

**NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL****STATUS OF THE OPCW'S CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL  
ANTI-TERRORISM EFFORTS****Introduction**

1. At its Sixtieth Session, the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) “decided to request the Director-General to provide it with further Notes annually to ensure that it remains informed about the OPCW’s contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts” (paragraph 12.4 of EC-60/3, dated 22 April 2010).
2. Following the aforementioned decision by the Council, the Director-General hereby submits this Note, which provides an update to the Council for consideration at its Eighty-First Session, and covers the period from 6 February 2015 to the date of its issuance.
3. The activities carried out in this report by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) continue to be based on the approach in the decision by the Council at its Twenty-Seventh Session entitled “The OPCW’s Contribution to Global Anti-Terrorism Efforts”, namely that “the full and effective implementation of all provisions of the Convention is in itself a contribution to global anti-terrorist efforts” (paragraph 1 of EC-XXVII/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2001).
4. The Secretariat proceeds in this context on the premise that the OPCW is not an anti-terrorism agency, and that it can operate only in strict accordance with its mandate as defined by the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) and decisions by the Council and the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”), and in compliance with the OPCW Policy on Confidentiality.
5. It is noted that the States Parties’ directions related to anti-terrorism efforts, which were provided at the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, held in April 2013, continue to provide reference for, and guide, the Secretariat’s activities outlined herein. Those directions were reported in a previous Note by the Director-General on the status of the OPCW’s contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts (EC-75/DG.3, dated 12 February 2014) and, for the sake of brevity, are not repeated here.



## **The Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism**

6. The Secretariat continued to support the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Terrorism and its Chairperson (there were two incumbents in 2015, namely, H.E. Dr Nimota Nihinlola Akanbi, OON, Ambassador of Nigeria to the Netherlands and Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the OPCW until August 2015, and thereafter H.E. Dr Joe Tony Aidoo, Permanent Representative of Ghana to the OPCW).
7. In keeping with the Secretariat's efforts to support the OEWG in its discussions on what the OPCW can do further to address the evolving threat from non-State actors, the Secretariat issued three topical discussion papers in 2015<sup>1</sup> on the subjects of the Convention and the legal accountability of non-State actors; measures to prevent the hostile use of toxic chemicals; and ensuring an effective response to such use. Based on delegations' initial discussions on two of the papers, which were issued at the time of the March and July 2015 OEWG meetings, and their keen interest in continuing such discussions in greater detail, a subworking group (SWG) of the OEWG was established under the facilitation of H.E. María Teresa Infante, Permanent Representative of Chile to the OPCW. The SWG was given the mandate to help the OEWG to formulate concrete recommendations using the Secretariat's aforementioned topical papers as a starting point for its discussions. The SWG convened a series of meetings on the legal accountability of non-State actors and on measures to prevent the hostile use of toxic chemicals. It aims to submit an interim report on its work to the first OEWG meeting of 2016, which is to be held in March. The SWG, in addition to being comprised of delegates, utilises the knowledge and experience of subject matter experts from States Parties, academia, and from other organisations such as Eurojust.
8. The OEWG met three times in 2015, and representatives from the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) addressed the OEWG on their programmes of work related to non-State actors, and highlighted areas of potential cooperation with the OPCW. A representative of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) also kept the OEWG apprised of the status and progress of its project related to inter-agency interoperability and coordinated communications, which is further outlined in paragraphs 27 and 28 below.

## **Activities carried out by the Technical Secretariat**

### Chemical safety and chemical security

9. The Secretariat continued to organise a number of activities under its chemical safety and security management programme. These activities were supported mainly through voluntary financial and in-kind contributions by States Parties, and were tailored to the specific experience and expectations of the target audience. Activities

---

<sup>1</sup> "The Chemical Weapons Convention and Accountability of Non-State Actors" (S/1254/2015, dated 9 March 2015); "Measures to Prevent Hostile Use of Toxic Chemicals by Non-State Actors" (S/1291/2015, dated 26 June 2015); and "Ensuring an Effective Response to the Hostile Use of a Toxic Chemical" (S/1325/2015, dated 6 November 2015).

such as workshops and seminars served as a platform for a large number of professionals to share information on the latest practices and to learn from each other.

10. During the period under review, seven regional events were organised in Qatar, Viet Nam, Argentina, the Republic of Korea, Germany, and Malaysia as follows: On the topic of chemical safety and security management, three events were held. Firstly, a seminar in Doha, Qatar, was held from 22 to 24 February 2015, and was attended by 70 participants from 24 Member States representing the chemical industry, chemical industry associations, National Authorities, and other government officials from the region. The seminar was organised by the Secretariat in cooperation with the National Authority of Qatar. Secondly, a workshop was held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, from 19 to 21 May 2015, which was attended by 35 participants from 14 Member States of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Association of South-East Asian Nations. Thirdly, the Secretariat organised a course for personnel of chemical, physical, microbiological and other laboratories to gain knowledge about safety and security aspects in the laboratories. This course was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 18 to 22 May 2015 for Member States in the Latin America and Caribbean Region (GRULAC). Nineteen participants from 14 Member States successfully completed the course. Furthermore, with the support of the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Secretariat organised a workshop on the peaceful development and use of chemistry, which was held from 20 to 22 October 2015 in Seoul, the Republic of Korea. It aimed to enhance the capacities of participating States Parties on topics such as chemical safety and security, using the experience of the Republic of Korea. It was attended by 35 participants from 21 States Parties in the Asian region, and included representatives from government and the chemical industry, academics, and chemists. Additionally, with the support of the Federal Foreign Office of the Government of Germany, the OPCW organised two courses on chemical safety management together with the Bergische Universität Wuppertal. These courses included topics relevant to preventing and responding to hostile uses of toxic chemicals. One course was for Member States in the Asian and GRULAC regions and was held from 13 to 17 April 2015, with 11 participants. The other course was for Member States in Africa, and was held from 12 to 16 October 2015, involving 13 participants. A natural products chemistry training and development programme was organised by the Secretariat at Johor, Malaysia, from 27 September to 13 October 2015, and was attended by 15 participants from 15 Member States. The programme highlighted the risk of natural products used as chemical weapons, and highlighted safety and security management during the chemical research of natural products.

#### National implementation

11. The Secretariat continued to provide assistance to States Parties in their national implementation of the Convention. More than 30 international and regional capacity-building courses and events were organised and aimed to strengthen the capacity of National Authorities to fulfil their obligations under the Convention. While it is recognised that such activities contribute to anti-terrorism efforts through the full and effective implementation of the Convention, this report will outline below the primary activities under Article VII of the Convention to support the adoption of national legislation that provides the legal means to apprehend and prosecute individuals under domestic legislation for activities prohibited under the Convention,

and to ensure that such individuals will be held accountable, with appropriate penalties. Additionally, the Secretariat's efforts to support customs authorities through training courses and networking events are highlighted, as these authorities play an extremely important role in contributing to border control by monitoring trade in chemicals and preventing the illicit transfer of chemicals. A specific workshop involving the African Union is also detailed below.

12. With regard to supporting States Parties in the process of developing, drafting, and improving their national legislation, the Secretariat made an electronic platform available through its public website, the Legislative Assistant Support Tool (LAST). Furthermore, under the Internship Programme for Legal Drafters, four internships were organised to facilitate States Parties in their efforts to draft laws and regulations covering the initial measures required under the Convention. Participants in 2015 included Afghanistan, Cambodia, Colombia, Mongolia, Namibia, Somalia, Uganda, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Since the programme began in 2012, 13 sessions have been organised, involving 26 States Parties. Of these, four have subsequently enacted implementing legislation meeting the initial measures, including Paraguay, Tajikistan, and Uganda in 2015. The total number of States Parties that have adopted relevant national implementing legislation is 148. Also, to ensure political support for the adoption of national implementing legislation, the Secretariat piloted an Influential Visitors Programme in 2015. Under this programme, Ugandan parliamentarians and government officials met with senior officials of the Secretariat at OPCW Headquarters and discussed the necessity of adopting national legislation under Article VII. A subsequent workshop for parliamentarians, held in Kampala, Uganda, further increased awareness and understanding of the need to effectively implement the Convention. In November 2015, the Ugandan Toxic Chemicals Prohibition and Control Bill was passed by Parliament.
13. With regard to supporting customs authorities, the Secretariat continued its tailor-made training on the technical aspects of the transfers regime of the Convention, with the aim of enhancing the knowledge of customs officials and sensitising them to the relevant provisions of the Convention, particularly the transfer requirements, while also providing them with the appropriate information and tools to undertake the detection, monitoring, and risk assessment of traded chemicals. Training, organised at the regional and subregional levels, has contributed significantly to the promotion of chemical safety and chemical security in States Parties. The courses also help to create networks among customs officials, which further facilitate the sharing of experiences and best practices followed by customs authorities around the globe. In the reporting period:
  - (a) Six training courses were organised in Jamaica, Qatar, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, and Thailand, which involved about 200 participants. The course in South Africa was conducted as part of the OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter "the Africa Programme"), with additional funding from the European Union (EU), while the course in Qatar was implemented with a voluntary contribution from the Government of Qatar.
  - (b) The Secretariat also enhanced its practical cooperation with the World Customs Organization (WCO) in the planning and conduct of the aforementioned courses

for customs authorities. This joint effort has been useful in increasing the knowledge and understanding of participating customs officials. Collaboration with the WCO has also resulted in the conclusion of a licensing agreement for e-learning modules to be available on the WCO website. Developed under the Green Customs Initiative, these modules follow the structure of the OPCW training courses for customs officials and can be used for training purposes by individual customs officers themselves, and by customs training institutions.

14. From 2 to 6 March 2015, the Secretariat, in cooperation with the African Union and the governments of South Africa and the United States of America, organised a workshop entitled “Security, the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and Cooperative Threat Reduction in Africa.” This workshop, held in Pretoria, South Africa, with 36 participants from 21 States Parties in the region, was designed as part of the Africa Programme. As a follow-up to a similar event held in 2013, the workshop encouraged participants to develop country action plans specifying the challenges to the implementation of the Convention and outlining the steps to be taken to overcome them.

#### Assistance and protection

15. Under Article X of the Convention, the Secretariat conducted more than 34 tailor-made capacity-building activities during the reporting period, involving more than 458 individuals from States Parties of all regions. These activities were aimed at supporting States Parties in improving their preparedness for, and response to, the use of chemical weapons, and also enhancing their engagement with the relevant stakeholders of the Convention in this area.
16. The Secretariat’s capacity-building activities held during the reporting period covered a wide range of specific skill sets necessary for an effective response to chemical attacks at the national, regional, and subregional levels. For example, the first assistance and protection course for police first responders was organised to address the unique circumstances they face when responding to an incident involving the use of chemical weapons or release of toxic chemicals. The course was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in September 2015 with the generous financial support of Greece and New Zealand, and was attended by 25 participants from 15 States Parties. Also, as medical response remains a priority among States Parties, the second international course on medical aspects of assistance and protection was successfully conducted in Kaunas, Lithuania, in June 2015, with 20 participants from the medical services of 19 States Parties.
17. In August 2015, the Secretariat conducted the fourth international training course for instructors at OPCW Headquarters, providing advanced training to a new international team of 24 first responders. This type of course is an integral part of the Secretariat’s endeavour to expand the “train the trainer” approach and enhance the effectiveness of expert advice provided to States Parties under paragraph 5 of Article X of the Convention. Consequently, State Party-sponsored “train the trainer” courses were also conducted in conjunction with Belarus, the Czech Republic, and South Africa.

18. As outlined in previous reports, the Secretariat continued its tailored approach to regional training, consisting of a three-component cycle (basic, advanced, and exercise) during the period under review. Accordingly, a full training cycle for the GRULAC region was completed in 2015, and involved Colombia, Costa Rica, and the Dominican Republic. A second cycle for the GRULAC region involved Argentina and Brazil, and will finish in Colombia in April 2016. In Asia, a full training cycle was completed for Russian-speaking participants in Belarus and Kazakhstan. A second cycle specifically for Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, and Viet Nam was held in China with back-to-back basic and advanced courses to be completed in 2016, followed by an exercise in Indonesia. Finally, an exercise held in Brazil completed a training cycle held for Portuguese-speaking States Parties, following on from a basic course in Brazil in 2013 and an advanced course in Portugal in 2014. The first basic course on assistance and protection for Arabic-speaking States Parties was successfully conducted in Algiers, Algeria, in May 2015 with 20 participants from 12 Arabic-speaking States Parties from the Middle East and North Africa. The second stage of this training is expected to take place in Qatar in early 2016.
19. Two table-top exercises were conducted in 2015 to address operational and procedural issues related to the coordination of regional assistance. The first exercise took place in March in Denpasar, Indonesia. This exercise involved 25 experts from 14 States Parties of the Asian region. Participants tested their skills and processes using a major chemical incident scenario. The second exercise took place in April 2015 in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, as a part of a subregional assistance and protection project for Central America and Mexico, with the technical support of the Peruvian National Authority. It addressed regional procedures in international assistance and consequence management, and included information on regional coordination activities being undertaken by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Regional Office in Panama City, Panama, and several subregional disaster-coordination mechanisms in that geographical area.
20. The fifteenth annual workshop to coordinate assistance and protection under Article X of the Convention was jointly organised with the National Authority of Turkey in July 2015. With participation by States Parties from all regions, as well as by international organisations such as the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the workshop focused on general aspects of Article X implementation, capacity building, and regional coordination issues. Recommendations were made to improve strategies for the full implementation of Article X of the Convention.
21. Under the auspices of the Africa Programme, two projects were launched to support the development of counter-chemical national and regional protection capability for the East African Community Partner States and the Economic Community of West African States. These projects were supported financially and technically by the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Secretariat intends to launch a similar project for States Parties in the Southern African Development Community in 2016.

22. In the context of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons, and in accordance with decision C-16/DEC.13 (dated 2 December 2011), the Secretariat commissioned the development of a practical “Guidebook for Practitioners on the Medical Management of Chemical Warfare Casualties,” which was developed in close cooperation with experts from Australia, Belgium, Germany, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. This guide was completed and presented to States Parties during the Twentieth Session of the Conference, at the end of 2015.
23. With regard to strengthening the Secretariat’s own capacity to respond to requests for assistance under Article X of the Convention, the Secretariat conducted specialised training for potential members of the Assistance Coordination and Assessment Team (ACAT). Twelve staff members from the Inspectorate Division and the Assistance and Protection Branch participated in the training. The training provided participants with in-depth understanding of key issues likely to arise on an ACAT mission, such as emergency management, planning, deployment, and coordination with other international stakeholders, as well as media handling and crisis communications.

#### Cooperation with the United Nations

24. The cooperation between the Secretariat and the United Nations in the area of anti-terrorism is founded on the Relationship Agreement signed in 2000, which formalises a close working relationship between the two organisations, whilst at the same time specifically recognising the independent status of the OPCW.
25. The yearly United Nations General Assembly resolution entitled “Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction” noted with concern that “along with the threat of the possible production, acquisition and use of chemical weapons by States, the international community also faces the danger of the production, acquisition and use of chemical weapons by non-State actors, including terrorists, concerns which have highlighted the necessity of achieving universal adherence to the Convention, as well as the high level of readiness of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and stresses that the full and effective implementation of all provisions of the Convention, including those on national implementation (article VII) and assistance and protection (article X), constitutes an important contribution to the efforts of the United Nations in the global fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations” (paragraph 7 of A/RES/70/41, dated 11 December 2015).
26. At the request of the United Nations, the Secretariat provided input to the report by the United Nations Secretary-General on the biennial review of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the annual report on the implementation of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, annexed to General Assembly resolution 49/60 of 9 December 1994.

#### The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force

27. The OPCW has been a member of the CTITF since its creation in 2005. Throughout the reporting period, the OPCW continued as Co-Chair together with the International

Atomic Energy Agency as the Chair, of the Working Group on Preventing and Responding to WMD<sup>2</sup> Terrorist Attacks.

28. As previously reported, the CTITF had approved, and provided initial funding for, a project initiated by the aforementioned Working Group, focusing on ensuring effective inter-agency interoperability and coordinated and effective communication in the event of a chemical and/or biological attack. In February 2015, the Working Group held the project's "kick-off workshop" at OPCW Headquarters, with 17 participants from the United Nations and other international organisations. Since then, with a project manager hired by the CTITF, the specific activities to be undertaken in each organisation's response to such an attack were analysed in order to identify what activities would benefit from enhanced coordination amongst the participating organisations. A report of the work undertaken, containing recommendations, will be finalised at the end of February 2016. Shortly thereafter, it is expected that the CTITF will initiate fundraising activities to support the next phase of the project, which involves addressing the areas that could be enhanced and testing them through a field exercise or table-top exercise.

#### United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

29. Resolution 1540 (2004) established an obligation for all United Nations Member States to adopt effective and appropriate legal and administrative measures to prevent non-State actors from gaining access to, and engaging in, activities involving nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. With regard to chemical weapons, these obligations are consistent with those enshrined in the Convention. These include, but are not limited to, the national implementation measures that States Parties to the Convention have undertaken in accordance with their obligations under Article VII. The activities of the OPCW in this area are fully consistent with the provisions of resolution 1540 (2004), particularly its operative paragraph 7.
30. During the period covered by this report, the Secretariat contributed to events promoted by the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs, the 1540 Committee of the United Nations Security Council, and relevant host States to promote the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), and supported the Committee's clearing house role with regard to requests for assistance from States.

#### Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction

31. The Secretariat, together with other relevant international and regional organisations, participated in three meetings of the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, under the German and Japanese Group of 7 (G7) presidencies. During those meetings, the Secretariat made presentations on the activities of the OPCW in assisting States Parties in their strengthening of chemical security and in combatting chemical terrorism.

#### Cooperation and coordination with other organisations and agencies

32. During the period under review, the Secretariat continued its close cooperation with other relevant international organisations, particularly in the field of assistance and

---

<sup>2</sup>

WMD = weapon(s) of mass destruction.



protection against chemical weapons. Cooperation was established, or was continued, with organisations such as the EU, the International Committee of the Red Cross, INTERPOL, OSCE, UN CTITF, UNICRI, UN OCHA, WCO, and WHO. Also, within the framework of the Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative of the EU, the Secretariat also continued to provide technical support to UNICRI in the assessment and establishment of national CBRN<sup>3</sup> action plans. Consequently, the Secretariat was actively engaged in providing advice for the specific cases of Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Uganda, and Viet Nam.

33. Having established formal cooperation with the International Council of Chemical Associations in 2015, the Secretariat was invited to participate in a two-day workshop entitled "Product Stewardship and Security" in New Dehli, India, on 16 and 17 December 2015. The workshop focused on Indian chemical companies, and was organised by the Indian Chemical Council in cooperation with the American Chemistry Council, with the goal of sharing experiences and best practices on product stewardship and security and with the overarching aim of drafting a security code for the Indian chemical industry.

- - - 0 - - -

---

<sup>3</sup> CBRN = Chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear.