



Security Council

Distr.: General
26 December 2014
English
Original: French

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

I have the honour to transmit herewith the fifteenth monthly report of the Director-General of the Organisation 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 November to 22 December 2014.

The Director-General of OPCW advises of the imminent start of the destruction of the remaining 12 chemical weapons production facilities in the Syrian Arab Republic.

With regard to the Syrian Arab Republic's initial declaration and subsequent amendments, OPCW technical experts continue their dialogue with the Syrian authorities. Since my last letter, the technical experts have undertaken a sixth visit to the Syrian Arab Republic, from 10 to 15 December 2014. I welcome this ongoing engagement between the Syrian Arab Republic and OPCW. In that regard, I encourage the Syrian authorities to continue to extend all necessary cooperation to OPCW, 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 (Chemical Weapons Convention).

Last week, the third report of the OPCW fact-finding mission in the Syrian Arab Republic was circulated to the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention. As you are aware, the fact-finding mission was undertaken in response to allegations of the use of toxic chemicals for hostile purposes in that country. This latest report provides a more detailed account of the work undertaken by the fact-finding mission earlier this year, which served as the basis for the conclusions contained in its second report, dated 10 September 2014.

As I noted in my letter of 26 September 2014, I was very concerned at the findings presented in the second report of the OPCW fact-finding mission, and I remain so. I strongly condemn any use of toxic chemicals in the Syrian conflict, by any party. Those responsible for carrying out any such acts should be brought to justice.

Since my last letter, Ms. Sigrid Kaag has been appointed as the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon. I have asked the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Angela Kane, to continue to exercise my good offices in furtherance of the implementation of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013). The



Office for Disarmament Affairs, led by Ms. Kane, will ensure a smooth transition and continuity on any matter arising in this regard.

I would 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 contained in Executive Council decision EC-M-33/DEC.1 of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and in Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), both dated 27 September 2013, for transmission to the Council. My report covers the period from 23 November 2014 to 22 December 2014 and 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 Organisation 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 fifteenth 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 November to 22 December 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) Significant progress has been made 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). The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), on behalf of the OPCW, has signed contracts with two Syrian companies, which were pre-selected by the Syrian Arab Republic, for the destruction operations and equipment for these operations at the 12 CWPFs. With regard to the planned time frame for completion of operations, should the mobilisation period that is needed prior to commencement of the destruction activities be concluded in a timely manner, it is expected that destruction activities will commence at the end of December 2014, and that the first CWPF will be destroyed no later than mid-January 2015. As reported previously, destruction of all 12 CWPFs is expected to be completed by the end of June 2015, with the possibility of a slight delay.

(b) Pursuant to paragraph 19 of EC-M-34/DEC.1, the Syrian Arab Republic is required to submit a monthly report to the Council regarding activities on its territory related to the destruction of its chemical weapons and CWPFs. The thirteenth such report was submitted to the Secretariat on 17 December 2014 (EC-M-48/P/NAT.1, dated 17 December 2014).

(c) 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 reported previously, 100% of the received Category 1 and 2 chemicals had been destroyed by Ekokem in Finland. As at the cut-off date of this report, a total of 37% of the DF effluent, which was delivered by the MV Cape Ray on 30 and 31 August 2014, 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% 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, and the destruction activities began in December 2014.

(d) As reported previously, 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, 39.6% 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% of the Category 1 chemicals and 88.8% of the Category 2 chemicals had been destroyed, representing a combined total of 97.8%, 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 February 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, three OPCW staff members were deployed as part of the OPCW Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic. As reported previously, Ambassador José Artur Denot Medeiros of Brazil, in his capacity as Special Adviser to the Director-General on Syria, paid a visit to Damascus where he held useful meetings with senior Syrian officials and UNOPS staff from 21 to 25 November 2014. Ambassador Medeiros will continue his discussions in this regard in early 2015.

8. The Director-General has continued to meet with senior representatives of the States Parties hosting a destruction facility or otherwise providing assistance with the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons. He also communicated 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. At the Forty-Sixth Meeting of the Council, the Secretariat provided a follow-up briefing on the activities of the Declaration Assessment Team. During its latest visit to Damascus from 10 to 15 December 2014, the Declaration Assessment Team continued interviews with principal individuals of the Syrian chemical weapons programme, had technical meetings with the National Authority of the Syrian Arab Republic, and visited two sites. Further consultations with the Syrian authorities are expected to continue.

10. As reported previously, the implementation of additional special monitoring measures, as specified in Note EC-M-43/DG.1/Rev.1 (dated 21 July 2014), will include the use of a vault monitoring system, which is based on technology already in use by the International Atomic Energy Agency. In cooperation with Aquila Technologies, the OPCW has finalised the administrative requirements for the first phase of implementing the monitoring system in the underground structures, and is currently finalising the requirements for the second implementation phase. Implementation of the monitoring system is consistent with the agreed time frame for the planned construction activities related to the interior plugs. Consultations continue with the Syrian Arab Republic on the modalities for implementing the monitoring system.

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 of 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 late December. The Declaration Assessment Team will also continue its work in the Syrian Arab Republic.

13. The Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) that is looking into allegations of use of toxic chemicals as weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic is continuing its work. The FFM has submitted its third report ([S/1230/2014](#), dated 18 December 2014) with a detailed account of the work that underpins the key findings presented in its second report.
