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**REPORT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR VUSIMUZI PHILEMON MADONSELA  
CHAIRPERSON OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON TERRORISM  
TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AT ITS 101ST SESSION**

1. Mr Chairperson, Director-General, distinguished colleagues, it is my pleasure to provide a short oral report of the meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T) held on 30 September 2022.
2. In my report to the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) at its 100th Session, I stated my intention to have a survey distributed to States Parties based on a set of points for consideration discussed in the meeting of the OEWG-T held on 27 June 2022. This survey was duly circulated by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) on 22 July 2022 for response by 9 September 2022.
3. The purpose of the survey was to gauge the views of States Parties on the main elements of the OPCW’s role in countering chemical terrorism, in preparation for the ninth meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference<sup>1</sup> on 15 November 2022, which will consider the contribution of the Chemical Weapons Convention to global anti-terrorism efforts. The meeting of the OEWG-T on 30 September therefore featured a briefing from the Secretariat on the responses received to the survey and provided an opportunity for participants to discuss these.
4. In his opening remarks, the Director-General highlighted that chemical terrorism remains a matter of great concern for the OPCW. He noted that the survey sought to canvass ideas on a range of issues, including States Parties’ needs in national implementation, their views on threat and risk assessment, their preferences on external partnerships, and their opinions on future priorities in combatting chemical terrorism. He further noted that the responses received indicate strong support for strengthening the OPCW’s work in this area and referred to the upcoming completion of the Centre for Chemistry and Technology, which will provide greater capabilities to help States Parties prepare for and respond to threats by non-State actors. The Director-General also stated that the preparatory process for the Fifth Review Conference gave delegations the opportunity to reconfirm their commitment to this issue through guiding and shaping policy and actions.
5. The OEWG-T was then briefed by the Secretary to the Working Group, Mr Cormac O’Reilly. Mr O’Reilly described the background to and methodology of the survey and gave an overview of the number of responses received as well as their provenance, noting that twenty responses were received from States Parties across all regions.

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<sup>1</sup> The Fifth Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.



6. Mr O'Reilly recounted the main findings where priorities for national implementation were concerned. He noted that legislative and regulatory issues featured prominently, as did technical needs for prevention and response. Perceived gaps in national implementation capacity included gaps in knowledge, in training, and in access to relevant science and technology. A number of good examples of Secretariat training and capacity-building programmes that contribute to countering chemical terrorism were also drawn from the responses, with many noting the Secretariat's increasing focus on cross-cutting models. The responses also suggested ways in which National Authorities could be better linked with national counter-terrorism agencies and how the Secretariat might assist in this regard.
7. On threat and risk assessment, Mr O'Reilly observed that many responses indicated a willingness to share experiences and best practices, and there were suggestions as to how the Secretariat might facilitate this.
8. Turning to partnerships, Mr O'Reilly noted support across the responses for strengthening cooperation with the United Nations and other international and regional organisations active in counter-terrorism, as well as suggestions for modalities through which to achieve this.
9. Lastly, the briefing turned to a set of potential future priorities for the OPCW in countering chemical terrorism, which the survey had asked States Parties to reorder according to priority. The responses accorded the highest priority to having more guidelines and other tools on chemical security, followed closely by assistance to States Parties through tailored capacity-building programmes, and strengthening education and outreach efforts on chemical terrorism. The lowest priority was given to having the OPCW act as a repository of knowledge on threat and risk assessment.
10. There then followed a discussion with several observations raised by participants, including on the need for strong legislative and regulatory frameworks; adequate preventative and response capabilities; the importance of matching ambition with resource considerations; the usefulness of tools such as table-top exercises for identifying gaps; and the importance of international and regional cooperation.
11. I wish to thank States Parties for their responses to the survey and for the active discussion at the OEWG-T meeting, which will help inform my presentation to the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference on 15 November. Should delegations that have not done so still wish to complete the survey, responses can be forwarded to the Secretary of the OEWG-T, which will also be taken into account in preparation for the meeting.
12. At the end of the meeting, under the item "Any other business", no further issues were raised by delegations.
13. The next meeting of the OEWG-T is scheduled to take place prior to the 102nd Session of the Council. The date of the meeting will be communicated closer to the time.
14. Thank you, Mr Chairperson.