

## First 15 Years Chemical Weapons Convention and sea-dumped CW-achievements and future perspectives

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The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention, CWC) entered into force in 1997. The main focus of CWC under the disarmament component is on the safe and secure destruction of all existing chemical weapons stockpiles as well as abandoned and old chemical weapons (ACW/OCW). In addition, the convention regime contains a mechanism for verification of all these destruction activities.

Any recovery or remediation of sea-dumped CWC will also have to take into consideration the provisions of the CWC. As the CWC was focused mainly on existing stockpiles of CW on land, the CWC does not require the recovery of CW dumped in territorial waters if the dumping occurred prior to 1 January 1985. However, any CW that is recovered (either from land or water) must not be re-disposed of through dumping, burial or open-pit burning and its recovery and disposal should be reported to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), based in The Hague.

The presentation will review the existing obligations under the CWC for sea-dumped CW and the relevant practice from the last 15 years after the convention entered into force. In addition, in the light of the forthcoming CWC Review Conference a discussion of possible improvements as well as "new perspectives" will be performed under the aspect that the CWC is besides the disarmament component also focusing on enhancing security as co-operation and assistance among the treaty States Parties. Hereby the experience so far achieved in dealing with OCW will be technically evaluated against possible application for future application on sea-dumped CW.

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