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NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

THE PROGRAMME TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION WITH AFRICA ON THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

INTRODUCTION

1. The Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Africa Programme”) was instituted by the Director-General in 2007 (EC-50/DG.17, dated 26 September 2007) to give strategic direction to the engagement of the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) with African States Parties as regards implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”).
2. The Africa Programme was initially intended to last three years, from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2010. Since then, the Programme has been extended three times, each time for a three-year period: from 2011 to 2013 (EC-64/DG.5, dated 6 April 2011), from 2014 to 2016 (EC-75/DG.5, dated 17 February 2014), and from 2017 to 2019 (EC-84/DG.18, dated 17 February 2017).
3. Since the establishment of the Africa Programme, the Director-General has regularly appraised the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) at all of its annual sessions of the progress of programme implementation and of the results achieved.
4. This Note reports on the progress of implementation of the Africa Programme in 2018 within the framework of its fourth phase.

IMPLEMENTATION

5. During the reporting period, the Secretariat initiated specific activities aimed at implementing the seven objectives of the Africa Programme, covering the following areas of the Convention: national implementation (Article VII), assistance and protection (Article X), and the peaceful use of chemistry (Article XI). The list of activities can be found in the Annex to this document.

Objective 1: Ensure that a greater number of African States Parties have comprehensive national Convention implementing legislation

6. In furtherance of Objective 1, the Secretariat organised (in November 2017 and August 2018) two sessions of the Internship Programme for Legal Drafters and



National Authority Representatives (with the participation of six representatives from three African States Parties); the Influential Visitors Programme for Nigeria (in October 2017); and a sensitisation workshop on legislation for Namibia (in December 2017). In addition, the Secretariat reviewed legislation and provided comments on the texts of draft implementing legislation at the request of States Parties.

7. One additional session of the Internship Programme for Legal Drafters and National Authority Representatives is planned to take place later this year.
8. As a result of programmatic support during the reporting period:
 - (a) Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Seychelles, and Sierra Leone developed drafts of national implementing legislation, decreasing the overall number of African States without such draft legislation from 11 to 6.
 - (b) Nigeria and Namibia sensitised their stakeholders to the need to adopt national implementing legislation that includes all initial measures, increasing the number of sensitised African States Parties without comprehensive legislation to 18.

Objective 2: Strengthen national capacity for control of transfers of scheduled chemicals in order to prevent non-State actors from accessing such chemicals

9. Regarding Objective 2, the Secretariat organised a train-the-trainers course for representatives of customs training institutions from French-speaking African States Parties. The course, held in Algiers (Algeria) in September 2018 with the participation of 11 African States Parties, focused on the technical aspects of the Convention's transfers regime.
10. As a result of programmatic support during the reporting period:
 - (a) The Secretariat further enhanced the capacity of customs authorities from Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Senegal, and Togo to conduct national Convention-related training courses for customs personnel. This increased the overall number of African States Parties involved in this initiative from four to 15.
 - (b) Twenty customs trainers representing the aforementioned States Parties, together with the representatives of the management of their respective customs institutions, developed their understanding on how Convention-related matters should be taught to customs officers. In cooperation with National Authorities, the trainers also designed plans of action for the introduction of Convention modules into the training process of their respective institutions.
 - (c) All of the countries involved gained practical experience in the use of the customs e-learning modules developed by the OPCW in cooperation with the World Customs Organization, and committed themselves to further promoting

the use of those modules for the purposes of training their national customs officers.

- (d) In addition to the customs course, the regional meeting of National Authorities in Morocco in June 2018 focused its discussions on the role of customs in national Convention implementation and in strengthening cooperation between National Authorities and customs administrations. Thirty-nine African States Parties benefited from interaction during the meeting and from the recommendations developed during the event, which led to concrete recommendations aimed at improving the capacities of States Parties in this area.

Objective 3: Support African States Parties in the development of protective measures against chemical attacks and threats

11. With respect to Objective 3, the Secretariat intended to provide expert advice to Namibia this year, but the activity has been postponed until next year at the request of the State Party.

Objective 4: Foster national and regional capacity to respond to chemical attacks

12. With respect to Objective 4, the Secretariat organised a planning and coordination meeting for the States Parties in North Africa and the Sahel region. The meeting was held in Algiers (Algeria) in May 2018 with the purpose of developing a multi-year project to build resilience against the potential use of chemicals as weapons in the region and to improve the capacity of the target States Parties to respond to such use. Seven States Parties (Algeria, Burkina Faso, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Niger, and Tunisia) participated in the meeting. The African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation and the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, as well as the three regional secretariats of the European Union Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative, attended the meeting as observers.
13. In October 2018, the Secretariat will organise, with the support of the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the third edition of the operational training course for East African Community (EAC) partner States. This year, the training will be delivered entirely by a team of regional instructors under the supervision of the Secretariat and instructors from the Population Protection Institute of the Czech Republic.
14. As a result of programmatic support in 2018:
 - (a) The Secretariat is now cooperating with four regional economic communities in Africa—the EAC, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)—to develop regional response capacity, including the identification of regional training centres. A framework for improving regional capabilities against chemical threats and incidents was agreed upon during the planning and coordination meeting of the States Parties of North Africa and the Sahel. Its implementation will be

overseen by a steering committee composed of National Authorities, or their designated representatives, with guidance from the Secretariat.

- (b) Operational training in assistance and protection against chemical weapons for the EAC partner States is now fully delivered by locally trained instructors. The project for the EAC continues to benefit from the financial and technical support of the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- (c) The Secretariat is working with the National Authority of Switzerland to provide technical support and expert advice to the project for the ECOWAS Member States.

Objective 5: Support African States Parties to strengthen integrated chemicals management, including chemical safety, security, and sustainability

- 15. In furtherance of Objective 5, the Secretariat is planning an event on chemical safety and security management for African Member States, to be held in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), from 9 to 11 October 2018. In addition, the Associate Programme supported 12 participants from African Member States. The Secretariat also provided support to four African participants to take part in the event on women in chemistry in Ottawa (Canada).
- 16. As a result of programmatic support in 2018:
 - (a) Professionals in the African region enhanced their competency and capacities in integrated chemicals management, including chemical safety and security management.
 - (b) Four participants from four African Member States attended the symposium to promote the empowerment of women in chemistry and contribute to peaceful uses of chemistry.

Objective 6: Support the enhancement of laboratory capabilities

- 17. With respect to Objective 6, the Secretariat organised one regional course for Africa, which was held in Pretoria (South Africa). Analytical chemists from Africa also participated in other analytical chemistry courses organised by the Secretariat.
- 18. As a result of programmatic support in 2018:
 - (a) Twenty participants from Africa improved their analytical chemistry skills in a skills development course at Protechnik Laboratory in South Africa and learned about advanced techniques for the analysis of chemical weapons-related chemicals.
 - (b) Five African women chemists were trained at the OPCW Laboratory.
 - (c) Three participants (from Burundi, Kenya, and Morocco) attended the customs laboratory training held at the OPCW Laboratory from 28 May to 1 June 2018.

- (d) To further implement the deliverable under Objective 6 concerning “development and enhancement of the capabilities of African laboratories to join the network of OPCW designated laboratories”, a specific synthetic chemistry training course will be provided to three participants from Algeria in September 2018, with funding from a voluntary contribution from Spain. A partnership project under the Laboratory Twinning Programme is also being developed between South Africa and the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO). The Secretariat is working to identify a third African State Party to participate in this project.
- (e) Six participants will be attending the quantitative mass spectrometry and laboratory quality management programmes at the Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN) in Helsinki (Finland) from 10 to 21 September 2018.
- (f) The Secretariat is planning to provide a proficiency test training at the OPCW Laboratory for six African Member States by end of this year. The training will be based on the questionnaire distributed to African Member States to evaluate the status of their laboratories, with the overall aim of providing assistance to laboratories to achieve designated status.
- (g) The contract negotiations are ongoing for one African laboratory to receive support through the Laboratory Twinning Programme.

Objective 7: Contribute to the enhancement of peaceful uses of chemistry

- 19. Regarding Objective 7, the Secretariat continues to run the Fellowship Programme, the Programme for Support of Research Projects, and the Conference Support Programme.
- 20. As a result of programmatic support in 2018:
 - (a) Eight fellowships were undertaken by African scientists to conduct research in other countries.
 - (b) Twelve scientists from Africa were supported under the Conference Support Programme and attended international conferences in the field of the peaceful applications of chemistry. Three research projects were awarded to three African Member States.

ENGAGEMENT WITH PARTNERS

- 21. The fourth phase of the Africa Programme provides for the establishment of a steering committee in order to measure the progress made in implementing the planned objectives and to provide guidance. In this regard, the first meeting of the steering committee took place on 2 July 2018, with representatives from Algeria, Kenya, Morocco, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the United States of America. The key outputs of the meeting can be summarised as follow:

- (a) The steering committee noted the challenges pertaining to ownership of the Africa Programme by the African States Parties and to the Programme's appropriateness.
- (b) The steering committee emphasised the need to better comprehend the specific needs of African State Parties to ensure the relevancy of the Programme and, thereby, to attract potential donors. The committee also noted the need to further improve the quality of the engagement of African National Authorities.

THE WAY FORWARD

- 22. In line with the principle of results-based management, the lessons learned (including best practices and challenges) from the implementation of the Africa Programme this year will inform the planning and conduct of future activities.

Annex (English only): The Fourth Phase of the Africa Programme: Activities in 2018

Annex

THE FOURTH PHASE OF THE AFRICA PROGRAMME: ACTIVITIES IN 2018

Objective 1: Ensure that a greater number of African States Parties have comprehensive national Convention implementing legislation		
Activity	Date and Location	Result
Influential Visitors Programme	18 – 20 October 2017 The Hague, the Netherlands	Top-level officials from Nigeria sensitised to Convention-related issues.
Internship for Legal Drafters and National Authority Representatives	6 – 10 November 2017 The Hague, the Netherlands	Sierra Leone prepared a draft of comprehensive Convention-implementing legislation.
Sensitisation workshop on legislation	4 and 5 December 2017 Windhoek, Namibia	Namibia sensitised its national stakeholders to the need to adopt comprehensive Convention-implementing legislation.
Internship for Legal Drafters and National Authority Representatives	6 – 10 August 2018 The Hague, the Netherlands	Chad and Guinea prepared drafts of comprehensive Convention-implementing legislation.
Comments on and review of legislation		Seychelles and the Democratic Republic of the Congo considered the comments for improvement of their drafts.
Workshop on the role of implementing legislation in addressing threats arising from non-State actors	16 – 18 October 2018 Nigeria	Fifteen States Parties from West Africa and the Sahel will increase their awareness on how national implementing legislation on the Convention can contribute to addressing threats arising from non-State actors. The workshop will also sensitise stakeholders from Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Libya, and Nigeria, which have yet to adopt comprehensive national implementing legislation.
Internship for Legal Drafters and National Authority Representatives	October 2018	Eswatini and Zimbabwe will prepare drafts of comprehensive Convention implementing legislation.

Objective 2: Strengthen national capacity for control of transfers of scheduled chemicals in order to prevent non-State actors from accessing such chemicals		
Activity	Date and Location	Result
Regional meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Africa	19 – 21 June 2018 Marrakesh, Morocco	National Authorities and customs administrations from Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe strengthened their cooperation and discussed the role of customs in Convention implementation.
Train-the-trainers course for customs training institutions	11 – 14 September 2018 Algiers, Algeria	Customs training institutions from Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Senegal, and Togo will have knowledge and capacity to implement Convention-related training for their national customs officers.
Objective 3: Support African States Parties in the development of protective measures against chemical attacks and threats		
Activity	Date and Location	Result
Workshop on the development of a national protection programme	(Date to be confirmed) Dakar, Senegal	Expected outcomes of the workshop include: (a) development of a draft national action plan; (b) identification of relevant agencies; and (c) formation of working groups on chemical data collection, risk analysis and cartography, chemical security in industries, and equipment and training.
		Planned

Objective 4: Foster national and regional capacity to respond to chemical attacks		
Activity	Date and Location	Result
Table-top exercise for SADC Member States	17 – 19 April 2018 Lusaka, Zambia	<p>The participants have a better understanding of the need for national protection programmes, and especially of the importance of having a chemical emergency response plan/framework ranging from notification and response to recovery and stabilisation.</p> <p>It is envisaged to hold an annual training in Zambia for first responders in the SADC region.</p>
Planning and coordination meeting for North Africa and the Sahel region	14 – 16 May 2018 Algiers, Algeria	<p>The meeting resulted in the development of an agreed document that summarised the common understanding of the threats, issues, and opportunities for capacity building for the development of protective and response capacity in the region.</p> <p>Some countries, especially Algeria and Morocco, expressed their willingness to contribute to the capacity building of the participating countries upon request, within the framework of the project.</p> <p>To increase ownership and inclusiveness, the meeting recommended the formation of a steering committee consisting of National Authorities, or their designated representatives, to provide guidance on the implementation of the project.</p> <p>To the extent that appropriate training facilities are available in the region, Member States in North Africa and the Sahel region should use such facilities to deliver coordinated training for chemical threat response capability. Such facilities should also support the provision of chemical protection planning and chemical emergency response capability.</p>

Status

Completed

Completed

<p>Planning and coordination meeting for the IGAD Member States</p>	<p>15 – 17 August 2018 Khartoum, the Sudan</p>	<p>The meeting resulted in the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) A memorandum of understanding (MoU) will be signed between the OPCW Secretariat and the IGAD Secretariat through facilitation of the IGAD Security Sector Program (SSP), in order to formalise the partnership between both organisations. (b) Sudan will host an annual training course for first responders of the IGAD region. (c) A task force comprised of regional experts and IGAD SSP staff will be established to design a scenario for a table-top exercise to be held in Ethiopia next year. (d) To increase cooperation and coordination between the National Authorities of Members States in the IGAD, region regular meetings were proposed, for which the practical arrangements are subject to further discussion, with the IGAD SSP volunteering to lead. Djibouti has agreed to host the first meeting. (e) A network of laboratories within the IGAD region will be established. The IGAD SSP will facilitate the process. (f) Laboratory skills enhancement will be promoted through training, using to the extent possible the facilities and expertise already available within the region. Kenya and Sudan both volunteered to take the lead on such training. The region will also take advantage of the various training opportunities offered by the OPCW. <p>It is planned to establish a cooperation and working relationship with the IGAD SSP.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
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<p>Assistance and protection training for instructors from African States Parties</p>	<p>13 – 24 August 2018 Tshwane, South Africa</p>	<p>This training increased the pool of African instructors in the area of chemical emergency response.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Course on medical aspects of assistance and protection against chemical weapons for the benefit of African States Parties</p>	<p>15 – 19 October 2018 Nairobi, Kenya</p>	<p>The training contributed to building up a network of African instructors.</p> <p>At the end of this course, the participants will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) define the physiological effects of chemical weapons agents/toxic industrial chemicals, the signs and symptoms of exposure, describe the clinical picture of exposure to such agents, and discuss the acute and chronic health effects; (b) explain the medical treatment of casualties exposed to various chemical weapons agents/toxic industrial chemicals, and describe the concepts of medical countermeasures, including antidote therapy and advanced treatment pathways; (c) explain the principles of mass casualty management, medical countermeasures, triage, emergency response systems, and hospital emergency plans; (d) operate in individual protective equipment (IPE) and demonstrate first aid procedures with IPE (using syringes, intubation, administration of antidotes, etc.); and (e) analyse a situation, then design and coordinate an effective response plan for medical management of chemical casualties in the field or at an emergency medical facility. 	<p>Planned</p>

Operational training for the EAC partner States	24 October – 1 November 2018 Kampala and Jinja, Uganda	The objectives of the training are to: (a) have the first training entirely delivered by locally trained instructors; and (b) increase the pool of first responders capable of providing an effective emergency response in case of a chemical attack or incident.	Planned
Table-top exercise for ECOWAS Member States	3 – 7 December 2018 Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire	The participants will have better understanding of the need for national protection programmes, and especially of the importance of having a chemical emergency response plan/framework ranging from notification and response to recovery and stabilisation.	Planned
Objective 5: Support African States Parties to strengthen integrated chemicals management, including chemical safety, security, and sustainability			
Activity	Date and Location	Result	Status
Associate Programme	3 August – 5 October 2018 The Hague, the Netherlands and elsewhere	The Programme aims to address the objectives set out in Article XI of the Convention in terms of capacity building and facilitating trade in areas relating to chemistry for peaceful purposes, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.	Ongoing
Symposium on Women in Chemistry	25 and 26 June 2018 Ottawa, Canada	The symposium raised awareness of the importance of women chemists in promoting women's role in the peaceful uses of chemistry and supporting the importance of gender-balanced participation in the OPCW's capacity-building programmes.	Completed
Loss prevention and safety promotion in the chemical process industries	24 – 28 September 2018 University of Wuppertal, Germany	The participants will gain the necessary skills to implement modern technical safety practices and fulfil their duties to develop sustainable safety management procedures for the chemical industry. They will be encouraged to contribute to the development of a culture of safety and of relevant practices and procedures in their working environments.	Planned

Executive Programme on Integrated Chemicals Management	24 – 27 September 2018 London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	The overall objective of the course is to help the Member States build capacity to develop in-depth knowledge and leadership skills in integrated chemicals management, including in the areas of chemical safety, security, and sustainability.	Planned
Chemical safety and security management seminar	9 – 11 October 2018 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	The objective of the seminar is to enhance the competencies and capacities of professionals in Africa on chemical safety and security management.	Planned
Objective 6: Support the enhancement of laboratory capabilities			
Activity	Date and Location	Result	Status
Analytical skills development	7 – 18 May 2018 Pretoria, South Africa	Capacities were built in the analysis Convention-related chemicals using gas-chromatography and mass spectrometry.	Completed
Customs laboratory course	28 May – 1 June 2018 The Hague, the Netherlands	The aim of the course was to assist qualified analytical chemists from laboratories that support, or plan to support, customs services or offices from Member States.	Completed
Analytical skills development course	26 – 28 June 2018 The Hague, the Netherlands	Capacities of women chemists were built in the analysis of Convention-related chemicals using gas-chromatography and mass spectrometry.	Completed
Laboratory skills enhancement – quantitative mass spectrometry and laboratory quality management	10 – 21 September 2018 VERIFIN Helsinki, Finland	The objective of the programme is to enhance the laboratory skills related to laboratory quality management and quantitative mass spectrometry.	Planned
Analytical skills development course	India	The purpose of the course is to enhance capacities to analyse Convention-related chemical weapons substances.	Planned
Analytical skills development course for participants from Algeria	The Hague, the Netherlands	The course will look at the microsynthesis of Convention-related organic substances.	Planned

Objective 7: Contribute to the enhancement of peaceful uses of chemistry			
Activity	Number of Participants	Result	Status
Conferences, seminars, and workshops sponsored under the Conference Support Programme	8	These events facilitate the exchange of scientific and technical information.	Ongoing
Fellowship Programme	3	The Programme is aimed at strengthening participants' knowledge of and skills in the peaceful application of chemistry, contributing to the transfer of scientific knowledge and skills.	Ongoing

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