



**REPORT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MOMAR DIOP  
FACILITATOR OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON TERRORISM  
TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AT ITS EIGHTY-FOURTH SESSION**

Madam Chairperson, Director-General, distinguished colleagues,

1. It is my pleasure and privilege to present to the Eighty-Fourth Session of the Executive Council a short oral report on the first meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T) for the year 2017, which I had the honour to chair, for the first time, this past Monday, 6 March.
2. I would like to begin my report by thanking all delegations for the trust and confidence they have placed in me to lead the work of the OEWG-T. I look forward to working with you all to advance the working group's important objectives, namely, to examine further the OPCW's contribution to global anti-terrorist efforts and to make recommendations in that regard. I would also like to recognise the work of my predecessor, H.E. Dr Joe Tony Aidoo, former Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ghana to the OPCW, in steering the work of the OEWG-T, and to thank H.E. María Teresa Infante, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Chile to the OPCW, for her continued, and valued, leadership of the Sub-Working-Group on Non-State Actors.
3. In opening the OEWG-T meeting last Monday, the Director-General rightly noted the importance of preventing and responding to the use of chemical weapons by any actor, and that doing so is critical to the continued success of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the international norm it underpins. He also referred to the necessity of international organisations working to support States to provide the support they need should the worst occur. This theme was discussed in some depth during and after the first presentation of the meeting, which was given by the Technical Secretariat and concerned a recent table-top exercise organised at the OPCW. The OPCW has been co-chairing for some time a working group under the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (UNCTITF) aimed at ensuring that international organisations work optimally together in the event of a terrorist attack using chemical and/or biological agents. The table-top exercise held in January was the latest step in that project, involving 15 agencies from across the United Nations system.
4. During the presentation and the discussion that followed, it was emphasised that the table-top exercise focused on engaging the broadest range of international agencies possible and was aimed at testing existing coordination measures, identifying gaps, and understanding each other better. Following the successful table-top exercise, subsequent steps could, inter alia, involve enhancing the existing network of focal



points, using OPCW expertise to train other international organisations, and holding more focused exercises which would strengthen coordination between key operational agencies. It was acknowledged during the discussion that, in responding to an incident of chemical terrorism, many international organisations would look to the OPCW for leadership, and the OPCW should be ready to lead, within its mandate, including through the development of its own capabilities.

5. The OEWG-T was also briefed by representatives of Europol's European Counter-Terrorism Centre about Europol's efforts to respond to the threat of CBRNe terrorism in Europe. Europol's mandate and operations in this area were detailed, including the reports that the European Counter-Terrorism Centre publishes on various aspects of its work. It was noted that Europol had discerned some attraction on the part of terrorist groups to the use of CBRN material in carrying out attacks, but much of what it had heard could be said to be part of those groups' propaganda efforts; actually acquiring and using such materials seemed to be more difficult. It was suggested by Europol that it could look to use the OPCW's technical expertise to inform its own reporting. Aspects of Europol's information-sharing mandate were also discussed.
6. With regard to the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors, Ambassador Infante kindly made a comprehensive oral report – based on her written report, which was issued last week as a working paper (EC-84/WP.1, dated 28 February 2017) – of the Sub-Working Group's intersessional work since the previous OEWG-T meeting in October. It was recalled that at the latest meeting of the Sub-Working Group, there had been a fruitful discussion on further opportunities for the OPCW to strengthen its standing arrangements with other relevant international organisations, as well as regional and sub-regional organisations, in the counter-terrorism context. This discussion will likely lead to further work. Ambassador Infante also presented the interim results of an ongoing process of consultations with States Parties about the future work of the Sub-Working Group. These consultations will inform the compilation of the Sub-Working Group's 2017 work plan. Ambassador Infante and I will also consult to ensure that the work of the OEWG-T and the Sub-Working Group remain coherent and respond to the expectations of all States Parties.
7. In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank delegations once more for their trust in me. I look forward to ensuring that the OEWG-T's work is as relevant and as action-oriented as possible. I note that the next meeting of the OEWG-T is scheduled for 10 July 2017, one day ahead of the Eighty-Fifth Session of the Executive Council.
8. Thank you Madam Chair.

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