

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

1. As decided by the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) in paragraph 12.4 of the report of its Sixtieth Session (EC-60/3, dated 22 April 2010), and consistent with the Council’s request contained in paragraph 16 of its decision entitled “Addressing the Threat Posed by the Use of Chemical Weapons by Non-State Actors,” (EC-86/DEC.9, dated 13 October 2017), the Director-General hereby submits for the Council’s consideration at its Ninetieth Session this annual Note to keep the Council informed about the OPCW’s contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts, as well as its efforts in implementing the aforementioned decision.
2. The activities of the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) summarised in this Note, covering the period from 23 February 2018 to 12 February 2019, have continued to be based on the approach outlined in the decision by the Council at its Twenty-Seventh Session entitled “The OPCW’s Contribution to Global Anti-Terrorist 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).
3. The outcome document of the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, held in April 2013 (RC-3/3*, dated 19 April 2013), also continued to provide reference for, and guide, the activities of the Secretariat.
4. Furthermore, in paragraph 1 of decision EC-86/DEC.9, the Council underscored the “role of the Organisation within its mandate with respect to preventing and responding to the threat posed by the use of chemical weapons by non-State actors to the object and purpose of the Convention” and, in doing so, provided additional impetus on specific matters to guide the Secretariat’s activities.
5. Decision EC-86/DEC.9 also fully recognised the important role of assistance and cooperation in support of capacity-building to achieve full and effective national implementation, and in assisting States Parties in investigating and prosecuting non-State actors for crimes related to the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), or in countering terrorism as it relates to chemical weapons



(paragraphs 9 and 11 of EC-86/DEC.9). The Secretariat will continue to examine the types of cooperation and assistance it can provide to States Parties in this regard.

6. The Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T) and its Sub-Working Group (SWG) on Non-State Actors remain the primary platforms for the States Parties to interact with international experts and to exchange their views on the challenges posed by chemical terrorism, as well as on ways the OPCW can further address this subject through the full and effective implementation of the Convention. In 2018, the Secretariat supported the convening of three OEWG-T meetings and one SWG meeting.
7. In 2018, the Secretariat supported preparations for the Fourth Special Session to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, held from 21 to 30 November 2018. In this regard, the Secretariat supported the States Parties' consideration of Convention implementation issues related to countering chemical terrorism.

THE OPCW'S SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL COUNTER-TERRORISM COOPERATION

8. As part of the OPCW's support for greater international understanding of the threat of chemical terrorism, and of the practical measures required to counter that threat, the Organisation hosted in June 2018 the OPCW Conference on Countering Chemical Terrorism. By bringing both counter-terrorism and chemical weapons experts to the OPCW, the conference aimed to stimulate new thinking and precipitate further action on one of the most pressing threats to the global norm against chemical weapons. Through panel discussions, the conference promoted an interactive dialogue among the participants that supported the development of shared understandings about how States, international organisations, and other stakeholders can counter the threat of chemical terrorism, building on existing frameworks and efforts. More than 65 States Parties to the Convention attended the conference, along with representatives of academia, the chemical industry, and relevant international organisations.¹
9. In 2018, the OPCW became a signatory to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, and participated as an observer in the first United Nations High-Level Conference on Counter-Terrorism. The Organisation also continued to lead, with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Interagency Working Group on Preventing and Responding to WMD Terrorist Attacks, which aims to take further steps to enhance coordination among key international stakeholders to prevent and respond to chemical and biological terrorism.
10. The Secretariat and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 Committee Group of Experts continued to collaborate in strengthening States Parties' awareness of their relevant obligations, and to offer practical assistance in the areas in which the Convention and United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) are mutually reinforcing; namely, national legislation, chemical security, and customs and border control.

¹

A summary of the Conference was published as S/1652/2018 (dated 16 July 2018).

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

Criminalisation of activities prohibited by the Chemical Weapons Convention

11. The criminalisation of activities prohibited by the Convention, such as stockpiling, developing, and acquiring a chemical weapon, is a key element in preventing the use of a chemical weapon by a non-State actor. Given the transnational nature of the terrorism threat, penal legislation concerning such activities needs to be in place, and effective, in all States Parties.
12. The importance of States Parties' adoption of effective national legislation to criminalise acts prohibited by the Convention, as required by Article VII, has been highlighted by the OEWG-T and SWG discussions, and also prominently reflected in paragraphs 5 and 6 of decision EC-86/DEC.9.
13. Currently, as Georgia adopted national implementing legislation covering all initial measures in 2018, 123 of 193 States Parties have now reported having enacted legislation covering all initial measures.² However, a sizeable global legal gap still remains, as 32 States Parties have reported having legislation covering only some of the initial measures, while 38 States Parties have yet to report on the adoption of legislation.

Support to the policy-making process

14. The OEWG and its SWG continued to focus their attention on the topic of legal accountability in 2018, and particularly around the requirement in the Convention to provide legal assistance to ensure the prosecution of natural or legal persons who violate the Convention's prohibitions. The 12 March 2018 meeting of the OEWG discussed the proposal to negotiate a new multilateral treaty on mutual legal assistance (MLA) and extradition for the domestic prosecution of the most serious international crimes. Ms Danijela Horvat of Slovenia explored the history of the MLA initiative, gave an overview of the first preparatory commission meeting for the treaty, and discussed the MLA initiative's potential provisions as well as the convergence of the Convention's and MLA initiative's objectives.
15. During the 9 July 2018 meeting of the OEWG, the States Parties heard a presentation from Dr Rumyana Grozdanova from the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism, which highlighted the critical importance of international legal cooperation for ensuring accountability for terrorist acts, given that the evidence required to secure convictions for terrorist acts can often be scattered across several jurisdictions and across cyberspace.

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See annual reports on the status of implementation of Article VII of the Convention in 2018 (EC-89/DG.9 C-23/DG.8; EC-89/DG.8 C-23/DG.7; and EC-89/DG.7 C-23/DG.6, all dated 24 August 2018). Since Georgia adopted comprehensive implementing legislation outside of the 2017/2018 reporting period, the figure reflected in the reports is 122 of 193 States Parties.

Support to States Parties

16. The OPCW took steps in 2018 to begin providing specific counter-terrorism capacity-building to its Member States. In October 2018, the Secretariat held a pilot workshop on the role of implementing legislation in addressing threats arising from non-State actors. The event brought together over 80 participants from 10 States Parties in the West African and Sahel subregions, as well as a number of international stakeholder organisations, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Interpol, the 1540 Committee Group of Experts, and the World Customs Organization (WCO). The workshop provided a forum to enhance the understanding of participants on how national implementing legislation can contribute to addressing emerging threats, including chemical terrorism, and to raise awareness about the role of relevant national stakeholders in the implementation of national legislation on the Convention. The event will be repeated in another region in 2019.
17. The Secretariat also continued to support those States Parties that have yet to adopt national implementing legislation covering all initial measures. In 2018, the Secretariat organised two sessions of the Internship Programme for Legal Drafters and National Authority Representatives. The sessions were attended by six States Parties: Chad and Guinea in the August session; and Eswatini, the State of Palestine, Timor-Leste, and Zimbabwe in the October session. The Programme continues to be an effective means to support States Parties in developing the initial draft of their national implementing legislation and will be continued with the remaining eligible States Parties in 2019. The Secretariat also reviewed and provided comments on the draft implementing legislation of four States Parties at their request. The Secretariat also continues to support States Parties at more advanced stages of legal implementation through the Influential Visitors Programme. In 2018, the fourth session of the Programme was held from 12 to 14 September with a high-level delegation from Chile.
18. Stakeholder forums continued to be an effective modality for States Parties that have already adopted legislation to share their experiences with those that have yet to do so. The Secretariat organised the first subregional stakeholders' forum on advancing national implementation of the Convention and regional cooperation in Southeast Asia in Bangkok, Thailand, from 24 to 26 April 2018. This forum was intended to capitalise on the regional initiatives that had already been taken on the ground, including by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and the "East Asia Summit Leaders' Statement on Chemical Weapons" of November 2017. A similar forum for the Western Balkans subregion was organised in Tirana, Albania from 2 to 4 October 2018.
19. Mentorship and partnership between National Authorities continued to be a useful way for a State Party that has successfully adopted legislation to share its practices and approaches with another State Party that has yet to do so. Three programmes under the Mentorship/Partnership Programme for National Authorities were implemented in 2018: between Panama and Brazil, between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Nigeria, and between Togo and Morocco.

20. To raise awareness of the importance of adopting national legislation among National Authorities and relevant stakeholders, the Secretariat included this topic at regional meetings of the National Authorities in the Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America and Caribbean regions. Those meetings also discussed the important role of customs agencies in enforcing the Convention's transfers regime for scheduled chemicals.
21. Noting that decision EC-86/DEC.9 encouraged States Parties "to examine their national laws to ensure that there are appropriate offences which could be used to prosecute indirect perpetrators of Convention-related crimes at the domestic level", and also requested them "to consider whether additional mutual legal assistance arrangements would be useful in ensuring the accountability on non-State actors" (paragraphs 7 and 8), the Secretariat continued to stand ready to provide assistance or advice in this regard.

Measures to prevent the hostile use of toxic chemicals by non-State actors

22. The enhancement of global chemical security in all stages of the chemical life cycle, for instance, throughout the stages of research and development, manufacture, transport in the supply chain, storage, and disposal of toxic chemical waste, continued to serve as a useful framework for considering the OPCW's further contribution to global efforts to prevent chemical terrorism.
23. Furthermore, decision EC-86/DEC.9, which underscored the "obligation of each State Party under paragraph 2 of Article VI of the Convention to 'adopt the necessary measures to ensure that toxic chemicals and their precursors are only developed, produced, otherwise acquired, retained, transferred, or used' for purposes not prohibited under the Convention" (paragraph 4), is not limited to the physical aspects of security throughout the chemical life cycle, but includes the overall management of this life cycle. This management may exist in a national chemical security programme and include measures such as regulations, policy, and national risk assessments, as deemed necessary by each State Party.

Support to the policy-making process

24. The 22 May 2018 meeting of the SWG focused on a discussion paper issued by the Secretariat entitled "The Implementation of Article VI as a Contribution to Countering Chemical Terrorism" (S/1622/2018, dated 8 May 2018). The purpose of the paper was to provide further input to States Parties' consideration of how their implementation of Article VI reinforces their efforts to prevent the use of chemical weapons by non-State actors. The paper discussed in particular the obligation under Article VI for States Parties to adopt the "necessary measures" to control the use of toxic chemicals and their precursors. It underlined that such measures would depend on each State Party's national context and could include policies to ensure the security and limit the risk of diversion of vulnerable chemicals (such as chemicals or precursor chemicals that may likely be used by non-State actors).

Support to States Parties

25. The Secretariat continued its tailor-made capacity-building programmes, conducted on a regional basis under the OPCW's Chemical Safety and Security Management Programme. In 2018, 14 workshops and seminars were hosted by 12 States Parties, benefiting more than 260 participants.
26. Noting paragraph 10 of decision EC-86/DEC.9, which requested the Secretariat "to enhance its capacity-building programmes that facilitate the sharing of chemical safety and security best practices among States Parties", the Secretariat in 2018 organised two workshops on needs assessment and best practices in chemical safety and security management. One event was organised for the Asia region in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam from 10 to 12 April 2018, and the second event was organised for the Latin America and Caribbean region in Santiago, Chile from 3 to 5 July 2018. The Director-General made further proposals in this regard for the States Parties' consideration in November 2018 (C-23/DG.16 RC-4/DG.4, dated 15 November 2018).
27. In collaboration with the Doha Regional Centre for CBRN³ Training, paired representatives of the national chemical industries and National Authorities met in Doha, Qatar, from 2 to 4 October 2018. The meeting discussed efforts to continually improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Article VI verification regime, particularly in the light of emerging threats and chemical terrorism.
28. In order to assist States Parties in monitoring chemical trade and to prevent illicit transfers, the Secretariat continued its partnership with the WCO by holding its train-the-trainer course on the technical aspects of the transfers regime with representatives of customs training institutions and National Authorities. The aim of the partnership is to enhance customs officials' knowledge of the Convention's transfers regime and the tools to identify scheduled chemicals. In September 2018, representatives of customs training institutions from French-speaking African States Parties took part in a course in Algiers, Algeria.
29. In addition, the follow-up workshop for States Parties that participated in the previous training-of-trainers customs courses was organised in September 2018 in The Hague. Workshop participants shared their lessons learned and reported on progress and achievements in the introduction of Convention modules for customs in their respective national training curricula.
30. During the five-day programme of the training course on declarations and inspections obligations under Article VI of the Convention, held in The Hague from 10 to 14 September 2018, a session on the role of Article VI in countering chemical terrorism was introduced for the first time. During the event, attended by 37 participants from 31 States Parties from all regions, the link between the fulfilment of Article VI obligations and contemporary security challenges was emphasised.

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CBRN = chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear.

Ensuring an effective response to the hostile use of toxic chemicals

31. Enhancing the global capacity to respond to the hostile use of a toxic chemical has continued to be a priority area for the OPCW. The Secretariat's efforts were aimed at supporting national and regional response capacities, enhancing the OPCW's own capacity to respond and provide assistance, and improving the collective response of the United Nations and other international organisations.
32. The OPCW's ongoing efforts to gather facts surrounding the allegations of toxic chemical use in the Syrian Arab Republic underscored the OPCW's important role in the area of response.

Activities to enhance the Technical Secretariat's capacity and readiness to respond

33. In acknowledging decision EC-86/DEC.9, which noted in its final preambular paragraph "the need to continue to enhance the Secretariat's capacity and readiness, in response to alleged incidents of chemical weapons use, to provide technical assistance, to deploy emergency measures of assistance under Article X of the Convention at the request of a State Party, and to enhance the Secretariat's readiness to conduct investigations of alleged use under Article IX and Article X of the Convention and Part XI of the Verification Annex to the Convention", the activities below are highlighted.
34. Since the establishment in 2016 of the OPCW Rapid Response and Assistance Mission (RRAM), the Secretariat has continued to improve its capacity and readiness to deploy the RRAM through field exercises, specialised training for RRAM personnel, and the Organisation's lead role in the United Nations Interagency Working Group on Preventing and Responding to WMD Terrorist Attacks.
35. OPCW inspectors continued to receive mandatory refresher courses in a number of areas, including courses focusing on technological and verification policy developments, the use of protective equipment, the OPCW confidentiality regime, and the latest practices in forensics and evidence preservation. Training courses were also conducted for newly promoted and rehired inspectors, including team leader induction courses with enhanced content to address the needs in relation to leading OPCW teams.
36. Instructors from the Inspectorate's Capacity-Building and Contingency-Planning Cell were directly involved in the Secretariat's capacity-building programmes for States Parties, such as the assistance and protection instructors' course and the regional and national assistance and protection courses.

Support to States Parties

37. Through the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Secretariat continued to refine its regional and subregional approaches to assisting States Parties in building capacity to respond to acts of chemical terrorism. A planning and coordination meeting 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 was held in Algiers, Algeria in May 2018 for the States

Parties in the North Africa and Sahel region, and in Khartoum, the Sudan in August 2018 for the States Parties of the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD). The third edition of the operational training course for East African Community (EAC) partner States was held in October 2018.

38. As a follow-up to the 2017 planning and coordination meeting for countries of the Southern African Development Community, in May 2018 the Secretariat conducted a table-top exercise in Lusaka, Zambia on addressing identified regional priorities in emergency response. The course on medical aspects of assistance and protection was held in Kenya for African States Parties in October 2018 as the first engagement of this type, with the main aim to strengthen capacities of physicians and other qualified medical experts in preparedness and response to chemical incidents.
39. The Secretariat continued to assist States Parties and regions with building a sustainable response capacity by using a train-the-trainer programme that focuses on developing the skills of their instructors. In this regard, the Secretariat continued to expand its Instructor Development and Exchange Programme, which involves the international exchange of expertise and fostering of best practices that will enhance States Parties' response capacity, both individually and regionally. In support of instructor development, the seventh international training course for instructors provided advanced training to a new international team of instructors at the OPCW Headquarters. Similar training-of-trainers courses were also conducted in collaboration with Belarus, the Czech Republic, Peru, and South Africa.
40. The Secretariat continued to help build a global capacity for the medical treatment of victims of chemical weapons, and to ensure that this important knowledge is retained and shared. An international "Symposium on Medical Treatment of Chemical Warfare Victims" was convened at the OPCW Headquarters on 28 and 29 June 2018. The Symposium provided a forum for identifying priorities for victim assistance projects and future scientific research. Participants agreed on a declaration with recommendations on how the Secretariat and the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons could most positively provide support for victims of chemical weapons. An international training course on emergency medical response to chemical incidents, designed to train medical professionals and targeted medical experts who are involved in providing advance hospital care for chemical casualties, was held in October in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran.
41. The Secretariat embarked on a novel capacity-building approach in 2018, focusing on the institutional preparedness of Member States' hospitals to provide care and remain operational in the aftermath of a mass casualty chemical terrorism event. The Chemical Incident Preparedness for Hospitals Project (HOSPREP) is a multi-phase endeavour in partnership with receiving medical facilities from States Parties to assess institutional needs, develop achievable action plans based on those needs, and put those plans into action with measurable results. The overarching goal of HOSPREP is to expand the chemical emergency capacity of OPCW Member State hospitals to receive, treat, and manage a sudden influx of contaminated patients. The initial workshop held in November 2018 in Ankara, Turkey and was aimed at sensitising the representatives of the designated medical facilities about the importance of those elements as products of competent emergency operations planning and hazard vulnerability analyses.

42. The Secretariat continued to provide expert advice and assist States Parties in identifying suitable ways to develop and improve protective capability against chemical weapons. For instance, the Secretariat continued to provide tailored training for the first responders to incidents involving the use of chemical weapons or other releases of toxic chemicals. Annual cycles of basic and advanced courses, and confirmatory exercises, were conducted in the Asia and the Latin America and Caribbean regions. The Secretariat continued its efforts during a capacity-building project on chemical emergency response for the Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), held in August 2018 in Bridgetown, Barbados, with a workshop focused on the development of national protection programmes. It fostered regional networking and a regional concept of operations to enhance chemical safety and security and encouraged support and mentoring among States Parties to build CARICOM-wide resilience to chemical events.
43. The first OPCW workshop on chemical emergency planning and response during major events was held from 11 to 13 December 2018 in Doha, Qatar. This event, funded by Qatar, featured the participation of 21 international participants from 17 States Parties, as well as 30 Qatari national experts working on preparations for the 2022 FIFA World Cup.
44. The Secretariat also continued to provide courses that are open at the international level, including specialised training courses in the field of laboratory skills, pre-hospital medical care, medical treatment of chemical casualties, and sampling and analysis, as well as courses in additional languages such as Arabic, Russian, and Portuguese. Table-top exercises continued to be an effective way to help States Parties test their organisational processes and consider the modalities of regional and international support in a scenario involving a major chemical incident. Such exercises were conducted in Croatia, the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, and Zambia (as noted above).
45. The Eighteenth Annual Workshop to Coordinate Assistance and Protection under Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (AACW) was held in Marrakesh, Morocco from 29 to 31 October 2018. The objective of the AACW was to provide updated information since the last such meeting in 2017, to follow up on new activities of the Secretariat in the area of assistance and protection, to seek fresh inputs from group discussions to help improve the fulfilment of Article X obligations by the States Parties, to enhance the protective capacity of the States Parties, and to carry out further discussions regarding regional coordination and improvement of regional response capabilities.

Enhancing laboratory capacity at the OPCW and in States Parties

46. The capability to safely analyse a wide range of chemicals and types of samples, both within the Secretariat itself and within each State Party, is of fundamental importance to the full and effective implementation of the Convention. Such capability can take a number of practical forms, ranging from the detection of chemicals in the field with handheld equipment, such as by customs agencies, to the analysis of samples in a laboratory to identify chemicals used in an attack or to determine the likely provenance of a chemical weapons agent. Forward-looking research and development is also key to making practical advancements, such as in medical countermeasures. Addressing the need to develop, nurture, and enhance this capability in a sustainable

way has always been a priority for the Organisation, and continues to be important in the context of the non-State actor threat.

Support to States Parties

47. The Secretariat continued to support States Parties in the building of their laboratory capacity across a wide range of capacities (from “basic” up to and including the capacity to undertake proficiency testing with the aim of receiving OPCW designated laboratory status).
48. In 2018, five courses were held at the OPCW Laboratory’s multipurpose training facility in Rijswijk, during which training was delivered to participants from 17 States Parties. Three courses to assist the development of the analytical skills necessary to analyse Convention-related chemicals were held for six participants from Iraq (from 12 to 16 March 2018), for three participants from Algeria (from 3 to 7 November 2018), and for five participants from five African Member States, namely Algeria, Botswana, Kenya, Nigeria, and Uganda (from 29 October to 2 November 2018). The second course on the development of analytical skills for qualified analytical chemists from laboratories supporting customs services was held from 28 May to 1 June 2018, while the third edition of the basic analytical chemistry course for women chemists was held from 26 to 28 June 2018. Additionally, training and capacity-building initiatives for States Parties included six other analytical chemistry courses held in five States Parties, benefitting more than 80 participants.
49. The OPCW Laboratory Twinning Initiative is aimed at assisting laboratories in States Parties with economies that are either developing or in transition to improve their performance in the OPCW proficiency tests, which must be successfully completed in order to become an OPCW designated laboratory. In 2018, the Secretariat oversaw the signing of a letter of intent between the Netherlands and South Africa towards the establishment of a formal partnership between their respective national laboratories.
50. Within the Fellowship Programme and the Programme for Support of Research Projects, the Secretariat supported in 2018, among others, three fellowships and five research projects focused on analytical chemistry methodologies of relevance to Convention-related chemicals. Moreover, among the new projects for which OPCW funding was approved in 2018, seven projects will research analytical methods and verification techniques of relevance to the Convention.
51. As part of the OPCW Equipment Exchange Programme, the Secretariat facilitated the donation of a liquid chromatography mass spectrometer from Sweden to Laos and the provision of fume hoods from the OPCW Laboratory to laboratories in Ethiopia, the Gambia, and Senegal.

The OPCW and the network of designated laboratories

52. Planning for implementation of the project to upgrade the OPCW Laboratory to a Centre for Chemistry and Technology continued in 2018. Once completed, the new Centre will be a key asset for the Organisation and for OPCW Member States in responding to the use of chemical weapons and in training analytical chemists.

53. The OPCW network of partner laboratories that were available for off-site analysis of samples remained strong in 2018; 22 laboratories from 18 States Parties met the requisite criteria to become or to retain their status as OPCW designated laboratories for the analysis of environmental samples.
54. From April to August 2018, the Secretariat conducted the Third Biomedical Proficiency Test. The OPCW now has a network of 17 laboratories from 13 States Parties available for the off-site analysis of biomedical samples.
55. In December 2018, the OPCW Laboratory conducted the third exercise on the analysis of biologically derived toxins. These exercises further enhance the OPCW partner laboratories' capabilities in this area and help arrive at commonly accepted analysis and reporting criteria.
56. The OPCW Laboratory continued to monitor scientific progress and developments in the field of chemical forensics, and is actively pursuing the transfer of methods among the network of laboratories for in-depth evaluation. Such methods will enlarge the toolkit available to the OPCW Laboratory and the designated laboratories for the analysis of samples and the determination of chemical signatures.

The role of the Scientific Advisory Board

57. Through its work in assessing and reporting on developments in scientific and technological fields that are relevant to the Convention, the OPCW's Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) has an important role to play in ensuring that the Secretariat and States Parties are better placed to mitigate the threat posed by the use of chemical weapons by non-State actors.
58. In 2018, the SAB's Temporary Working Group (TWG) on Investigative Science and Technology met for the first and second times. Against the background of the Secretariat's ongoing contingency operations, the objective of the TWG is to review science and technology relevant to investigative work, especially for validating and determining the provenance (chronology of ownership, custody and/or location) of evidence, and the integration of multiple and diverse inputs to reconstruct a past event. The work of the TWG is intended to identify capabilities, skill sets, and equipment that would augment and strengthen the Secretariat's investigative capabilities, and has particular relevance for countering the terrorist use of chemical weapons.