



**REPORT BY H.E. MR OJI NYIMENUATE NGOFA
CHAIRPERSON OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON TERRORISM
TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AT ITS EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION**

1. Madam Chairperson, Director-General, distinguished colleagues, it is my pleasure to provide a short oral report of the meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T) held on 8 October 2018. First of all, I would like to express my profound thanks to my colleague, Ambassador Koloane of South Africa, for ably chairing the meeting in my absence.
2. The meeting's theme was the consideration of lessons learned from counter-terrorism efforts in other parts of the chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (or CBRN) field. Specifically, it aimed to examine the range of approaches, both national and international, that have strengthened global nuclear security over the last forty years, and to consider how those approaches may inform the OPCW's efforts to strengthen global chemical security, including through capacity-building support to States Parties.
3. In his opening remarks, the Director-General highlighted the increasing role of chemical terrorism in the life of the Organisation. He emphasised the challenges facing the OPCW and the need to be collectively capable of responding to chemical terrorism, noting that this would require adaptation, creativity, and a renewed commitment to the core tenets of the treaty. He underlined the importance of sharing knowledge and strategies among States Parties, enabling a collaborative approach to countering chemical threats. In this regard, the Director-General noted that the OEWG-T would be a useful forum for sharing information on national investigations into chemical weapon-related activities by non-State actors, in accordance with EC-86/DEC.9.
4. The OEWG-T was then briefed by Dr Christopher Hobbs. A reader at King's College London, Dr Hobbs has studied a range of security issues regarding nuclear and radiological security as well as leading the International Atomic Energy Agency's nuclear security education network. Dr Hobbs' presentation focused on the changes in nuclear security governance from 1970 to the present, highlighting the evolution in the international approach to nuclear security during this time, and the IAEA's growing advisory role in strengthening global nuclear and radiological security. He also provided an overview of the changing nature of nuclear and other CBRN threats during that period, and outlined that although national efforts to strengthen CBRN security vary according to national circumstances, there are many common elements. He underlined the key aspects within nuclear security that could be transferable to the chemical security domain, noting that informal and bottom-up approaches, with the



support of the OPCW, could usefully complement efforts to strengthen governance at the international level.

5. Following Dr Hobbs' presentation, questions and comments from delegations focused on how the OPCW could better support States Parties' efforts to counter chemical terrorism, and how lessons could be learned from the IAEA's work in nuclear and radiological security. It was underlined that the IAEA's advisory role in this area was driven by demand from Member States for assistance. The discussion emphasised the importance of having a common understanding of the threat of chemical terrorism and the need to strengthen global and national efforts to counter that threat.
6. Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to the delegates and Dr Hobbs for their participation in the meeting. The next meeting of the OEWG-T is scheduled for 11 March 2019, the day before the Ninetieth Session of the Executive Council.