



Promoting Economic and Technical Development through Chemistry

Among the principles upon which the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) is based are free trade in chemicals and open exchange of information on the peaceful applications of chemistry. As stated in the Preamble to the Convention, promotion of these activities is intended to further the economic and technological development of all States Parties. Article I of the CWC, however, prohibits States Parties from assisting or encouraging others in any way to produce chemical weapons. Furthermore, the Convention restricts production of many 'dual-use' chemicals, namely chemicals that could be used both for the production of chemical weapons and for peaceful purposes. To ensure that restrictions such as these do not adversely affect non-prohibited activities in chemistry, the CWC contains provisions mandating implementation in a manner that neither hampers development nor hinders international cooperation and the exchange of information related to chemistry for peaceful purposes.

The Convention also articulates the rights and obligations of States Parties regarding trade and information exchange. It states that all Parties shall have the right to carry out research with, produce, acquire, transfer and use chemicals, including toxic chemicals, provided the Convention's conditions are not violated. States Parties have the right to participate in the fullest possible exchange of chemicals, equipment and information on chemical applications for industrial, agricultural, research, medical, pharmaceutical and all other purposes not prohibited by the Convention. In addition, States Parties are

obligated to facilitate exchange of chemicals and refrain from maintaining any restrictions or controls, national or international, that would impede trade and technological development in chemistry for peaceful purposes. National laws are to be made compatible with the Convention's purposes, and measures inconsistent with these purposes are expressly forbidden.

Certain features of the CWC serve to promote trade in chemicals among States Parties. The requirement that barriers to transfers of materials and information

between States Parties be lifted encourages such trade, as do restrictions on chemical commerce between States Parties and states not party to the Convention. As discussed in Fact Sheet 7, of the chemicals listed on the Convention's three schedules, transfers of Schedule 1 chemicals to states not party to the Convention are prohibited, and transfers of Schedule 2 chemicals to non-States Parties were banned in 2000. Transfers of Schedule 3 chemi-



OPCW Associate Programme class of 2013 with the OPCW Director-General

cals to non-States Parties must be used only for peaceful purposes in accordance with an end-use certificate issued by the receiving state. In promoting trade among States Parties, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) works to encourage the free exchange of chemicals, equipment and information related to the full implementation of the Convention.

OPCW Support Programmes

Programme	Description	Beneficiaries (as of 31-12-2013)
Associate Programme	Established in 2000, it facilitates capacity building, industry-related national implementation of the CWC and promotes good practice in chemical manufacturing and safety.	329 Associates from Africa (135), Asia (97), Latin America (60), Eastern Europe (32) and Western Europe and Other States (5) have participated.
Analytical Skills Development Course	Established in 2004, it assists qualified analytical chemists to acquire further practical experience in the analysis of chemicals related to the national implementation of the CWC.	This course has benefited 532 chemists from Africa (218), Asia (111), Latin America (99), Eastern Europe (94) and Western Europe and Other States (10).
Conference Support Programme	Established in 1997, it facilitates the exchange of scientific and technical information, provides financial support for the organisation of conferences, workshops and seminars on special topics relevant to the CWC and facilitates participation in such events.	2,058 participants from Africa (641), Asia (448), Eastern Europe (387), Latin America and the Caribbean (249) and Western Europe and Other States (333) have benefited from these events. In addition, the OPCW sponsored events in Africa (60), Asia (56), Eastern Europe (47), Latin America (21) and Western Europe and Other States (77).
Research Projects Programme	Established in 1997, it assists small-scale research projects in targeted countries for the development of scientific and technical knowledge in the field of chemistry for industrial, agricultural, research, medical and other peaceful purposes relevant to the CWC.	503 projects in Africa (179), Asia (163), Eastern Europe (9), Latin America (148) and Western Europe and Other States (4) have benefited from this programme.
Internship Support Programme	Scientists and engineers from developing countries conduct advanced research in laboratories in industrialised countries.	134 interns from Africa (79), Asia (24), Eastern Europe (9), Latin America (20) and Western Europe and Other States (2) have so far been supported by the OPCW.
Laboratory Assistance Programme	Established in 1997, it aims at improving the technical competence of laboratories engaged in chemical analysis and monitoring.	92 laboratories in Africa (48), Asia (19), Eastern Europe (8), Latin America (16) and Western Europe and Other States (1) have benefited from this programme.
Equipment Exchange Programme	Facilitates the transfer of used and functional equipment to publicly funded laboratories and other academic institutions in developing countries from institutions in industrialised countries.	75 transfers in Africa (32), Asia (9), Eastern Europe (13), Latin America (19) and Western Europe and Other States (2) have been undertaken.
Industry Outreach (Chemical Safety and Security)	Established in 2009, the programme consists on workshops to sensitise States Parties to modern approaches in safety and security management, safety culture and promote safety and management and handling of chemicals, in particular in a small and medium-sized enterprises	641 participants from Africa (65), Asia (487), Eastern Europe (2), Latin America and the Caribbean (83) and Western Europe and Other States (4).



Participants at a Course on Chemical Safety Management for States Parties in Africa

OPCW Support Activities

To facilitate international cooperation and the implementation of the CWC, the OPCW Technical Secretariat organises a variety of programmes to support State Party authorities and scientists, with a primary focus on countries that are developing or have economies in transition. Activities fall into two major categories: building States Parties' human and technical capacity in areas related to CWC implementation and supporting the development of chemistry for peaceful purposes.

Building Capacity for CWC Implementation

To increase the capacity of States Parties to fully implement the CWC, the Secretariat undertakes efforts to enhance the technical capabilities of analytical chemistry laboratories. One of the ways this is accomplished involves support for laboratories seeking designation from the OPCW for the analysis of samples taken during inspections. (If OPCW inspectors deem it necessary, samples taken from inspected sites may be analysed off-site at OPCW-designated laboratories.) To qualify for OPCW designation, laboratories are required to pass a series of proficiency tests organised by the OPCW. The Secretariat supports staff training, visits

to designated laboratories, internships at international laboratories, including the OPCW Laboratory in Rijswijk (near The Hague). The Secretariat also sponsors visits by experts to laboratories in States Parties to assess, among other things, long-term technical measures needed to help laboratories meet the criteria for OPCW designation.

Similar assistance is also rendered to laboratories that want to improve their capabilities without seeking OPCW designation. In addition to support for staff training, internships and participation in scientific conferences, the Secretariat can assist in the establishment of quality assurance systems or in the preparation of quality manuals.

The Secretariat can provide advice to States Parties on the best practices and appropriate technologies needed to destroy chemical weapons, including old or abandoned ones, as well as technical specifications and advice on inspection equipment. A variety of software is also available to the laboratories and specialized institutions in States Parties, including the analytical chemistry databases and software that ensures the security of declaration data and enables exchanges of data between States Parties and the OPCW.

Fostering Chemistry for Peaceful Purposes

By administering myriad programmes, services and projects, the Technical Secretariat supports the development of chemistry for purposes not prohibited by the CWC. The OPCW does this by assisting the exchange of information, equipment and chemicals and fostering their use for peaceful purposes. Through its Conference Support Programme, for example, the Secretariat helps finance conferences on topics relevant to the Convention in developing countries and those with economies in transition and supports participation of scientists from these countries in international events. Funding can also be provided for other State Party scientists to participate in international meetings held in developing countries.

The Secretariat's Internship Support Programme provides funding to scientists and engineers, again primarily from developing countries, to work for fixed periods at research institutions in industrialised countries. In addition to providing scientists with valuable experience, the programme aims to initiate cooperative relationships between researchers in industrialised and developing countries. Visits of researchers between developing countries are also encouraged.

The OPCW Associate Programme prepares chemists and chemical engineers in Member States for technical assignments within the Secretariat or positions related to the implementation of the Convention in their home countries. The nine-week course provides a valuable opportunity for participants to be exposed to the work of the OPCW and modern practices in the chemical industry. It includes a chemical engineering training segment at a well-known university, followed by three weeks of 'hands on' industrial experience at modern chemical plants. The programme concludes with presentations at the OPCW made by participants.

Each year, the Secretariat conducts an Analytical Skills Development Course for personnel from industry, academic institutions and government laboratories. The two-week course covers theoretical and practical techniques in analytical chemistry. The course aims to facilitate analysis of chemicals related to the national implementation of the Convention and the adoption of good laboratory practices. The OPCW provides full funding for participants.

The Secretariat also partly funds a variety of research projects in developing countries. Research in any of the following areas may be considered for financial support: environmentally sound technologies for the destruction

of hazardous chemicals, new analytical methods for toxic chemicals, safer alternatives to Scheduled chemicals, medical treatment for accidental exposure to hazardous chemicals and projects aiming to promote sustainable development. The projects are selected and administered through the Secretariat's Research Projects Support Programme.

Seminars within the Chemical Safety and Security Management programme provide OPCW Member States and their industries with the tools and knowledge required to mitigate the risks arising from chemical-industry accidents and the threat of terrorism. The programme focuses on small and medium-sized enterprises, which are introduced to modern practices used in chemical industry, in-

cluding global initiatives such as the Responsible Care programme.

Cooperation with Other Organisations

In the interests of better implementing the CWC, the Secretariat maintains contacts with a variety of organisations, including both national and international chemical industry associations, academic associations, funding agencies and international development aid organizations. Through such cooperation the Secretariat enhances implementation of some of its programmes. To strengthen links with CWC stakeholders, the Secretariat organises an annual meeting of National Authorities and chemical industry representatives just before the annual sessions of the Conference of the States Parties.



Promoting peaceful uses of chemistry is a core mission of the OPCW

OPCW

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