

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT****THE CONTENT OF THE ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION  
DATA BANK AND ITS USE****Introduction**

1. Pursuant to paragraph 5 of Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), the “Technical Secretariat shall establish, not later than 180 days after entry into force of this Convention and maintain, for the use of any requesting State Party, a data bank containing freely available information concerning various means of protection against chemical weapons as well as such information as may be provided by States Parties”.
2. At its First Session, the Conference of the States Parties adopted a decision requesting the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) to establish and maintain a data bank containing the above-mentioned information (C-I/DEC.53, dated 16 May 1997).
3. In December 2006, the Assistance and Protection Data Bank (PAD) was established at the OPCW Headquarters, as required by paragraph 5 of Article X of the Convention; since 2007, it has been made available through the OPCW extranet for the use of National Authorities and Permanent Representatives to the OPCW.
4. The Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention requested the Secretariat to review and keep up to date the OPCW data bank on protection (subparagraph 9.118(h) of RC-3/3\*, dated 19 April 2013).
5. In a Note circulated last year (EC-88/S/5, dated 14 June 2018), the Secretariat informed the Executive Council of efforts under way to re-engineer the data bank for improved functionality and usefulness, with the aim of launching the upgraded PAD in 2019. This Note serves as an update on the progress of those efforts.

**Established role of the assistance and protection data bank**

6. The legacy data bank contains the annual submissions of information by States Parties under paragraph 4 of Article X of the Convention (provided such information is not classified), offers of assistance under paragraph 7 of Article X, lists of experts suggested by States Parties, and other freely available information on protection against chemical weapons.



7. All the information available in the data bank is non-confidential. With regard to the information related to experts and applicants or participants in the various events organised in accordance with Article X, only nationalities and areas of expertise are available; no other personally identifiable information can be accessed.

**Upgrades to the assistance and protection data bank**

8. A project to update the PAD was initiated in 2018 with two primary objectives: (i) to enhance learning and collaboration, and (ii) to increase organisational efficiency and agility in operation. A project team was assembled comprising members of the Assistance and Protection Branch (APB) and Information Services Branch (ISB) who have been collaborating regularly since project initiation.
9. The updated PAD, presently being tested by the project team, will retain the data categories and confidentiality provisions described in paragraphs 6 and 7 of this Note, but will feature a refreshed, intuitive user interface and enhanced functionality.
10. The Secretariat will conduct further consultations with States Parties as the testing progresses, with an eye towards full scale roll-out in 2019.

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