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NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

UPDATE ON EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE MAY – AUGUST 2022

INTRODUCTION

1. The aim of this Note is to provide the Member States of the OPCW with information on a four-monthly basis regarding the capacity-building activities delivered by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) through its international cooperation and assistance programmes. These programmes support Member States’ efforts to effectively implement the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), in particular Articles VII, X, and XI. This Note covers the period from 1 May to 31 August 2022.
2. The four-month period beginning in May has seen a significant increase in face-to-face events as travel restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic continued to ease. This meant that, of the 36 events held from May to the end of August 2022, which benefitted some 1,132 participants, 12 were delivered online, 23 in person, and one in a hybrid format. Furthermore, Convention-related capacities of States Parties were strengthened with a range of other support modalities, such as laboratory twinning, research and conference grants, and fellowships. The Secretariat has continued to utilise opportunities presented by integrating its experience of online delivery of capacity-building support into general programming, with a view to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of its programmatic activities.
3. The International Cooperation and Assistance programme is experiencing substantial inflationary price increases, which means that delivering activities within the existing budget is becoming challenging, if not impossible. This is having an impact on Secretariat activities and has resulted in some events being either deprioritised, cancelled, or postponed. The Secretariat is continuing to look for ways to minimise and mitigate against rising costs and, wherever possible, to minimise the impact of real-terms increases in the cost base.



IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT – ARTICLE VII

Training course on fulfilling declarations and inspections obligations under Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention, online, 25 April – 11 May 2022

4. The Secretariat delivered an online training course on fulfilling declarations and inspections obligations under Article VII of the Convention from 25 April to 11 May. The course provided participants with an opportunity to enhance their knowledge of Article VII obligations, as well as the chance to share experiences and best practices related to Article VII implementation. Nineteen participants from the following 12 Member States completed the course: Belgium, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Estonia, Ethiopia, Italy, Kenya, Malawi, Portugal, Romania, South Africa, and Togo.

Training course for customs officers on the transfers regime of the Chemical Weapons Convention, online, 16 – 18 May 2022

5. The Secretariat, in cooperation with the World Customs Organization, held an online training course on the enforcement of the Convention's scheduled chemicals transfers regime from 16 to 18 May. The intensive course aimed to equip frontline customs officers with the skills and knowledge required to effectively monitor the cross-border movement of toxic chemicals, while also underscoring the role of the Convention in supporting global, regional, and national security. The course was completed by 58 participants from the following 34 Member States: Australia, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Mozambique, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

Twentieth Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Asia, online, 23 – 25 May 2022

6. The Twentieth Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Asia was held online from 23 to 25 May. During the meeting, National Authorities provided updates, discussed challenges, and shared lessons learned on issues concerning national implementation of the Convention. Representatives also engaged with the Secretariat on a range of issues relating to strengthening national capacities under Articles VI, VII, X, and XI of the Convention, and were briefed on the Secretariat's technical-assistance and capacity-building agenda. Fifty-four representatives from the following 26 Member States attended the meeting: Australia (observer), Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the State of Palestine, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Yemen.

National legislative review forum – Malawi, online, 30 May 2022

7. The Secretariat held an online national legislative review forum with the National Authority of Malawi on 30 May. Participants were provided with a range of online preparatory materials prior to a live session with the Secretariat. Together with delegates from the State Party, the Secretariat reviewed the scope of Malawi's national legislative framework on the Convention and discussed legislative and regulatory approaches to Convention implementation. Eight participants attended the forum.

Twentieth Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Africa, online, 31 May – 2 June 2022

8. The Twentieth Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Africa was held online from 31 May to 2 June. The meeting focused on strengthening national implementation of the Convention through the adoption of national implementing legislation and compliance with the Convention's verification obligations. National Authority representatives also shared experiences on the development and adoption of national implementing legislation and exchanged views on strengthening National Authorities' capacity for liaising effectively with the OPCW. Twenty-seven representatives from the following 16 Member States attended the meeting: Algeria, Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Twenty-Second Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, online, 14 – 16 June 2022

9. The Twenty-Second Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean was held online from 14 to 16 June. During the meeting, representatives shared experiences and discussed common challenges in implementing the Convention at the national level and identified strategies to strengthen regional coordination. The meeting also provided representatives with an opportunity to engage with the Secretariat on issues relating to technical-assistance and capacity-building opportunities, and on the use of electronic declaration tools. The meeting was attended by 49 representatives from the following 20 Member States: Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Twenty-First Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Eastern Europe, online, 22 and 23 June 2022

10. The Twenty-First Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Eastern Europe was held online on 22 and 23 June. The meeting provided national delegates with an opportunity to meet and to discuss issues, challenges, and priorities relating to Convention implementation. National Authorities also exchanged views on verification challenges and were briefed on the use of electronic declaration tools and the OPCW programme of technical assistance and capacity-building support. Twenty representatives from the following 15 Member States attended the meeting: Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, and Ukraine.

National legislative review forum – the Niger, online, 14 July 2022

11. The Secretariat held a national legislative review forum with the National Authority of the Niger on 14 July. Participants were provided with a range of online preparatory materials prior to a live session with the Secretariat. Together with three delegates from the State Party, the Secretariat reviewed the scope of the Niger’s national legislative framework on the Convention and discussed legislative and regulatory approaches to Convention implementation.

Regional workshop on best practices in the development and implementation of legislative and regulatory frameworks on chemical security for States Parties in Asia, Bangkok, Thailand, 19 – 21 July 2022

12. The Secretariat held a regional workshop on best practices in the development of a legislative and regulatory framework on chemical security for States Parties in Asia from 19 to 21 July in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop was aimed at providing a forum for sharing information on participating States Parties’ legal and regulatory frameworks on chemical security, as well as discussing approaches in the development of chemical security measures. During the event, the participants were informed about existing national legal and regulatory frameworks on chemical security, methodologies for assessing risks and gaps in existing legal regimes, and ways of engaging a range of stakeholders. The workshop was attended by 47 participants from the following 11 Member States: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam, along with technical experts from Australia, France, Kenya, Spain, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Regional general training course on the Chemical Weapons Convention and national obligations for personnel of National Authorities in Africa, Lomé, Togo, 23 – 25 August 2022

13. The Secretariat held a regional training course on the Convention and national obligations for personnel of National Authorities from States Parties in Africa from 23 to 25 August in Lomé, Togo. The purpose of the course was to assist participants in complying with their obligations under the Convention by enhancing relevant knowledge and skills regarding the Convention and related obligations. The workshop was attended by 43 participants from the following 20 Member States: Algeria, Botswana, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zambia.

ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION – ARTICLE X

Modular virtual course on emergency response to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals for Member States in Latin America and the Caribbean, online, 2 May – 29 July 2022

14. From 2 May to 29 July, the Secretariat organised a modular virtual course on emergency response to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals for the Latin America and Caribbean (GRULAC) region. The training was delivered by experts from the OPCW, the Murcia Fire Brigade (Spain), the Costa Rica Fire

Department, the University of Costa Rica, the National Fire Department of Colombia, the National Police of Colombia, the Special Risk Brigade (Federal Police of Argentina), the Uruguay Army, the Quito Fire Brigade (Ecuador), the Brazilian Air Force, the Chemical Information Centre (Peru), and the Central Hospital Gómez Ulla Defense (Spain). The course was followed by 95 representatives from 13 Member States: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and Spain.

Subregional basic course on emergency response to chemical incidents for States Parties of the Southern African Development Community, Swakopmund, Namibia, 9 – 13 May 2022

15. From 9 to 13 May, the Secretariat and the Government of Namibia co-organised a training course in Swakopmund, Namibia, for first responders in the Southern African Development Community. The training, which took place with financial support from the European Union, enabled participating first responders to expand their emergency response and protection capabilities against chemical warfare agents and toxic chemical incidents. Delivered by OPCW experts and a team of instructors from Kenya, Mauritius, and Uganda through the OPCW's Instructor Exchange Programme, the course covered the use of individual and collective protective equipment, as well as monitoring, detection, and decontamination equipment and techniques. Experts also provided instruction on how to conduct sampling and analysis in contaminated areas. The training was attended in person by 44 representatives of the following 14 Member States: Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Course on medical aspects of assistance and protection against chemical weapons for States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 23 – 27 May 2022

16. From 23 to 27 May, the Secretariat, in conjunction with the Brazilian National Authority for the Convention, organised a regional medical training course in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Conducted at the Brazilian Air Force Hospital do Galeão, the training covered a range of crucial topics related to providing medical assistance in incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals. Participants included military and civilian doctors and other medical personnel involved in their country's national emergency response systems. The content of the training included clinical aspects related to pathophysiology, triage, diagnosis, and treatment of exposed victims. The medical management of mass casualties, medical coordination of the response, and mitigation measures were covered. Participants also received practical training on the use of personal protection equipment. They learned to develop and coordinate an emergency plan for the chemical victim in the field and at the hospital facilities. The course was attended by 18 national and international participants (including an international instructor under the umbrella of the OPCW Instructor Exchange Programme) from 11 Member States in the GRULAC region: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Peru, and Uruguay. The training also included an international instructor under the umbrella of the OPCW Instructor Exchange Programme.

Regional table-top exercise on chemical emergency response for Member States in the Economic Community of West African States, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 24 – 26 May 2022

17. From 24 to 26 May, the Secretariat and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire jointly organised a regional table-top exercise on chemical emergency response (TTX-22) for countries that are members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Financial support for the event was provided by the European Union. Held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, the training focused on responding to major chemical incidents and putting into place effective response and assistance procedures. Areas addressed included operational frameworks, policymaking, inter-agency cooperation, consequence management, and communication. During the exercise, participants also had the opportunity to exchange information and foster networks to increase cooperation. The training was attended in person by 40 representatives from the following 12 ECOWAS Member States: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

Live-agent training for experts, Zemianske Kostol'any, Slovakia, 31 May – 10 June 2022

18. From 31 May to 10 June, the Secretariat and the Government of Slovakia organised a training course for first responders from across the globe in Zemianske Kostol'any, Slovakia. During the training, participants worked with live chemical agents in a controlled training environment. They tested their capabilities in a situation as close to a real emergency as possible. Additionally, attendees deepened their knowledge of safe practices, medical countermeasures, protective equipment, and the physical and chemical properties of chemical warfare agents. Furthermore, the first responders learned about the challenges of collecting samples from a variety of surfaces in a field environment. The training was attended by 17 participants from the following 14 Member States: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Burundi, Chile, Ecuador, Malaysia, Montenegro, Panama, the Philippines, Romania, Serbia, and Uganda.

Sixth international assistance and protection course for instructors, Lázně Bohdaneč, the Czech Republic, 1 – 9 June 2022

19. From 1 to 9 June, the Secretariat organised, jointly with the Population Protection Institute of the Czech Republic, the sixth international course on assistance and protection for instructors. Held in Lázně Bohdaneč, the Czech Republic, the training enhanced the skills of chemical emergency response instructors to train first responders in handling incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals. The training was attended in person by 15 professionals from the following 11 Member States: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Guatemala, Kenya, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

Table-top exercise on chemical emergency response for Member States in Latin America and the Caribbean, Quito, Ecuador, 6 – 10 June 2022

20. From 6 to 10 June, the Secretariat organised, together with the Ministry of National Defence of Ecuador and with the support of the Firefighter Corps of the city of Quito, Ecuador, a regional table-top exercise in chemical emergency response for the GRULAC region. Held in Quito, the exercise built on competencies gained by participants during previous regional emergency response training activities provided by the OPCW. It was delivered by an international team of instructors from Argentina, Ecuador, Peru, and Spain under the OPCW Instructor Exchange Programme. Thirty-eight participants from the following 15 Member States took part in the exercise: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Law enforcement for first-response professionals in West Africa and South-Eastern Europe, Montelibretti, Italy, 11 April – 10 June 2022

21. From 11 to 30 April online, and from 6 to 10 June in Montelibretti, Italy, the Secretariat co-organised, in partnership with the Italian National Authority's Technical Operational Unit for the implementation of the Convention, the final phases of a three-part training programme for law enforcement first-response professionals in West Africa and South-Eastern Europe. The programme developed the participants' knowledge and skills required to manage a complex scene or environment of a chemical incident or attack. The final workshop was attended by 16 professionals from the following nine Member States: Australia (observer), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cabo Verde, Ghana, Italy, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Training-of-trainers workshop on “staying safe during emergencies or incidents involving toxic chemicals” online, 8 June 2022

22. On 8 June, the Secretariat, with the support of the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office and in partnership with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, organised, in coordination with the Ukrainian Association of Regional and Oblast Councils, a training-of-trainers workshop on “staying safe during emergencies or incidents involving toxic chemicals”. The workshop took place online and was aimed at the representatives of oblast and district administrations and communities, as well as other relevant stakeholders. The workshop was attended by 45 participants.

Regional basic training course, Seoul, the Republic of Korea, 13 – 17 June 2022

23. During this regional basic training course held in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, from 13 to 17 June, first responders from Member States in Asia enhanced their capabilities in responding to chemical emergencies. The training was conducted by the Secretariat in collaboration with the Republic of Korea's CBRN¹ Defence Command. The basic training covered the Convention, personal protective equipment, principles of emergency management, monitoring, detection, decontamination operations, and first aid in the field. In addition to theoretical knowledge, the courses also included a practical session in which participants applied the knowledge acquired during the week-long

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CBRN = chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear.

training course. Eighteen participants from 13 Member States took part in the course: Cambodia, Fiji, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Qatar, Sri Lanka, the State of Palestine, and the United Arab Emirates.

Subregional basic course on emergency response to chemical incidents for Member States of the Economic Community of West African States, Abuja, Nigeria, 14 – 18 June 2022

24. From 14 to 18 June, the Secretariat and the Government of Nigeria jointly organised in Abuja, Nigeria, a subregional training course on chemical emergency response for Member States of ECOWAS. Financial support for the event was provided by the European Union. The training was attended in person by 38 representatives from 11 ECOWAS Member States: Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

Regional basic training course, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 19 – 23 June 2022

25. During this regional basic training courses held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 19 to 23 June, first responders from Member States in Asia enhanced their capabilities in responding to chemical emergencies. The training, which opened the first in-person training cycle in the Asia region in two years since the breakout of the COVID-19 pandemic, was conducted by the Secretariat in collaboration with the Bangladesh National Authority. The basic training covered the Convention, personal protective equipment, principles of emergency management, monitoring, detection, decontamination operations, and first aid in the field. In addition to theoretical knowledge, the course included a practical session in which participants applied the knowledge acquired during the week-long training course. Thirty-seven trainees from six Member States participated in the training: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Basic course on emergency response to chemical incidents for Portuguese-speaking Member States, Luanda, Angola, 27 June – 1 July 2022

26. From 27 June to 1 July, the Secretariat and the Government of Angola, in collaboration with the Brazilian National Authority, conducted the first phase of a three-part training cycle that builds preparedness for and stronger resilience to chemical emergencies for Portuguese-speaking Member States. The training was held in Luanda, Angola. Twenty-five participants from six Portuguese-speaking Member States attended the course: Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Portugal.

Exercise on assistance and protection – training cycle for Portuguese-speaking Member States, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 11 – 15 July 2022

27. From 11 to 15 July, the Secretariat jointly organised, with the Government of Brazil and with the support of the Brazilian Navy, an exercise on assistance and protection for Portuguese-speaking Member States (BRALP II) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The exercise was the concluding component of the three-year training cycle for Portuguese-speaking Member States. It was preceded by a basic course held in Brazil in 2018, and an advanced course conducted in Portugal in 2019. The exercise covered several topics, including the use of personal protective equipment, incident command, pre-hospital medical care, and field exercises. The exercise was attended by 21 participants from seven Member States: Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, and Sao Tome and Principe.

Fourteenth Swiss basic training course, Spiez, Switzerland, 11 – 15 July 2022

28. From 11 to 15 July, the Secretariat co-organised, with the Government of Switzerland, the fourteenth session of the basic training course, which provided training on protection against chemical weapons. The training was held at the Swiss NBC² Defence Establishment, based in Spiez, Switzerland. Financial support for the event was provided by the Government of Switzerland. The basic course was attended by 30 participants from 17 Member States: Argentina, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Germany, Lebanon, Maldives, Mauritania, Nepal, the Philippines, Romania, Senegal, Sri Lanka, the State of Palestine, Uganda, Ukraine, and Zimbabwe.

Subregional basic course on emergency response to chemical incidents for the Member States of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Khartoum, the Sudan, 25 – 29 July 2022

29. From 25 to 29 July, a subregional basic course on emergency response to chemical incidents for the Member States of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development was held in Khartoum, the Sudan. The course, which was jointly organised by the Secretariat in collaboration with the Government of the Sudan and received financial support from the European Union, was attended by 26 representatives from five Member States: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Sudan, and Uganda.

Specialist course on conducting sampling and analysis in contaminated environments for experts of Member States in Latin America and the Caribbean, Bogotá, Colombia, 15 – 19 August 2022

30. From 15 to 19 August, a training course on conducting sampling and analysis in contaminated environments for experts from the GRULAC region was conducted in Bogotá, Colombia. The course was jointly organised by the Secretariat, the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Colombian Ministry of Defence. Twenty-nine national and international participants (including an international instructor under the umbrella of the OPCW Instructor Exchange Programme) from 11 Member States took part in the course: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and Peru.

National workshop for specialists on chemical emergency protection and response during major sports events, Doha, Qatar, 21 – 25 August 2022

31. From 21 to 25 August, the national workshop for specialists on chemical emergency protection and response during major sports events was held in Doha, Qatar. The training was organised by the Qatar National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons, in collaboration with the Secretariat, for fifty national specialists from various agencies responsible for chemical emergency response during the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

² NBC = nuclear, biological, and chemical.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION – ARTICLE XI

Seminar on chemical safety and security management for African Member States, Harare, Zimbabwe, 10 – 12 May 2022

32. From 10 to 12 May, the Secretariat organised a seminar on chemical safety and security management for African Member States. The seminar aimed to raise awareness of the importance of chemical safety and security policy and guidelines to prevent chemical accidents and the potential misuse of toxic chemicals in the Africa region. The seminar was attended by 35 participants representing 14 Member States: Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, the Niger, Nigeria, Seychelles, South Africa, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

Basic analytical chemistry course for women chemists, The Hague, the Netherlands, 17 – 19 May 2022

33. From 17 to 19 May, the Secretariat organised a basic analytical chemistry course for women chemists at the OPCW Laboratory, with the financial support of the European Union. The aim of the training was to assist qualified female analytical chemists from Member States whose economies are either developing or in transition in acquiring further knowledge and experience in the analysis of chemicals under the Convention regime. The training was attended by 10 female chemists representing 10 Member States: Botswana, El Salvador, Ghana, Iraq, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, and Zimbabwe.

Analytical skills development course for African Member States, Pretoria, South Africa, 23 May – 3 June 2022

34. From 23 May to 3 June, the Secretariat organised an analytical skills development course for African Member States in Pretoria, South Africa, in cooperation with Protechnik Laboratories. The two-week course was part of the laboratory capability enhancement programme aimed at developing analytical chemistry skills relevant to the implementation of the Convention. The in-person training was attended by 22 participants from 16 African Member States: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

Analytical skills development course for chemistry professionals and analytical chemists from African Member States, online, 30 May – 10 June 2022

35. From 30 May to 10 June, the Secretariat, together with the Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN), co-organised a two-week online analytical skills development course targeting analytical chemists and chemistry professionals from African Member States. The course was held with financial support from the European Union and aimed to deepen the knowledge of participants on sample preparation, quality control, health and environmental issues related to toxic chemicals, and the national implementation of the Convention. The course also equipped participants with information and know-how on the analysis of Convention-related chemicals using gas chromatography/mass spectrometry. The programme was attended by 14 participants from 11 Member States: Burundi, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Nigeria, Togo, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

Seminar on chemical safety and security management for Member States in Latin America and the Caribbean, Lima, Peru, 12 – 14 July 2022

36. The Secretariat organised a seminar on chemical safety and security management for Member States of the GRULAC region in Lima, Peru, from 12 to 14 July. The seminar was an opportunity to share information and exchange experiences, policies, and practices in chemical safety and security, generate recommendations for the review of existing policies and practices, and promote wider regional and international cooperation in the field of chemical safety and security management. The seminar, organised in collaboration with the Peruvian National Council for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, gathered 36 participants from industry, academia, and government institutions representing 10 Member States: Argentina, the Bahamas, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Guatemala, Panama, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Uruguay.

Associate Programme, The Hague, the Netherlands, 29 July – 8 September 2022

37. On 29 July, the 23rd edition of the Associate Programme started at the OPCW Headquarters. The OPCW flagship programme is aimed at supporting national implementation of the Convention, with particular focus on building skills and knowledge in relation to the industry. The six-week course includes a training segment at the Headquarters, covering Convention-related topics such as the OPCW's verification regime, the inspection process, the role of National Authorities, and international cooperation and assistance, as well as a study segment at the University of Surrey in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, during which participants develop skills tailored to operation of chemical plants and chemical engineering theories in simulated industry environments. Twenty-seven participants completed the training, representing 27 Member States: Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Botswana, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, the Gambia, Ghana, India, Iraq, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, the Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, and Viet Nam.

OPCW-IUPAC³ safety training programme: e-learning course for Member States in Latin America and the Caribbean, online, 1 August – 7 October 2022

38. On 1 August the Secretariat, in cooperation with IUPAC and the Chemical Industries Association of Uruguay, launched online the second edition of the safety training programme for Member States from the GRULAC region. The objective of the training was to provide an update on the current standards, policies, and best practices in occupational safety, chemical hazards, and the handling, storage, and transport of chemicals and their disposal. It has been designed for representatives of chemical companies, research institutions, and specialised agencies of Member States in the GRULAC region working in the field of environment, health, safety, and security related to the use of chemicals. Fifteen chemistry experts in the field were admitted to the course, representing eight Member States: Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, and Peru.

³ IUPAC = International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry.

Fellowship Programme/Programme for Support of Research Projects

39. At the end of the reporting period, two fellowships (a fellow from Cameroon hosted in Germany and a fellow from Serbia hosted in Hungary) and 29 research projects directly funded by the OPCW were ongoing. Two new research projects directly funded by Malaysia had been launched.

THE OPCW PROGRAMME TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION WITH AFRICA ON THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION⁴

Fifth meeting of the Steering Committee of the Africa Programme (hybrid meeting, 24 June 2022)

40. The Steering Committee of the Africa Programme held a hybrid meeting on 24 June, with the administrative support of the Secretariat. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Madeleine Liguemoh Ondoua, Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the OPCW and Chairperson of the Committee for 2022, and was attended by 43 Steering Committee members, observers, and Secretariat staff led by the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General.
41. Based on briefings delivered by the Secretariat, the Committee reviewed the progress achieved in the implementation of the fifth phase of the Programme since its previous meeting on 15 November 2021 and took stock of the advancement of the preparations for the sixth phase of the Programme.
42. Noting the developments under the Programme, the Steering Committee members and observers commended the Director-General and the Secretariat team on the progress achieved. The Committee also expressed gratitude to Programme donors and partners for their support for Africa within the Programme framework. Furthermore, the Committee expressed its satisfaction vis-à-vis the progress made in the process of the preparations for the sixth phase of the Programme and pledged its support to and commitment towards the next steps in the consultations held in this context.

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⁴ Referred to as “the Africa Programme”.