. The council reaffirmed the request of the First Review Conference that the Secretariat continues to maintain a high standard of readiness in accordance with the provisions of the convention. The council further reaffirmed the request of the First Review Conference to resolve expeditiously the outstanding issues related to challenge inspections and requested that the facilitation efforts on the issue of challenge inspections be continued to resolve these issues.

The Executive Council met for its 42nd session on 27–30 September. The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Alfonso Dastis of Spain. The council considered and approved its report on the performance of its activities in the period from 3 July 2004 to 1 July 2005. It also undertook to review, at its Tenth Session, in November 2005, the status of implementation of Article VII and to consider and decide on any appropriate measures to be taken, if necessary, in order to ensure compliance by all States Parties with Article VII.

The Secretariat submitted a report to the Council on progress and implementation of a plan adopted at the 23rd Council meeting in 2003 to universalize the CWC. The council considered and approved a decision recommending to the Conference at its Tenth Session that it renew the appointment of the Director-General, Mr Rogelio Pfirter, for one further term of four years.

The Executive Council met for its 43rd session on 6-9 December. The meeting was again chaired by Ambassador Alfonso Dastis of Spain. At the meeting, the Council considered and approved the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons at the Recovered Chemical Weapons De-

struction Facility in the United States, further to the discussions on the topic held at the previous session. .

In a decision taken at its Tenth Session, the Conference recommended that the council establish an appropriate *ad hoc*, open-ended working group to examine the administrative, financial, and legal aspects of a proposal to establish an OPCW Office in Africa, and requested the council forward recommendation to the Conference at its Eleventh Session.

The council also decided to establish an open ended working group for the Second Review Conference, as per the recommendations made in the Tenth Session of the Conference of the State Parties.

2004: The Executive Council held sessions on 23-26 March, 29 June-1 July, 12-15 October, 14-17 December.

The Executive Council met for its 36th session during 23-26 March and was chaired by Petr Kubernát of the Czech Republic.

The council reaffirmed the action plan's provisions, urged states to continue requesting or offering assistance in implementing the action plan, and to keep the Secretariat informed about their related activities. The council also encouraged the Secretariat to enhance its coordination of activities under the plan with states.

First introduced at its 34th session, the council adopted a decision on the understanding of the concept of "captive use" in connection with declarations of production and/or consumption under the Verification Annex of the CWC, Parts VII and VIII.

The Executive Council met for its 37th session during 29 June-1 July 2004 and was chaired José Antonio Arróspide of Peru.

The council adopted the provisional agenda for the Ninth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

The council approved deadlines and verification plans for chemical weapons destruction in Albania, Libya, and the United States. The council also approved arrangements for on-site inspections in Australia and Singapore.

The council noted the director-general's report on the status of Article X and XI implementation and decided that such reports in future should be addressed during intercessional periods.

The draft report of the OPCW for 2003 was considered by the council and referred to the Conference of the States Parties at its Ninth Session.

The 38th session of the Executive Council took place on 12-15 October and was chaired by José Antonio Arróspide of Peru. In addition to noting the supplement to the 2003 Verification Implementation Report, the council expressed its concern that only a few states submitted their annual declaration on past activities for 2003 on time and urged all states to submit timely annual declarations.

The Executive Council met for its 39th session on 14-17 December and was chaired by José Antonio Arróspide of Peru.

The council recommended, inter alia, that the conference

- Reaffirm the importance and urgency of states to implement their Article VII obligations
- Encourage state to continue taking appropriate and timely steps to implement the action plan
- Encourage the Secretariat to continue promoting cooperation between States Parties that have offered and requested assistance
- Request the Secretariat to provide feedback to states on progress in implementing the plan of action and receive feedback from states that have received assistance.

2003: The Executive Council held sessions on 18-21 March, 24-26 June, 23-26 September, and 2-5 December.

The Executive Council met for its 32nd session on 18-21 March. The session was chaired by Lionel Fernando of Sri Lanka. The council approved the work of the open-ended working group on preparations for the First Review Conference, which had held 30 meetings.

The Executive Council met for its 33rd session on 24-26 June. The first session was chaired Petr Kubernát of the Czech Republic.

The council considered and noted a report by the director-general on the optimization and efficiency of verification activities. The council was briefed by the Technical Secretariat on the progress made on the optimization of verification activities through more substantial use of monitoring equipment for cost-saving purposes.

The Executive Council noted a report on the status of conversion of former Chemical Weapons Production Facilities (CWPFs). The council requested that, dur-

ing its last regular session of each year, it should be fully informed by relevant states about the status of conversion at former CWPFs located on their territories where conversion was still in progress.

The Executive Council met for its 34th session on 23-26 September. The session was chaired by Petr Kubernát of the Czech Republic. The Executive Council decided to continue working on assistance and protection against chemical weapons, including procedures for annual submission by States Parties of information relating to their national protective purposes programs, further to a request from the First Review Conference.

The Executive Council met for its 35th session on 2-5 December. The session was chaired by Petr Kubernát of the Czech Republic.

The council considered a draft decision on the understanding of the concept of “captive use” in connection with declarations of production and consumption under Parts VII and VIII of the Verification Annex and decided to return to the matter at its next regular session. It also decided that the issue of captive use of Schedule 1 chemicals should be addressed in separate intercessional consultations.

2002: The Executive Council met for its 28th Session from 19-22 March; the session was chaired by Abdel Halim Babu Faith of Sudan. The council adopted eight decisions and deferred decisions on more than 20 issues until the next session.

During the 28th Session, the US delegation submitted a draft decision on a no-confidence motion for the OPCW director-general. The Brazilian delegation submitted a draft decision on the establishment of an extraordinary committee aimed at resolving the situation through dialogue and cooperation. In two consecutive roll-call votes, neither the motion of no-confidence for the OPCW director-general nor the proposal calling for the establishment of an extraordinary committee was adopted by the required two-thirds majority of all 41 members of the council. The US delegation informed the council of its request submitted to the Director-General to convene a special session of the Conference of States Parties.

The council adopted a decision on the First Review Conference, which convened for a two-week period commencing on 28 April 2003.

The council also elected Ambassador Lionel Fernando of Sri Lanka as its new chair for the term of office ending 11 May 2003, and the representatives of Germany, Mexico, the Russian Federation, and South

Africa as its vice-chair, for the same period. The council recognized that a budget deficit of Euro 2.1 million was evident, and that this deficit, if unfunded, would severely impact the delivery of the approved program of work for 2002.

During the 29th Session and in accordance with the decision of the council at its 18th Meeting (EC-M-18/DEC.1, dated 31 May 2002), the council reviewed the situation in relation to the presentation of candidates for the post of director-general of the Secretariat. The council decided to convene a special meeting of the council on 16 July, with a view to making a recommendation to the conference on the appointment of the director-general, and also to recommend to the chair of the conference that the First Special Session of the conference should reconvene on 25 July to appoint the director-general.

The Executive Council met for its 29th Session from 25-28 June; Ambassador Lionel Fernando of Sri Lanka chaired the session. The council adopted four decisions and deferred decisions on more than 20 issues until the next session. Of the four decisions made, two adopted approved facility agreements with Iran and Yugoslavia and two approved lists of new validated data for inclusion in the Central OPCW Analytical Database.

By 16 July, the OPCW Technical Secretariat had undertaken 1,210 inspections. All 61 declared chemical weapons production facilities around the world had been inspected and sealed. Of these, 36 had been certified as destroyed or converted to peaceful purposes. More than 6,700 tons of chemical agents had been destroyed. Over two million chemical bombs, shells, and rockets had been destroyed.

The Executive Council held its 30th Session from 10-13 September under the chairmanship of Ambassador Lionel Fernando of Sri Lanka. The council adopted two combined plans for destruction and verification of chemical weapons production facilities in the Russian Federation, as well as seven facility agreements (five for chemical weapons destruction facilities in the United States and two for Schedule 1 facilities — one in Yugoslavia another in South Africa), and recommended to the Conference of the States Parties the adoption of five conversion requests for chemical weapons production facilities in the Russian Federation, as well as of the agreed detailed plan for the verification of destruction of chemical weapons at Unit 1 of the Gorny chemical weapons destruction facility in the Russian Federation. The council also adopted an important decision on guidelines for declarations of the production, consumption, import and

export of Schedule 2 chemicals and for import and export of Schedule 3 chemicals, which would contribute to the consistent application of the Convention's provisions in all States Parties.

2001: From 3-6 April, the Executive Council of the OPCW met for its 24th Session in The Hague. The session was chaired by Mr. Bernhard Brasack of Germany. In his opening statement, the Director-General, Mr. José M. Bustani, spoke about the OPCW's current financial crisis, and the Secretariat's efforts to continue its mandatory activities and frugally implement the CWC. He affirmed that the crisis should not prevent the full implementation of the CWC by OPCW States Parties. The director-general called on the States Parties to strive for a solution to the monetary problems. The council recognized the need to address the financial situation and called for additional information on the savings that are being made, and on possible additional funding requirements for the remainder of 2001.

The council adopted a decision on the combined plans for the destruction and verification of one more chemical weapons production facility, Khimprom, in Volgograd. The council also addressed the question of improving the language services provided to States Parties and delegations.

The council elected its new chair, H.E. Dr. Abdel Halim Babu Fatih Elrayah of Sudan, whose term began on 12 May 2001 and ended on 11 May 2002. It also elected four vice-chairs (from Mexico, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and Sweden). The Director-General congratulated the chair, noting that Sudan had joined the OPCW in 1999, and was now playing a very active role in the work of the Organization. He expressed his hope that Sudan would encourage other states in the region to accede to the CWC.

On 4 July, the OPCW announced the completion of its 1,000th inspection. Since the CWC entered into force, the OPCW's inspectors, coming from over 50 States Parties, have traveled over 21 million miles, and inspected a total of 462 facilities in 49 States Parties.

On 16 July, the chair of the OPCW Executive Council, Ambassador Abdel Halim Babu Fatih Elrayah, attended a summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Lusaka on behalf of the OPCW. He carried a personal message from OPCW Director-General José M. Bustani to the Foreign Ministers of those African states that still have to take action on the Convention. Upon his return to The Hague, Am-

bassador Babu Fatih Elrayah expressed his hope that African leaders will do their utmost to attain the ratification or accession to the CWC by all countries on the African continent. He spoke to the Foreign Ministers of Angola, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, and Uganda. He received many positive responses, with some African ministers indicating that their countries would be taking action on the CWC in the near future. Ambassador Babu Fatih Elrayah stressed the importance of sending a strong political signal to the world about Africa's commitment to the nonproliferation of chemical weapons, while underlining the many benefits of the CWC for Africa. These benefits extend to both political and security concerns and increased international cooperation in the chemical trade.

From 4-7 December, the Executive Council met for its 27th Session. The council adopted five decisions and deferred 24 draft decisions. The council adopted a decision on the OPCW's contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts and stressed that, at this stage; the contribution to global anti-terrorism should focus on the areas of promotion of universal adherence to the Convention, full implementation of the legislative measures, and the ability of the OPCW to respond to the assistance and protection provisions.

The Executive Council met for its 26th Session from 25-28 September. The Director-General took this opportunity to condemn the attacks of 11 September and said that terrorism was a looming threat that should prompt the OPCW to review the implementation of its mandate. He called on national governments to give serious consideration to the ways in which the OPCW could respond to emerging global threats.

2000: The OPCW held its 22nd Session of the Executive Council from 5-8 December, during which it discussed plans for destroying chemical weapons in various countries and carrying out inspections. It also covered the procedure for the payment by OPCW members of their annual contributions to the budget of this organization and a number of important organizational questions.

Financing: All States Parties make contributions to the OPCW budget, based on a modified UN scale of assessments. The total budget for 1998 was 141 million Dutch guilders (\$70 million), with roughly 83 million guilders (\$41.5 million) allocated for verification. Total annual budgets for 1999 and 2000 were

approximately 138 and 133 million guilders (\$72 and \$62 million), 77 and 69 million guilders (\$40.5 and \$32 million) of which were allocated for verification. The total budget for 2001 was set at approximately 60 million Euros (\$53 million), with 29.5 million Euros (\$26 million) of that earmarked for verification. The total budget for 2002 is set at roughly 62 million Euros (\$54.5 million), with 33 million Euros (\$29 million) of that allocated for verification. The total budget for 2003 is set at roughly 68 million Euros (\$59 million), with 35.5 million Euros (\$29 million) of that allocated for verification. The total budget for 2004 is set at roughly 73 million Euros (\$60 million), with 36 million Euros (\$30 million) of that allocated for verification. The total budget for 2005 is roughly 75 million Euros (\$62 million), with 38 million Euros (\$31 million) of that allocated for verification. The total budget for 2006 is roughly 75.6 million Euros (\$96 million), with 37 million Euros (\$43.7 million) allocated for verification. The total budget for 2007 is set at roughly 75 million Euros (\$98.8 million), with 37.5 million Euros (\$49.4 million) allocated for verification.

Point of Contact:

Director-General Rogelio Pfirter (Argentina)

Johan de Wittlaan 32

2517 JR, The Hague

The Netherlands

Tel: 31-70-416-33-00

Fax: 31-70-306-35-35

E-mail: webmaster@opcw.org

Website: <http://www.opcw.org/>