



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Twenty-Seventh Session
28 November – 1 December 2022

C-27/NAT.80
28 November 2022
ENGLISH only

GHANA

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR FRANCIS DANTI KOTIA PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES UNDER AGENDA ITEM 20

Mr Chairperson,

The Africa Group wishes to commend you and the General Committee for efficiently guiding the deliberations of this session of the Conference of the States Parties. The Group assures you of its support.

The Group wishes to express appreciation to Director-General Fernando Arias and the Technical Secretariat for their diligence and hard work in the implementation of the OPCW Africa Programme.

The Africa Group welcomes the results and achievements made in the implementation of the fifth phase of the OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention as reported in the Note by the Director-General EC-101/DG.12 C-27/DG.8 (dated 07 September 2022) the outcome of the meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Africa on 31 May to 2 June 2022 and the two meetings of the steering committee held on 24 June and 15 November 2022. We note the ongoing consultations concerning the conception of the sixth phase of the Africa Programme, including during the twenty-fourth annual meeting of National Authorities held from 22 to 25 November 2022, and look forward to its launch, and to build on the achievements made under the current phase of the Africa Programme.

The Group is convinced that implementing targeted programme-impact assessment, results-based approach and embedding the Africa Programme targets in the annual work plan of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division (ICA), will contribute to further accomplishments under the sixth phase of this Programme, which will commence on 1 January 2023.

Since the inception of the Africa Programme in 2007, we have witnessed incremental progress from one phase to the next. Recently, the Technical Secretariat has defined special projects for the Africa Programme. The tangible progress in the Programme's implementation can be attributed to the Technical Secretariat's commitment and its valuable cooperation with States Parties as well as the wide and inclusive consultations with a variety of stakeholders.



Continually reviewing, adapting and developing tailor-made programmes that focus on regional and subregional priorities will help to sharpen the outcomes of the Africa Programme. In this regard, the Group encourages the Technical Secretariat to regularly obtain feedback from National Authorities and participants of the capacity-building programmes.

The Group welcomes the resumption of in person training activities of the Organisation's international cooperation and assistance programmes.

Robust cooperation between the African Union and the OPCW is important for the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in Africa. The Group therefore encourages regular engagement between senior officials of the OPCW and the African Union as well as their participation in regional high-level fora within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the OPCW and the African Union. The Group welcomes the development of an action plan aimed at streamlining the partnership and bilateral cooperation between the OPCW and the African Union Commission for the effective delivery of the Africa Programme and looks forward to its effective implementation.

At present, the Africa Programme is partially funded under the regular budget and through voluntary contributions. The Group reiterates its appreciation to the States Parties that make voluntary contributions and for the role that these contributions play in the continuation and success of the Africa Programme.

Whereas voluntary funding has a positive impact on the Programme, it also has inherent challenges such as unpredictability, which would affect the sustainability of the Programme. The Group therefore underscores the importance of fully funding the Africa Programme under the regular budget of the OPCW in order to guarantee its future sustainability. We encourage all States Parties as well as international organisations, to support the Africa Programme.

In conclusion, Mr Chairperson, we reiterate the Africa Group's commitment to continue working with States Parties and the Technical Secretariat for the successful implementation of the Africa Programme.

The Africa Group would like to request that this Statement be published on the public website of the OPCW and as an official document of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

I thank you for your kind attention.

--- 0 ---