



**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**

**UPDATE ON EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT  
IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE  
SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2018**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The aim of this Note is to provide the Member States of the OPCW with information on a four-monthly basis regarding the capacity-building activities delivered by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) through its international cooperation and assistance programmes. These programmes support Member States’ efforts to effectively implement the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), and in particular Articles VII, X, and XI thereof. This Note covers the period between 1 September and 31 December 2018.

**IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT – ARTICLE VII**

**Training course for representatives of National Authorities and relevant stakeholders on fulfilling declarations and inspections obligations of the Convention, OPCW Headquarters, The Hague, the Netherlands, 10 to 14 September 2018**

2. The main purpose of this training course was to further enhance the capacities of States Parties to effectively implement Article VI obligations under the Convention. The training course allowed the participants to gain and further improve their knowledge and practical skills on various aspects of declarations and inspections processes pursuant to Article VI, including the electronic declarations tool for national declarations. Thirty-seven representatives from 31 States Parties participated in the training.

**Train-the-trainer course for representatives of customs training institutions and academies for French-speaking countries in Africa, Algiers, Algeria, 11 to 14 September 2018**

3. This programme was intended to train the trainers of representatives of customs training institutions on technical aspects of the transfers regime of the Convention. At the end of the course, the participants developed action plans for the integration of the Convention modules in their national customs curricula, with the expectation of the introduction of those modules in 2019. The course targeted and was attended by French-speaking African States Parties. More than 60 participants from 11 States Parties in the region attended the course.



**Fourth edition of the Influential Visitors Programme, OPCW Headquarters, The Hague, the Netherlands, 12 to 14 September 2018**

4. This edition of the programme was attended by a high-level delegation from Chile, including members of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament, the Chief of Cabinet of the Minister of Defence, and the Head of the National Authority. The primary objective of the Influential Visitors Programme is to assist States Parties in advancing the adoption of draft implementing bills by sensitising key stakeholders on relevant issues. During the visit, the Chilean delegation met with the Director-General and senior management to discuss Chile's national implementation of obligations under the Convention and received presentations by senior Secretariat staff on various aspects of the Convention and the work of the OPCW. Since participating in the programme, the Chilean implementing bill has been passed by the Chamber of Deputies and is currently pending approval in the Senate.

**Follow-up workshop on the training of trainers for countries that previously participated in train-the-trainer courses, OPCW Headquarters, The Hague, the Netherlands, 26 and 27 September 2018**

5. The follow-up workshop brought together 16 representatives of 15 States Parties that participated in the previous train-the-trainers course to share the lessons learned, their experiences, and their progress and achievements in the introduction of the Convention modules in their national curricula. Apart from serving as a peer-learning platform, the event provided the Secretariat with an opportunity to evaluate the outcomes of its training activities and identify good national practices for further dissemination.

**Fifth annual meeting of representatives of the chemical industry and National Authorities, Doha, Qatar, 2 to 4 October 2018**

6. The meeting once again provided an opportunity to raise participants' awareness of various requirements for the implementation of the Convention and to exchange information on the practices and challenges of various issues for which collaboration between the chemical industry and National Authorities is crucial for the Convention regime. The main purpose of this activity was to enhance the capacities and foster the collaboration between the National Authorities and the chemical industry in order to further improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Article VI. The meeting resulted in an outcome report containing a number of recommendations aimed at further fostering the collaboration between the National Authorities. A total of 46 international participants from 25 States Parties attended the meeting. As in previous years, the event was implemented with a voluntary contribution from Qatar.

**Subregional stakeholders' forum on advancing national implementation and subregional cooperation in the Western Balkans, Tirana, Albania, 2 to 4 October 2018**

7. This forum was aimed at providing a venue for the key stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Convention in the States Parties in the subregion to share experiences, identify gaps, and develop recommendations for further enhancement of national implementation while capitalising on available subregional and regional cooperation platforms. The forum provided a useful opportunity to promote

networking and the sharing of experiences at the subregional level. Thirty participants from five States Parties in the Western Balkans attended the forum.

#### **Mentorship/Partnership Programme for representatives of National Authorities**

8. Under the Mentorship/Partnership Programme, representatives of the National Authority of Togo visited Morocco from 15 to 19 October 2018. The visit provided representatives of Togo with diverse insights into the national implementation process under the Convention, with participants also receiving helpful advice and recommendations from the Moroccan National Authority. A return visit to Togo is planned for the first half of 2019.

#### **Workshop on the role of implementing legislation on the Convention in addressing chemical threats arising from non-State actors, Abuja, Nigeria, 16 to 18 October 2018**

9. This is a pilot workshop aimed at raising awareness and enhancing the knowledge of the relevant stakeholders in the region on how national legislation implementing the Convention can contribute to addressing threats involving toxic chemicals, including chemical terrorism, arising from non-State actors. The workshop was attended by over 80 participants from 10 States Parties and a number of international organisations.

#### **Twentieth edition of the Internship Programme for Legal Drafters and National Authority Representatives, OPCW Headquarters, The Hague, the Netherlands, 29 October to 2 November 2018**

10. The twentieth edition of the programme was attended by eight participants from four States Parties: Eswatini, the State of Palestine, Timor-Leste, and Zimbabwe. During the programme, participants received a series of presentations delivered by Secretariat staff and drafted implementing legislation that complies with the provisions of the Convention and which, from the perspective of the Secretariat, is suitable for adoption. As part of a results-based approach, the participants also prepared action plans and indicative road maps to take forward the adoption process.

#### **Twentieth Annual Meeting of National Authorities, OPCW Headquarters, The Hague, the Netherlands, 6 to 8 November 2018**

11. The Twentieth Annual Meeting of National Authorities was specifically devoted to the capacity-building programme of the Secretariat, with a focus on national ownership and sustainability of the results. The meeting provided an opportunity for the National Authorities to take stock of the achievements in terms of the capacity-building programmes, as well as the challenges and way ahead, with a view to improving the effective implementation of the Convention. The meeting resulted in interesting recommendations on fine-tuning the Secretariat's capacity-building and training programmes, as well as on ensuring national ownership and sustainability. A total of 148 participants from 123 States Parties attended the meeting. In addition to regular budget, funding from the European Union was used to support the participation of five participants from Africa.

## **ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION – ARTICLE X**

### **Training course on emergency medical treatment of chemical casualties, Panama City, Panama, 3 to 5 September 2018**

12. This course was organised at the request of the National Authority of Panama in advance of “World Youth Day 2019”, taking place in January 2019. The training enabled a national audience of emergency healthcare providers to acquire and review knowledge and skills on various aspects related to the medical treatment of chemical casualties in preparation for this major event.

### **Second assistance and protection training course for instructors of GRULAC<sup>1</sup> States Parties, Lima, Peru, 3 to 7 September 2018**

13. The course aimed at providing the participants with knowledge and skills on instruction techniques that can be used in the provision of national and regional training in response to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals. The course was attended by a group of 26 selected instructors from 12 States Parties in the GRULAC region.

### **Seventh OPCW international assistance and protection training course for instructors, OPCW Headquarters, The Hague, the Netherlands, 12 to 19 September 2018**

14. The course equipped the instructors with knowledge and skills to train first responders in providing protection against chemical weapons and other toxic chemicals, and in the management of chemical incidents. The training was attended by 20 instructors involved in emergency response to chemical incidents in their respective countries.

### **Eighth advanced international assistance and protection course, Beijing, China, 17 to 21 September 2018**

15. This course was intended for the participants in the training cycle that started in Turkey in April 2018, as well as for selected participants from other regions. The course led to the formation of a well-trained group of 20 first responders with knowledge and skills on protective and responsive measures and management of chemical emergency situations involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals.

### **Fourth OPCW exercise on assistance and Protection for first responders from Asian States Parties, Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia, 24 to 28 September 2018**

16. This exercise was the final step of the 2018 training cycle for Asian States Parties following the basic and advanced training courses held in Nepal and the Republic of Korea, respectively, in early 2018. Twenty-seven first responders completed the course and practised their previously obtained knowledge of chemical warfare agents, individual protective equipment, and detection and decontamination equipment. The

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<sup>1</sup> GRULAC = Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

course also provided them with knowledge of emergency management, sampling, and preservation of the chain of custody.

**International course on medical aspects of assistance and protection against chemical weapons, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, 1 to 5 October 2018**

17. The course was intended for medical professionals from around the world to advance their skills in hospital care for victims of chemical weapons and other incidents involving toxic chemicals. In Tehran hospitals, the 23 course participants examined victims of chemical warfare suffering from its long-term health effects.

**Regional table-top exercise on chemical emergency response for States Parties from Latin America and the Caribbean, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 15 to 18 October 2018**

18. The exercise was intended for emergency managers from Member States in the GRULAC region. It enabled 29 experts from 17 States Parties to gain theoretical and practical knowledge and skills on the regional coordination of responses to chemical incidents using the incident command system approach. The training generated ideas and suggestions aimed at enhancing regional coordination and mutual support under Article X of the Convention, using available disaster response mechanisms in cases of chemical attacks, including coordination with international and regional organisations.

**Course on medical aspects of assistance and protection against chemical weapons, Nairobi, Kenya, 15 to 19 October 2018**

19. This course was intended for medical experts. It enabled 25 medical experts from 11 States Parties in Africa to gain and enhance their knowledge and skills on pre-hospital and advanced hospital care for victims of chemical weapons and incidents involving toxic chemicals.

**Operational training on chemical emergency response, planning and management for Eastern Africa Community (EAC) States Parties to the Convention, Jinja, Uganda, 24 October to 1 November 2018**

20. The training was intended to provide first responders from the region with theoretical and practical knowledge and skills on the protection, detection, and decontamination equipment used to respond to chemical attacks and incidents involving toxic industrial chemicals, as well as to pursue the goal of establishing a training centre and a core group of qualified experts from the region. Developed on the basis of the previous year's foundational work toward the latter objective, this training was delivered by instructors from the region who were previously identified and trained by experts from the Czech Republic, with financial support from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

**Eighteenth annual workshop to coordinate assistance and protection, Marrakesh, Morocco, 29 to 31 October 2018**

21. The workshop provided participants with updated information on the Secretariat's activities in the area of assistance and protection since the last edition in 2017 and on new activities in this area. It also provided an opportunity for the participants to

discuss and share their views and experiences on ways and means to enhance the protective capacities of States Parties against chemical weapons and to improve the fulfilment of Article X obligations. Thirty-seven participants from 27 States Parties, mostly representing either National Authorities or emergency management agencies, attended the workshop.

**Chemical incident preparedness for hospitals workshop, Ankara, Turkey, 5 to 9 November 2018**

22. This workshop was the first engagement of the Chemical Incident Preparedness for Hospitals Project, which is an institutional capacity-building initiative aimed at building and enhancing the preparedness and resilience of the medical facilities that may be called upon to receive and treat contaminated patients in the aftermath of an attack involving chemical weapons. The workshop was intended to sensitise the representatives of medical facilities from 20 States Parties as to the best policy-based approaches for ensuring the operational resilience of medical institutions when faced with such incidents. As a result, the participants committed to completing hazard vulnerability analyses in their institutions and draft action plans for further implementation of the principles discussed in the workshop. A total of 24 experts attended this event.

**Basic course on assistance and protection against chemical weapons for Arabic-speaking States Parties, Tunis, Tunisia, 11 to 16 November 2018**

23. The main purpose of the course was to provide Arabic-speaking experts from States Parties in the Middle East and North Africa with comprehensive knowledge of chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals, individual protective equipment, detection and decontamination equipment, sampling and analysis techniques, and emergency response. The graduates of this basic training will progress to an advanced course that will be held in Jordan in 2019. A total of 36 experts from the region attended the course.

**International advanced course on assistance and protection against chemical weapons, Islamabad, Pakistan, 12 to 16 November 2018**

24. This advanced course targeted first responders from different geographical regions with previous OPCW basic assistance and protection training. The course equipped 28 participants from eight States Parties with advanced theoretical and practical knowledge in the area of response to chemical incidents, including training in the use of protective equipment, types and characteristics of chemical warfare agents and munitions, and detection and decontamination methods.

**Advanced laboratory skills training course, Zemianske Kostol'any, Slovakia, 12 to 22 November 2018**

25. The main objective of this specialised advanced laboratory skills course was to provide States Parties' field laboratory professionals with knowledge and skills on the analysis of chemical warfare agents in the field and laboratory settings. During the course, 10 experts from eight States Parties and two international instructors gained and enhanced their knowledge and skills on the preparation of samples for chromatographic analysis and the detection of scheduled chemicals and their

degradation or reaction products and precursors, as well as on the necessary safety means.

**First international OPCW workshop on chemical emergency planning and response during major events, Doha, Qatar, 11 to 13 December 2018**

26. This was the first OPCW workshop focusing on chemical emergency coordination and planning of the response against chemical weapons during major events. It provided a forum for participants to share their experiences in the planning, preparation, and conduct of major events, and to exchange views on new approaches and trends in this regard. It was also a first step, following a request from the Government of Qatar, towards preparing a chemical emergency response team for the forthcoming 2022 FIFA<sup>2</sup> World Cup. Twenty-one international participants and 30 national experts representing the Qatari police force, disaster management agencies, fire and health services, chemical industry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the national counterterrorism agency attended this event, which was funded by a voluntary contribution from the Government of Qatar.

**INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION – ARTICLE XI**

**Associate Programme 2018 (the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and elsewhere), 3 August to 5 October 2018**

27. The Associate Programme has continued to serve as a platform to raise awareness of scientists and engineers from countries whose economies are either developing the goals of the Convention or are in transition, and to expose them to advanced industrial practices. During the nineteenth edition of the programme, 31 participants from 31 States Parties were equipped with the theoretical and practical knowledge and skills required to operate effectively and safely in a modern chemical industry environment. They also gained knowledge on the subject of the Convention in order to enhance the capacity of States Parties to implement the industry-related provisions of the Convention and broaden the talent pool of those assuming responsibility for implementation in the National Authorities and other relevant institutions.

**Micro-synthesis of chemicals relevant to the Convention in OPCW proficiency testing, OPCW Laboratory, Rijswijk, the Netherlands, 3 to 7 September 2018**

28. This course was aimed at assisting three qualified organic chemists from Algeria in acquiring the necessary skills to synthesise Convention-related substances, with a view to implementing the Convention. This was funded by a voluntary contribution from the Government of Spain.

**Two courses on the enhancement of laboratory skills, Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN), Helsinki, Finland, 10 to 21 September 2018**

29. The two courses were aimed at enhancing the laboratory skills of participating States Parties on chemical weapons-related laboratory quality management and quantitative

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<sup>2</sup> FIFA = *Fédération Internationale de Football Association*.

mass spectrometry. Twelve analytical chemists from States Parties of which the economy is either developing or in transition attended the courses.

**Second edition of the Executive Programme on Integrated Chemical Management, University of Surrey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 24 to 27 September 2018**

30. The programme was intended for chemists, chemical engineers, and other relevant professionals from States Parties who assume managerial and leadership responsibilities related to the implementation of the Convention. It continued to support the States Parties in building and further enhancing their capacity to develop in-depth knowledge and leadership skills on integrated chemicals management, including in the areas of chemical safety, security, and sustainability. Sixteen participants from 15 States Parties attended the programme.

**Two parallel annual courses on loss prevention and safety promotion in the chemical process industries for Member States in Africa and Member States in the Asia and GRULAC regions, Wuppertal, Germany, 24 to 28 September 2018**

31. These courses were designed for professionals in industry, academia, and governmental agencies working on aspects of chemical safety in States Parties in the above-mentioned regions. The programme enabled the participants to gain and improve their knowledge of sustainable safety management as it relates to the chemical industry, including risk evaluation methods (both operational and environmental), emergency planning, and risk and disaster communication. The courses were attended by 12 participants from Africa and 12 participants from the Asia and GRULAC regions. Funding was provided through a voluntary contribution from the Federal Government of Germany.

**Seminar on chemical safety and security management for African States Parties, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 9 to 11 October 2018**

32. This programme was intended for experts from the National Authorities and relevant stakeholders dealing with chemical safety and security management in the Responsible Care® programme. The programme equipped participants with knowledge in the area of chemical safety and security management, including chemical safety and security risk assessment, chemical threat assessment and vulnerability studies, and mitigation strategies. It was attended by 29 participants from 12 African States Parties.

**Training workshop in Russian on best practices for developing the Responsible Care® programme for the chemical industry, Moscow, the Russian Federation, 15 to 19 October 2018**

33. The workshop was intended for environmental health and safety managers, qualified technologists, and representatives of chemical industry associations and governmental organisations from Member States in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. During the workshop, 12 participants from 10 States Parties gained knowledge and skills on the fundamentals of the Responsible Care® programme, which encompasses high standards of safety, security, and environmental protection throughout the lifecycle of chemicals. The Responsible Care® programme is a global voluntary initiative



developed by the chemical industry for the chemical industry and coordinated by the International Council of Chemical Associations.

**Analytical chemistry course for French-speaking countries in Africa, Tunis, Tunisia, 16 to 26 October 2018**

34. This analytical skills development course was aimed at assisting qualified personnel (analytical chemists) from Africa in acquiring the necessary analytical skills related to the implementation of the Convention. The course equipped the participants with knowledge and skills on the analysis of Convention-related chemicals using gas chromatography/mass spectrometry, and on equipment maintenance and sample collection and storage. The course was attended by 15 participants from 13 French-speaking African Member States. Funding was provided through a voluntary contribution from the European Union.

**Third edition of the Forum on the Peaceful Uses of Chemistry: Potential Contribution of the OPCW to the Achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, OPCW Headquarters, The Hague, the Netherlands, 23 October 2018**

35. The main purpose of this forum was to discuss and explore for the first time the potential contribution of the OPCW capacity-building programmes to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The discussions during the forum provided an insightful overview of various initiatives, approaches, and perspectives within academia, industry associations, and international organisations, on the use of chemistry for the achievement of the 2030 SDGs. It also led to a general recognition amongst the participants of the relevance of the work carried by the OPCW under Article XI, as well as the capacity-building programmes, to the realisation of the SDGs. Thirty-two representatives of international and regional organisations, government agencies, chemical industries, academia, and relevant stakeholders from 28 States Parties participated in this forum.

**Basic proficiency testing training course, Rijswijk, the Netherlands, 29 October to 2 November 2018**

36. Five participants attended this training course, for which the OPCW Laboratory provided the basic analytical skills related to proficiency testing.

**Workshop on the peaceful development and use of chemistry for Asian States Parties, Seoul, Republic of Korea, 30 October to 1 November 2018**

37. This workshop was intended to enhance the capacities of Asian States Parties in the area of chemical safety and security management and in the Responsible Care® programme. During the workshop, participants gained further understanding and knowledge in the area of chemical safety and security management, including security risk assessment, chemical threat reduction, mitigation strategies, and human factor analysis in the field of safety management. The workshop was attended by 27 participants from 15 States Parties.

**Eighth analytical skills course in Spanish, focusing on the analysis of chemicals related to the Convention, Madrid, Spain, 22 November to 5 December 2018**

38. The course was intended to enhance the capacity of laboratories in the GRULAC region. The course programme enabled analytical chemists from the region to build and further improve their knowledge and skills on the theory and practice of the use of advanced analytical techniques, sample preparation, and interpretation of mass spectra of chemicals, as well as on other aspects related to the maintenance of laboratory equipment, quality assurance systems in chemical analysis, and procedures for participation in OPCW proficiency testing. The course was attended by 15 participants from 11 States Parties from the GRULAC region.

**Side event on building a more effective and impactful capacity-building programme on chemical safety and security management, World Forum, The Hague, the Netherlands, 26 November 2018**

39. This event was organised in the margins of the Fourth Review Conference<sup>3</sup> to present to the States Parties the results of the evaluation of the chemical safety and security management programme from 2012 to 2017, which was carried out by the Secretariat in 2018, as well as to share the strategic document on the chemical safety and security management programme developed by the Secretariat. More than 20 delegations of States Parties attended this event.

**Course on analytical skills development, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad, India, 3 to 14 December 2018**

40. This was the first course in a three-year cycle to take place at the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology. It was intended for laboratory experts from various States Parties with an economy that is either developing or in transition who work in the analysis of Convention-related substances. The course equipped the participants with knowledge and skills on the analysis of Convention-related chemicals using gas chromatography/mass spectrometry, and on equipment maintenance and sample collection and storage. The course was attended by 19 participants from 19 States Parties.

**Workshop on green and sustainable chemistry: “Fostering Safety and Security through Innovation”, OPCW Headquarters, The Hague, the Netherlands, 4 and 5 December 2018**

41. This workshop was aimed at promoting further safety and security in the chemical industry through innovative chemicals and chemical processes and measures. It provided a platform to discuss cooperation opportunities among the various stakeholders and the role of the OPCW in promoting such developments within its mandate. The workshop was attended by 20 professionals from 18 States Parties.

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Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

**South Asia regional chemical management workshop, Colombo, Sri Lanka,  
4 to 6 December 2018**

42. The workshop was intended for experts from various government agencies, chemical industries, academia, and relevant stakeholders with the main objective of building and further improving the understanding and capacities of States Parties in the region on various specific chemical safety and security management issues related to chemical risk assessment process and inventory management that have a direct bearing on the effective implementation of the Convention. Forty-eight experts from 10 States Parties attended the workshop, which was funded through a voluntary contribution from the Chemical Security Program, United States Department of State.

**Fellowship and Conference Support Programmes**

43. During the reporting period, three fellowships were completed in Germany, South Africa, and Sweden for Ugandan participants, and one fellowship for a Brazilian participant was completed in Switzerland. Two fellowships were ongoing (Kenya-Germany and Malaysia-Finland). Two conferences in two States Parties were sponsored under the Conference Support Programme, namely in Croatia and India.

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