

Committee: Disarmament & International Security Committee (GA1)

Issue: Ensuring the compliance of UN Signatory States to the Net-Zero targets set out by the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)

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Position: Co-Chair

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates,

Before I welcome you to this year's ACGMUN Conference, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Angelos Talpa, and I have the utmost honor to be serving as the Co-Chair of the GA1 Committee at the 7th ACGMUN conference. I am 16 years old, and I am currently an 11th-grade student at Athens College. I have been participating in MUN conferences for the past two years, and this will be my second time serving as a Student Officer.

In this study guide, we dive into a thorough investigation of our second subject: ensuring the compliance of UN Signatory States to the Net-zero targets set out by the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). We seek to identify the concrete net zero-targets the CWC lists and find ways to make sure that UN states will adhere to them. We must also consider the role of the countries in the convention to ensure international cooperation between them. We have to find any possible issues in the convention that discourage countries from complying and find ways to battle them.

I hope that at this year's conference, you will have an amazing experience, both fun and professional. I must state clearly that this study guide should not be your only source of information. You should conduct personal research on the topic, always taking your delegation's policy into consideration. I am more than happy to answer any questions or concerns about the topic and help you be the best version of yourselves during the conference. Feel free to contact me at atalpa323@athenscollege.edu.gr for any questions. Having said this, I officially welcome you to this year's conference, especially to the GA1 committee. I am looking forward to working with all of you soon!

Yours faithfully,

Angelos Talpa

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

On September 3rd, 1992, a convention was drafted with the name “Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction,” widely known as the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). This arms control treaty led by the UN’s Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) was put into force on April 29th, 1997, aiming at the destruction and banning of chemical weapons. While its main aim is disarmament and the control of dangerous weapons, the CWC has complied with measures to address global issues such as environmental sustainability and protection of the environment.

Since 2015, after the signing of the Paris Agreement, 193 UN signatory states have been trying to comply with the net zero targets set out by the agreement. These targets aim to reduce CO₂ emissions in the atmosphere, pledging to keep the global temperature under control. Simply put, net zero means removing as much carbon as we put in the atmosphere. A balance must come by 2050 for us to live in a world without the environmental problems and perils caused by climate change.

At first glance, the CWC is a convention concerning disarmament issues, while the Net Zero targets relate to environmental wellness. How are these two connected? The main connection is found in the net zero targets set out in the CWC recognizing the need for environmental protection in the destruction and disposal of chemical weapons. The implementation of these targets is considered a challenge. UN signatory states must find ways to ensure the responsible management of chemical weapons destruction, minimizing the release of hazardous substances into the environment while finding new technologies to eliminate the remaining stockpiles and the abundance of these weapons.

With ACGMUN’s theme being “Reaching Net-Zero” this year, the connection between our topic and the conference’s theme is obvious. Despite the possibility of facing numerous challenges, it is essential that we find ways to urge the signatory states to comply with the net zero targets, having always in mind the disarmament and environmental aspects of the topic, hopefully leading to a safer and environmentally friendlier world.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Biological Weapons

“Biological weapons disseminate disease-causing organisms or toxins to harm or kill humans, animals or plants. They can be deadly and highly contagious. Diseases caused by such weapons would not confine themselves to national borders and could spread rapidly around the world”.¹

Chemical Weapons

“A substance, such as a poisonous gas rather than an explosive, that can be used to kill or injure people.”²

Dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT)

“DDT is an organo-chlorine, synthesized in 1874 but its insecticidal properties were discovered in 1939. DDT was first used during World War II to combat malaria and typhus among civilians and troops. Subsequently it was used as an agricultural and household pesticide.”³

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

“Environmental assessment (EA)—sometimes called Environmental Impact Assessment—is a tool for achieving sustainability and sustainable development through the identification and assessment of environmental, social, and economic impacts (compared to baseline conditions) to inform decision-makers prior to the utilization of resources and commitments being made.”⁴

Geneva Protocol

“The 1925 Geneva Protocol prohibits the use of chemical and biological weapons in war. The Protocol was drawn up and signed at a conference which was held in Geneva under the auspices of the League of Nations from May 4th to June 17th 1925, and it entered into force on February 8th 1928.”⁵

¹ "Biological Weapons Convention – UNODA." UNODA – United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, disarmament.unoda.org/biological-weapons.

² "Chemical Weapon." *Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus*, www.dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/chemical-weapon?q=chemical+weapons.

³ "DDT Overview." Stockholm Convention, chm.pops.int/Implementation/PesticidePOPs/DDT/Overview/tabid/378/Default.aspx.

⁴ "Just a Moment..." *Just a Moment..*, www.sciencedirect.com/topics/social-sciences/environmental-impact-assessment.

⁵ "1925 Geneva Protocol – UNODA." UNODA – United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, disarmament.unoda.org/wmd/bio/1925-geneva-protocol/.

Net-Zero Emissions

Put simply, the term net zero applies to a situation where “global greenhouse gas emissions from human activity are in balance with emissions reductions. At net zero, carbon dioxide emissions are still generated, but an equal amount of carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere as it is released into it, resulting in zero increase in net emissions.”⁶

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

“Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are hazardous chemicals that threaten human health and the planet’s ecosystems. POPs remain intact for a long time, widely distributed throughout the environment, accumulate and magnify in living organisms through the food chain, and are toxic to both humans and wildlife.”⁷

Toxic Chemicals

“Any chemical which through its chemical action on life processes can cause death, temporary incapacitation or permanent harm to humans or animals.”⁸

Biological Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)

“Weapon of mass destruction (WMD), weapon with the capacity to inflict death and destruction on such a massive scale and so indiscriminately that its very presence in the hands of a hostile power can be considered a grievous threat. Modern weapons of mass destruction are either nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons—frequently referred to collectively as NBC weapons.”⁹

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)

Before talking about the Chemical Weapons Convention, we should look at the first convention ever adopted for similar weapons, the BWC. Entering into force on the 26th of March in 1975, the BWC effectively forbids the invention, manufacture,

⁶ "What Does Net Zero Emissions Mean and How Can We Get There?" *World Economic Forum*, 9 Nov. 2021, www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/11/net-zero-emissions-cop26-climate-change/.

⁷ "Why Do Persistent Organic Pollutants Matter?" UNEP - UN Environment Programme, 27 July 2023, www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/persistent-organic-pollutants/why-do-persistent-organic.

⁸ "Article II – Definitions and Criteria." *OPCW*, www.opcw.org/chemical-weapons-convention/articles/article-ii-definitions-and-criteria.

⁹ "Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD) | Definition, Types, History, & Facts." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 31 Mar. 2004, www.britannica.com/technology/weapon-of-mass-destruction.

transfer, stockpiling, and use of biological and toxic weapons. It was the first global disarmament agreement to outlaw a class of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) in their entirety. This convention has created a strong legal framework, a component of the international community's efforts to combat WMD. The convention now has 185 states parties and 4 signatory states being close to global compliance. The BWC essentially acts as the predecessor to the treaty relevant to the topic, the CWC.

By examining the BWC, the difficulties regarding its compliance and the way they were faced, we can have a better understanding of the same situation during the implementation of the CWC. The international community, aware of how dangerous biological weapons are, expressed dissatisfaction concerning the destruction of the weapons while striving to find better ways of implying the Convention. The solution finally was proposed by the international community. Review Conferences were held with the best being the 8th Review Conference in Geneva (November 7-25, 2016). This conference was a chance to reform the institutional structures and inner-sessional procedure, as well as to build a more robust and strategic scientific review process. Thus, we can see that the problem was battled with international cooperation and continuous negotiations, something that is essential to happen as well to ensure the full compliance of all signatory states to the net zero targets set out by the CWC.

Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)

The use of chemical weapons began during World War I (WWI) when toxic gases were used by both sides to inflict excruciating pain and significantly increase the number of casualties of the opposing side. This marked the beginning of the contemporary use of chemical weapons. These weapons were essentially made of well-known commercial chemicals that were added to common weapons like artillery shells and grenades. Among the chemicals used was "mustard gas," a gas which causes terrible burns on the skin. The outcomes were widespread and frequently disastrous. That led to approximately 175,000 casualties which were mainly British and Russian soldiers¹⁰. Chemical weapons have caused more than one million casualties and approximately 90,000 deaths worldwide during the WWI¹¹. Since then, chemical weapons have been used several times most notably in the Iran-Iraq war (1980 – 1988) and the Syrian civil war.

The Geneva Protocol, which forbade the use of chemical weapons in combat, was signed in 1925 because of public outcry. This protocol was a positive start, but it

¹⁰ "How Deadly Was the Poison Gas of WW1?" *BBC News*, 30 Jan. 2015, www.bbc.com/news/magazine-31042472.

¹¹ "Chemical Weapon | History, Facts, Types, & Effects." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 18 Sept. 1998, www.britannica.com/technology/chemical-weapon.

had several disadvantages, such as not forbidding the creation, manufacture, and storage of chemical weapons. Several states that ratified the Geneva Protocol reserved the ability to deploy forbidden weapons against non-party states, which proved problematic as well. Because of the lack of efficient clauses in the convention, during World War II (WWII) poisonous gases were employed in Nazi concentration camps against the Jewish minority in the Holocaust.

After many years of negotiations, seeing that the Geneva Protocol was inefficient, the Chemical Weapons Convention was adopted by the Conference of Disarmament in Geneva on September 3rd, 1992. The first draft of the convention provided measures for a cooperative, non-discriminatory legal instrument to eliminate the idea of chemical weapons once and for all. The CWC permits states parties to rigorously verify compliance. On January 13th, 1993, the CWC was made available for signature in Paris, and in April 29th, 1997, it was put into force. The CWC is the first disarmament agreement negotiated with a multilateral framework that forbids states parties from developing, producing, stockpiling, retaining, transferring, and using chemical weapons, eliminating an entire class of WMDs. It also adheres to the destruction of any chemical weapons left, always complying with rules for environmental sustainability.

A preparatory Commission of the Organization of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) was established in The Hague, Netherlands, to prepare for the CWC to enter into force. Its duties include creating comprehensive operation procedures and setting up the infrastructure required for the permanent implementing agency that the Convention calls for. On April 29th, 1997, the CWC came into effect 180 days after the 65th ratification document was deposited.

Leading Countries

As mentioned before, 193 member states were party to the CWC, indicating international cooperation and approval of the convention. UN signatory states such as the United States (US), Russia, China, and the United Kingdom have played a major role in the convention as they complied with the destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles despite previously holding numerous chemical weapons. Other countries like Germany and France recognize the convention and play a crucial role in the international negotiations that take place within its context.

Non-Signatory Countries

Enforcing the compliance of the Convention was not easy whatsoever. The UN had to convince all Member States that their economy and industry would not be affected. All potential parties were being invited to decide

whether they would have had a better outcome by paying compensations and having fines imposed while maintaining their great economy and chemical industrial production, or by abiding to the CWC and destroy all their chemical weapons. Also, any development and massive change that caused a State to question the CWC would be a challenge. If many major Member States such as the US, the UK and Russia started questioning the Convention and refusing to believe in its goal, the whole process of compliance would be much harder. That is why the UN and the OPCW had to be sure that the CWC was perfect for its time and would not interfere with any major countries' interests.

Three countries have neither signed nor ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea not only has not signed the convention but is also rumored to be working on a chemical weapons program¹². Concerns have been raised about its non-signatory status and compliance with international standards for the disarming of chemical weapons. Moreover, a week after it was revealed that weapons-grade uranium had been discovered in Egypt. Egypt is refusing to ratify treaties banning biological and chemical weapons, meaning that it has not signed the CWC. South Sudan, being a relatively new member of the UN, having declared independence in 2011, also has not signed the CWC.

Environmental Aspects of the Convention

Seeing that chemical weapons undoubtedly harm the environment in various ways, the Chemical Weapons Convention has set out rules that protect the environment and "advocate" for environmental sustainability.

One primary environmental aspect of the convention concerns the destruction of chemical weapons and their production facilities. The convention mandates the destruction of any stockpiles of chemical weapons in a way that does not harm the environment by any contamination of the waters, soil, or air of a country. Seeing that chemical weapons are highly harmful to wildlife because of the radiation and the toxic substances that they release, the CWC has clearly stated that any state that fails to adhere to the environmentally friendly destruction of its stockpiles will face the imposition of sanctions.

Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) must be carried out both before and during the destruction process, according to the CWC. These evaluations pinpoint possible environmental hazards and direct the use of mitigating

¹² "North Korea's Chemical and Biological Weapons Programs." *Crisis Group*, 17 Aug. 2016, www.crisisgroup.org/asia/north-east-asia/korean-peninsula/north-korea-s-chemical-and-biological-weapons-programs.

actions to avert or lessen damage to residents and ecosystems. These precautions, which are meant to reduce or prevent environmental damage both during and after the destruction process, comprise containment systems, treatment processes, and monitoring techniques.

Verification procedures are also established by the CWC, guaranteeing adherence to the environmental norms while chemical weapons are eliminated. Monitoring procedures, member state statements, and continuous inspections are essential for confirming that strict environmental guidelines are being followed. These actions guarantee the strict observance of environmental regulations and safety precautions during the whole procedure. The only flaw is that it is not clearly stated when and by whom these reports will be made.

Net-Zero Targets in the Convention

The Chemical Weapons Convention primarily focuses on the banning of any chemical weapons and the destruction of their stockpiles by the countries that have signed the convention rather than achieving net zero. This can be understood by the fact that the Paris Agreement, which proposes the net-zero targets was drafted and signed around 20 years after the CWC, combating current problems concerning the environment and carbon emissions.

Despite not mentioning any “net-zero goals,” “net-zero” is associated with combating climate change and not producing spare CO₂ or any other greenhouse gas emissions. The CWC has a solution to that, too. In the convention, it is mentioned that the destruction shall not cause any harm in the air of a country, meaning that member states are obliged to find ways to destroy their chemical weapons stockpiles without causing any air pollution. The convention always encourages and supports research on the matter, leaving space for any negotiations between signatory states.

Moreover, we must acknowledge that the whole principle of CWC is directly associated with net zero targets from the aspect of the reduction of CO₂ emissions. The CWC mandates the elimination of any existing chemical weapons and the banning of new ones. So, by not being able to produce more weapons, the exhaust fumes and CO₂ emissions produced during the development, storage, transport and use of these weapons are reduced. Thus, the main goal of the net zero targets is achieved, and a more sustainable environment can be formed.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Russian Federation

Russia is the country with the largest number of chemical weapons, amassing to 35,000 tons inherited from its Soviet era¹³. Despite its large number of stockpiles, it has declared its destruction. The country has made progress in the elimination of these chemicals, having a small amount left. Russia has invested in modern ways of destruction trying to minimize the amount of CO₂ that is produced. Unfortunately, it has been recently reported by Ukraine that during the Russian-Ukrainian war, Russia has used chemical substances in its military intervention in Ukraine¹⁴. If this is true, Russia is breaking the CWC, and although it has been adhering to its obligations, it currently does not comply with the rules that they have signed. Moreover, on March 2nd, 2021, allegations were published stating that the Russian Federation's president Vladimir Putin used a chemical weapon to eliminate his main political opponent Alexei Navalny. In August 2020, it was reported that Navalny fell ill on a flight to Moscow and after public outcry he was moved to Germany for medical care. Germany found that Navalny had been poisoned with a Novichok nerve agent, a chemical weapon developed during the Soviet Union era and that only Russian state authorities have access to it. Thus, the Russian government was found guilty and in violation of international law.

Syria

With continuous efforts to guarantee the total and verifiable destruction of its declared chemical weapons stockpile and address concerns about the use of chemical weapons in the conflict, Syria's engagement with the CWC continues to be a complicated and dynamic subject. Despite being a member of the CWC, Syria has been using chemical weapons in the ongoing Syrian civil war, breaking the main rule of the CWC. The Syrian Civil War is an ongoing violent conflict in Syria between pro-democratic insurgents and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's long-standing dynastic regime. The war has been a source of significant instability in the Middle East since 2011, and the resultant civilian displacement and refugee exodus constitute one of the worst humanitarian crises in modern history.

United States of America (US)

The United States of America is one of the core signatories to the CWC. After signing and ratifying the CWC, the US has actively been engaged in the destruction of its stockpiles. Since 1986, it has been trying to find ways and places to eliminate its

¹³ "Just a Moment..." *Just a Moment...*, www.nti.org/countries/russia/.

¹⁴ *Forbes*, www.forbes.com/sites/davidhambling/2023/12/29/what-we-know-about-russian-chemical-weapon-attacks/?sh=787a5ece5545

chemical weapons safely. In 2023, it finally destroyed all its remaining stockpiles despite being of a large amount (30,000 tons¹⁵) mostly by chemically neutralizing the weapons, but also partly through controlled detonations. Through these implementations the US has proven to the international community that they fully adhere to the CWC.

European Union (EU)

The European Union is considered a strong supporter of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the programs on destroying the remaining stockpiles of European countries. The EU is responsible for the Chemical Weapons Convention's Fifth Review Conference which brings together States Parties to assess the Convention's implementation and provide strategic guidance for further work. In February 2023, the EU's Foreign Ministers adopted Council Conclusions to set out the EU's position for the conference which was held in The Hague. The EU's opinion on chemical weapons aligns with the CWC believing that no state under any circumstances must have, produce or import chemical weapons. Moreover, the EU is one of the biggest contributors concerning the funding of the OPCW through projects financed by the EU budget. Since 2004 the EU has contributed more than 38million EUR¹⁶ to initiatives that promote capacity building, the broader adoption of the CWC, the improvement of the organization's information protection and cyber security.

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

The OPCW is a multinational organization responsible for administering the CWC, which came into effect on April 29th, 1997. The OPCW, which has 193 signatory parties and is headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands, oversees the international effort to permanently and verifiably eradicate chemical weapons. It supports and affirms compliance with the CWC, which forbids the use of chemical weapons and mandates their disposal, which is the organization's mission. On-site inspections and member state assessments of declarations comprise its verification process.

¹⁵ Kirby, Jen. "2023 Was the Year the US Finally Destroyed All of Its Chemical Weapons." *Vox*, 30 Sept. 2023, www.vox.com/world-politics/23896221/chemical-weapons-united-states-cwc-arms-control-pueblo-blue-grass.

¹⁶ "Fifth Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention - EU Priorities to Reinforce the Convention in a Challenging Disarmament Environment | EEAS." *The Diplomatic Service of the European Union | EEAS*, www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/fifth-review-conference-chemical-weapons-convention-eu-priorities-reinforce-convention-challenging_en.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

| Date | Description of event |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 May - 17 June 1925 | Geneva Protocol is signed. |
| 8 February 1928 | Geneva Protocol enters into force. |
| 10 April 1972 | BWC is open for signature. |
| 26 March 1975 | BWC enters into force. |
| 13 January 1993 | CWC is open for signature. |
| 29 April 1997 | CWC enters into force. |
| 2001 | The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) is adopted. |
| 2004 | The POPs enters into force. |
| 2013 | Syrian civil war begins and the use of chemical weapons by a CWC signatory state (Syria) is reported |
| 2015 | Paris Agreement is adopted. |
| 15-19 May 2023 | Fifth Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention takes place. |
| 1986-2023 | The American Chemical Weapons Destruction Program is concluded. |

RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

- Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction, Paris 13 January 1993
- “Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use and the Threat of Future Use”, 27 November – December 2023
- "30 Years of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC): Histories, Achievements, Challenges", October 5-6, 2023
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
- UN Security Council Resolution 2118 (**S/RES/2118**)
- UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (28 April 2004)
- Fifth Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention (2023)

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

United States Chemical Weapons Destruction Program

As mentioned before, the United States of America was among the first countries to sign and ratify the CWC. Complying with the convention's rule of destroying any chemical weapons stockpiles, the US started a destruction program that took place between 1986 and 2023. In 1986, US Congress ordered the destruction of the US' chemical weapons stockpile, which at one point was 30,000 tons of chemical warfare¹⁷ agents in bulk containers and explosively designed warheads. The disposal process started in 1990 on the Pacific Island of Johnston Atoll. By 2012, the US Army had successfully finished destroying weapons at six additional locations around the country, including Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Maryland, Oregon, and Utah. Despite being time-consuming and of high cost, significant drops in disclosed chemical weapons stocks have resulted from the program supporting international security and aiding in efforts towards global disarmament. The program also used new technologies respecting environmental sustainability as the destruction was under control, monitoring chemical waste and carbon emissions. Despite that, it is accepted that environmental issues can arise in the form of hazardous waste or emissions from destruction operations, even with efforts to minimize their impact.

Technical workshops and conferences

Over a recurring period of 10 years technical workshops and conferences within the framework of CWC are held, which serve as opportunities for the CWC's signatory states to discuss the convention's goals and rules in aspects such as disarmament and environment. They encourage the exchange of information between state Parties if discussion on problems they are facing whether they are financial or practical in other ways. Their main goal is the proposal of ideas to make the Convention more easily applicable to all countries, of every economy and technological state, while discussing their stance in the Convention. These workshops offer chances to increase capacity, particularly for states that may not have the means or technical know-how to handle and eliminate chemical weapons securely. Workshops frequently incorporate instruction and activities aimed at developing skills. Considering climate change and the current environmental crisis, these conferences offer ways to handle the disposal of chemical waste in an environmentally conscious manner. Despite being a great opportunity for the global community to work together on the matter, often states with decreased technological advances and low economies may have limited participation in these events. Moreover, these types of events require a large sum of money to be held, and they are considered time-

¹⁷ Kirby, Jen. "2023 Was the Year the US Finally Destroyed All of Its Chemical Weapons." *Vox*, 30 Sept. 2023, www.vox.com/world-politics/23896221/chemical-weapons-united-states-cwc-arms-control-pueblo-blue-grass.

consuming projects. Finally, although all countries are said to be heard, many states cannot easily comply with new rules due to political or financial reasons, making these events appear to be a waste of resources.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

UN-mandated reports on the destruction of chemical weapons

We have seen before that some countries may not adhere to the rules set out by the CWC (e.g., Syria). Because of that, during the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles, thorough reports need to be made to the committee, including chemical substances that can be and are produced from said destruction. As part of the destruction process, more regular and valid investigations and reports by UN officials and organizations such as the OPCW should aim for the safe handling of chemical waste and materials. These reports will offer a methodical and comprehensive description of the developments, procedures, and effects of the destruction process on the environment. By incorporating these legal investigations, signatory states will not only adhere to their obligations but will also enhance cooperation among each other. Through these investigations and reports the convention's flaws can be actively addressed. In this way, the environment can be fully protected from chemical waste or any unnecessary emissions during the destruction as there will always be supervision.

Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

For UN Signatory States to successfully tackle the problem of lowering greenhouse gas emissions and reaching the net-zero targets forth by the CWC, capacity building and technical support are essential. By funding capacity building programs, Signatory States can improve their institutional and technical expertise, empowering them to create and carry out all emission reduction plans by the international community. Government officials, technical specialists and other relevant stakeholders can benefit from training programs on the newest innovations and industry best practices in renewable energy and sustainable development. A low-carbon economy can also be achieved more easily by facilitating the adoption of clean energy technology and infrastructure upgrades through the provision of financial support and resource availability. Capacity building initiatives can speed progress towards reaching net-zero emissions targets in line with the goals of the Chemical Weapons Convention by providing UN Signatory States with the information, skills, and resources they need.

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