



Chemical Weapons Convention



The [Chemical Weapons Convention](#) (CWC) is a multilateral arms control treaty which prohibits the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons.

States Parties to the convention must destroy all the chemical weapons they own or possess; destroy all chemical weapons they may have abandoned in other countries; and destroy facilities they own or possess which were involved in the production of chemical weapons. In addition, States Parties have agreed to create a verification regime for certain toxic chemicals and their precursors to ensure that such chemicals are used only for non-prohibited purposes. The treaty, signed by 193 nations as of June 2018, is enforced by the [Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons](#) (OPCW) in The Hague, the Netherlands.

Background

The CWC entered into force on April 29, 1997, when the U.S. and 86 other nations were the first countries to sign and ratify it. Since then, the [U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency](#) (now Activity), or CMA, was responsible for destroying approximately 90 percent of the original declared U.S. chemical weapons stockpile. That mission was completed in January 2012. Other CWC milestone accomplishments conducted by CMA include the total destruction of U.S. unfilled munitions and binary projectiles, the complete destruction of the nation's former chemical weapons production facilities and the elimination of all binary chemical weapon materiel.

The Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives was responsible for destroying the remaining approximately 10 percent of the original U.S. stockpile, stored at U.S. Army installations near Pueblo, Colorado and Richmond, Kentucky.

In April 2006, the CWC deadline was extended to April 29, 2012, and in 2012, the U.S. committed to a completion date of Sept. 30, 2023, by agreement with all States Parties to the Convention, with additional required accountability measures to the OPCW. The U.S. completed destruction of its declared chemical weapons stockpile July 7, 2023, also marking the completion of destruction of all declared stockpiles in the world.

For more information on the CWC, visit www.opcw.org.

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