

**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), S/2026/2022 (dated 17 February 2022), S/2072/2022 (dated 24 June 2022), and S/2112/2022 (dated 17 November 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 (hereinafter “the Council”) and of the Conference of the States Parties. 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. More information on the project is 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 implementation of the project since the previous update in November 2022 (S/2112/2022).

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

Overall progress

6. Despite some impact of the current global inflation and challenges with supply chains, the project remains within budget. No change is expected to the overall planning timelines, including the planning of the inauguration ceremony scheduled for 12 May 2023. Following the conclusion of the construction phase, the overall risk to the project has been substantially reduced. The Secretariat will continue its efforts to mitigate, to the extent possible, any further risks to the project and will keep States Parties informed.

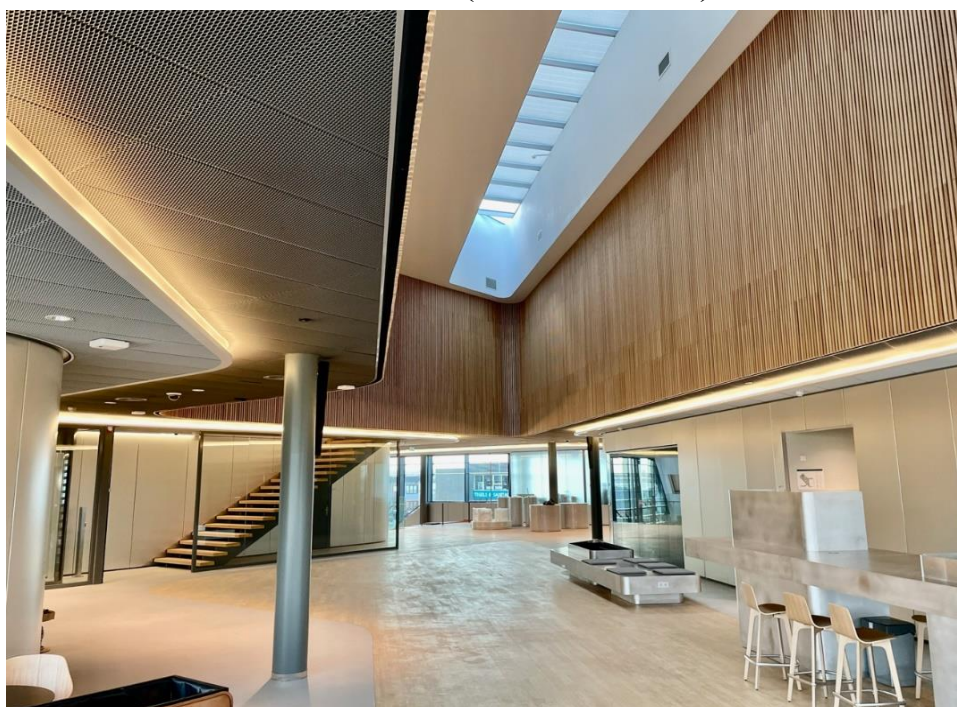
Construction phase progress

7. Major construction works were completed in December 2022. Some additional time was required to finish the testing and commissioning of the building; this was essential in order to ensure the quality of the building and its functional systems and installations. The impact of the time for testing and commissioning on the transition phase has been minimised.
8. Following the testing and commissioning of the building, as well as the approval of the systems and installations by the Secretariat with the support of external consultants including architects, mechanical engineers, and laboratory and quality control consultants, the Secretariat formally accepted the building on 27 January 2023. This marks the end of the project's construction phase and the start of the transition phase. From the moment of the acceptance, the Secretariat took possession of the building.
9. In the coming months, the main contractor will install additional solar panels on the building, in order to reduce its energy costs and environmental impact.

FIGURE 1: ENTRANCE (JANUARY 2023)



FIGURE 2: CENTRAL AREA (JANUARY 2023)



Transition phase

10. Preparation activities for the transition phase have already started during the construction phase and include training for future users of the ChemTech Centre on the use of the building's facilities.
11. With the start of the transition phase, the relocation from the existing Laboratory and Equipment Store premises in Rijswijk to the new building has begun. The utmost attention will be paid to ensuring the continued operational capability of the OPCW Laboratory and Equipment Store during this period. The Laboratory will remain operational at the Rijswijk facility until the full functionality of the main Laboratory at the ChemTech Centre has been established and confirmed.
12. Preparations for the decommissioning phase are under way.

Overall implementation progress

13. Figure 3 below indicates the overall progress made in respect of project implementation.

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	3Q 2023
Construction phase	[Progress bar from 2Q 2021 to 4Q 2022]										
Transition phase								[Progress bar from 3Q 2022 to 1Q 2023]			
Decommissioning phase									[Progress bar from 1Q 2023 to 2Q 2023]		
Project closure phase											[Progress bar for 3Q 2023]

FINANCIAL STATUS

Expenditure to date

14. As at 31 January 2023, approximately EUR 28.0 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	COLUMN A Current Estimate (April 2021, in EUR)	COLUMN B Expenditure To Date (as at 31 January 2023, in EUR)
Building costs	20,763,000	20,035,363
Land purchase and related costs	2,363,000	2,309,132
Design costs	1,385,000	1,295,338
Outside area and site infrastructure	553,000	26,353
Equipment costs	50,000	50,000
Furniture and workstations	924,000	301,041
Transition costs	316,000	0
Decommissioning of facilities	400,000	0
OPCW project management staff	1,505,501	1,443,696
Project management and advisory services	2,401,561	1,497,604
Contingency	1,690,000	0
Subtotal	32,351,062	26,958,527
Programme support costs	1,091,254	1,058,805
Total	33,442,316	28,017,331

Fundraising progress

15. To date, approximately EUR 34.6 million in voluntary contributions has been pledged or provided to the project's trust fund by 56 countries, the European Union, and other donors. These contributions have been made or pledged by: Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, 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, Qatar, 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.
16. 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 the activities to be carried out at the Centre as soon as the building is operational.

COMMUNICATION

17. A video on the construction progress of the ChemTech Centre as at November 2022 is available on the ChemTech Centre webpage (<https://youtu.be/ankSFkVVOa8>).
18. Preparation continues for the inauguration ceremony of the ChemTech Centre, which will take place on 12 May 2023.

NEXT STEPS

19. In the coming months, the project team's priorities will include the relocation of existing facilities from Rijswijk and the planning and execution of the decommissioning phase.
20. The Secretariat will continue to update the ChemTech Centre webpage (<https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/featured-topics/chemtech-centre>).
21. 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 103rd Session of the Council.

--- 0 ---