



**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**

**STATUS REPORT ON THE  
VERIFICATION INFORMATION SYSTEM**

**Introduction**

1. The Verification Information System (VIS) is the information system that has been developed by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) to manage all verification-related information and to support verification activities.
2. The concept for the development of the VIS was presented by the Director-General in a Note to the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) at its Fortieth Session (EC-40/S/2, dated 27 January 2005). The Secretariat provides regular updates to the Council on the status of the development of the VIS.<sup>1</sup>

**Status of the Verification Information System**

3. The VIS is the key business-enabling technology platform that supports the Secretariat’s verification activities. With a view to streamlining and supporting verification business processes more effectively and increasing the Secretariat’s analytical capabilities, the VIS is continually being improved.
4. In 2019, the Secretariat completed several activities to improve the VIS, with an emphasis on unifying and streamlining business processes and eliminating ad hoc ways of capturing and tracking information. On the chemical weapons side, changes were made to better capture information that had to be migrated to the system. This improves the way data is maintained and analysed in the system. On the industry side, the focus was on bug fixing and minor improvements in order to have a stable version in the run-up to the revamp of the system, expected to start in 2020.
5. Regarding the progress of the Verification Analytics (VERA) project for advanced data analytics, in 2019 the Verification Division successfully deployed the first

<sup>1</sup>

The updates are contained in the following Notes issued by the Secretariat: EC-42/S/3 (dated 2 September 2005); EC-51/S/2 (dated 20 November 2007); EC-55/S/3 (dated 30 January 2009); EC-59/S/3 (dated 1 February 2010); EC-63/S/4 (dated 20 January 2011); EC-67/S/2 (dated 25 January 2012); EC-71/S/1 (dated 16 January 2013); EC-75/S/4 (dated 15 January 2014); EC-78/S/1 (dated 7 January 2015); EC-81/S/2 (dated 12 January 2016); EC-84/S/2 (dated 13 January 2017); EC-87/S/3 (dated 24 January 2018); and EC-90/S/1 (dated 18 January 2019).



dashboards within the new analytical tool integrated with the Verification Data Warehouse. These initial dashboards focus on Article III. Further phases, concerning, for example, data related to Article VI declarations and to plant site selection, will continue to be implemented in 2020.

6. In 2019 the Secretariat continued with the implementation of the enterprise content management (ECM) system. The system is intended to improve the management of information and to streamline business processes related to verification and other OPCW activities involving classified information. The first phase of the system development is complete and the system is now ready for registering and managing records. Work continues to further develop the ECM system to support specific business areas, including routine missions. The ECM system is bringing about a paradigm shift in terms of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the verification regime throughout the OPCW.

### **Electronic declarations and Secure Information Exchange**

7. In the year under review, 53 States Parties submitted their declarations in electronic format. Forty-eight States Parties used the Electronic Declarations Tool for National Authorities (EDNA) for the preparation of annual declarations on past activities for 2018. In 2019, the Secretariat discontinued EDNA training and instead provided training on the Electronic Declaration Information System (EDIS) to States Parties attending general and Article VI training sessions and during the training course on National Authority and Chemical Databases (NACD) in Helsinki, Finland.
8. The development of EDIS continued in 2019 and the beta version was released to EDNA users in the fourth quarter of 2019. EDIS will further strengthen the verification regime by bringing usability enhancements and new functionalities to the declaration preparation and submission process. The first release of the system includes all of the existing EDNA features, with the addition of a new user management module for distributed use of the system and Article III riot control agent declarations. In 2020, additional releases will provide new functionalities, such as declaration of old chemical weapons and SIX system user management.
9. In 2019, the Secretariat also observed a rise in interest among States Parties in using the established Secure Information Exchange System (SIX), which was made available to States Parties in July 2014 (as reported in the Secretariat's Note S/1192/2014, dated 1 July 2014). By the end of 2019, 59 States Parties had registered to use the system, in comparison to 56 States Parties as reported to the Council in the previous status report (EC-90/S/1). During both the Twenty-First Annual Meeting of the National Authorities and the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, the Secretariat conducted several bilateral meetings with the representatives of the States Parties to assist with the registration process and to continue the promotion of the system. These efforts have contributed to the adoption of the system by more States Parties, bringing additional efficiencies and security to the annual declaration process.
10. SIX is constantly evolving and covering new use cases. In 2019, the Secretariat procured, installed, and prepared the new SIX platform, which will be released in the

first quarter of 2020. This new platform will further improve the security and user friendliness of the system.

**Further information**

11. The Secretariat considers the VIS to be an established system. It is in routine use and the main development activities have been completed. As a key enterprise software system that supports all verification activities, the VIS will continue to be subject to continual improvement, with maintenance and enhancement activities carried out as subprojects. The Secretariat will continue to report on this system, focusing on key developments such as the new electronic declarations tool (EDIS), the revamping of the VIS-Industry application, developments with regard to secure information exchange, and enhanced data analytics capabilities.
12. Information on the VIS, EDNA, EDIS, and SIX can also be found on the OPCW external server, and is regularly updated as new information becomes available. Questions about the VIS and EDNA can also be sent to a dedicated email address ([vis@opcw.org](mailto:vis@opcw.org)). Questions regarding EDIS can be sent to the new dedicated address ([edis@opcw.org](mailto:edis@opcw.org)). Questions concerning SIX can be sent to the dedicated address for that system ([six@opcw.org](mailto:six@opcw.org)). Interested States Parties can also make inquiries by calling the OPCW central telephone number (+31 (0)70 416 3000) and asking for the EDNA, EDIS, or SIX help desk.

- - - 0 - - -