



S/2072/2022

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NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**PROGRESS IN THE PROJECT TO UPGRADE THE OPCW LABORATORY AND EQUIPMENT STORE TO A CENTRE FOR CHEMISTRY AND TECHNOLOGY****BACKGROUND**

1. On 10 July 2017, the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) issued Note S/1512/2017 entitled “Upgrading the OPCW Chemical Laboratory to a Centre for Chemistry and Technology”, explaining the new challenges and changing requirements that made it necessary to modernise and expand the capabilities of the current OPCW Laboratory and Equipment Store in Rijswijk. In Note S/1561/2017 entitled “Request from the Director-General to States Parties for Voluntary Contributions to a New Trust Fund for Upgrading the OPCW Chemical Laboratory to a Centre for Chemistry and Technology” (dated 8 December 2017), the Secretariat informed States Parties of the establishment of a trust fund for this project and requested voluntary contributions.
2. The key objectives, project scope, and initial cost estimate and schedule were described in the Note entitled “Needs Statement for Upgrading the OPCW Chemical Laboratory to a Centre for Chemistry and Technology” (S/1564/2017, dated 22 December 2017 and Corr.1, dated 3 January 2018). Updates on the progress made in implementing the project were provided in Notes S/1769/2019 (dated 9 July 2019), S/1859/2020* (dated 9 March 2020), S/1881/2020 (dated 30 June 2020), S/1912/2020 (dated 16 November 2020), S/1956/2021 (dated 17 May 2021), S/1965/2021 (dated 24 June 2021), S/2003/2021 (dated 9 November 2021), and S/2026/2022 (dated 17 February 2022) entitled “Progress in the Project to Upgrade the OPCW Laboratory and Equipment Store to a Centre for Chemistry and Technology”. Note S/1769/2019 also provided detailed information regarding the project’s expected benefits as well as its revised scope, cost, and schedule.
3. The Secretariat has provided numerous briefings on the project to States Parties at side events or via pre-recorded videos during regular sessions of the Executive Council and of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”). Additional briefings were provided to States Parties during the meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities of the OPCW on 2 October 2017, and during informal budget facilitations and meetings of the Friends of the Laboratory Group from 2018 to 2021. A pre-recorded briefing was provided to States Parties in April 2020 to present the preliminary design of the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre). A presentation on the design of the ChemTech Centre was provided by the architect during the “first pillar” ceremony on 23 September 2021.



4. The latest information on the project has been made available on the ChemTech Centre webpage (<https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/featured-topics/chemtech-centre>).
5. This Note updates States Parties on the progress made in the planning and implementation of the project since the previous update in February 2022 (S/2026/2022).

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

Overall progress

6. In addition to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretariat has faced new difficulties owing to the current global inflation and challenges with supply chains, resulting in an increase in the cost of construction and the potential for delays in the delivery of construction materials and equipment. However, to date, the project remains within budget and on schedule owing to the efforts by the Secretariat to mitigate the impact on the project, which include close monitoring of the situation and maintaining rigorous contract management to ensure vendor delivery in accordance with the agreed terms. The Secretariat will continue its efforts to mitigate, to the extent possible, any potential impact on the project and will keep States Parties informed.

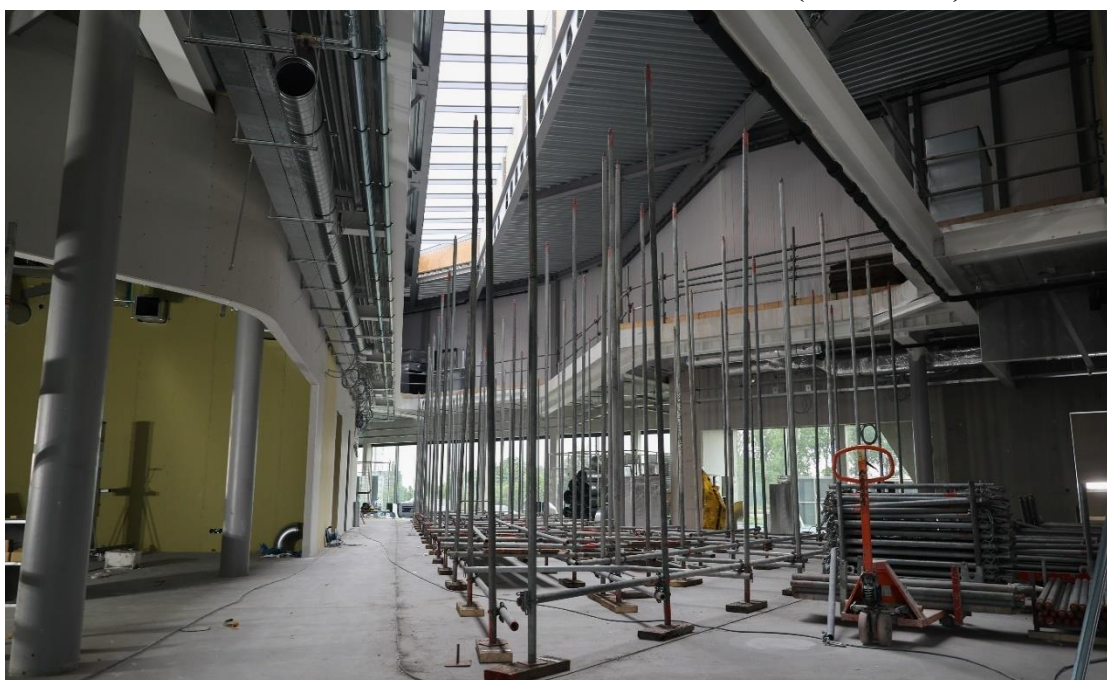
Construction phase progress

7. The construction of the new facility is on schedule. Final work on the facade and roof of the building is ongoing (see Figure 1 below). The installation of the mechanical systems such as ductwork and piping for the laboratories continues. The installation of finishing materials such as interior walls, doors, and ceilings started in early 2022.

FIGURE 1: PLACEMENT OF THE FACADE (MAY 2022)



FIGURE 2: STRUCTURE OF THE CENTRAL AREA (MAY 2022)



Procurement

8. The tender for isolators (glove boxes) to be installed in the ChemTech Centre laboratory facilities is in its final phase. The tenders for the non-fixed furniture such as desks, chairs, and monitors, as well as workstations for the expanded training facilities, are ongoing.

Overall implementation progress

9. Figure 3 below indicates the overall progress made in respect of project implementation. The project remains on schedule, with the construction of the ChemTech Centre to be completed by the end of 2022.

FIGURE 3: OVERALL PROGRESS TO DATE

	1Q 2021	2Q 2021	3Q 2021	4Q 2021	1Q 2022	2Q 2022	3Q 2022	4Q 2022	1Q 2023	2Q 2023
Construction phase	■									
Transition phase								■		
Decommissioning phase								■	■	
Project closure phase										■

FINANCIAL STATUS

Expenditure to date

10. As at 31 May 2022, approximately EUR 13.5 million had been spent on the project. The expenditure to date, as compared to the cost estimate provided to States Parties in Note S/1956/2021, is shown in the table below. The project remains within budget.

TABLE: PROJECT BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE

ChemTech Centre Project Budget and Expenditure		
Budget Item	<u>COLUMN A</u> Current Estimate (April 2021, in EUR)	<u>COLUMN B</u> Expenditure To Date (as at 31 May 2022, in EUR)
Building costs	20,763,000	7,024,517
Land purchase and related costs	2,363,000	2,306,608
Design costs	1,385,000	1,164,878
Outside area and site infrastructure	553,000	26,353
Equipment costs	50,000	50,000
Furniture and workstations	924,000	0
Transition costs	316,000	0
Decommissioning of facilities	400,000	0
OPCW project management staff	1,505,501	1,268,399
Project management and advisory services	2,401,561	1,156,108
Contingency	1,690,000	0
Subtotal	32,351,062	12,996,864
Programme support costs	1,091,254	465,004
Total	33,442,316	13,461,868

Fundraising progress

11. To date, approximately EUR 33.9 million in voluntary contributions has been pledged or provided to the project's trust fund by 53 countries, the European Union, and other donors. These contributions have been made or pledged by: Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the European Union, Israel (signatory State), and other donors.
12. The ChemTech Centre Trust Fund remains open for further contributions. Additional contributions would provide extra assurance for the successful completion of the project and for projects to be carried out at the Centre as soon as the building is operational.

COMMUNICATION

13. Videos on the construction progress of the ChemTech Centre as at February 2022 and May 2022 were presented to States Parties in the Delegates' Lounge of the OPCW Headquarters building and are available on the ChemTech Centre webpage (<https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/featured-topics/chemtech-centre>).

14. The construction site may be viewed in real time via a publicly accessible webcam, which is available online (<https://bouw.live/chemtech-centre/>).

NEXT STEPS

15. In the coming months, the project team's priorities will include construction, procurement, and detailed planning for the transition phase.
16. The Secretariat will continue to update the ChemTech Centre webpage (<https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/featured-topics/chemtech-centre>).
17. The Secretariat will also continue to provide States Parties with briefings and written reports to keep them informed of the status of the project. The next report will be submitted to the States Parties in advance of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference.

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