



NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**UPDATE ON EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT
IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE
JANUARY – APRIL 2019**

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”), in particular Articles VII, X, and XI thereof. This Note covers the period from 1 January to 30 April 2019.

IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT – ARTICLE VII

General training course on the Chemical Weapons Convention for the personnel of National Authorities and relevant stakeholders, The Hague, the Netherlands, 25 February to 1 March 2019

2. The purpose of the course was to assist States Parties in complying with their obligations under the Convention by enhancing the knowledge and skills of the personnel of National Authorities and relevant stakeholders.
3. The participants gained the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively discharge their responsibilities, including the drafting of annual reports on implementing legislation, national protective programmes, annual submission of declarations and receiving/coordinating inspections. They also gained a better understanding of the significance of stronger linkages with and concrete engagement between the National Authority and the relevant national stakeholders.
4. The course was attended by 40 participants representing 40 States Parties. It was funded from the regular budget.

Internship Programme for Legal Drafters and National Authority Representatives, The Hague, the Netherlands, 4 to 8 March 2019

5. The twenty-first session of the programme was attended by four participants from two States Parties: Maldives and the Marshall Islands. 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. As part of a results-based approach, the participants also prepared action plans and indicative road maps to support the adoption process.

Mentorship/Partnership Programme for representatives of National Authorities

6. Under the Mentorship/Partnership Programme, representatives of the National Authority of Morocco visited Togo from 25 to 29 March and representatives of the National Authority of the Gambia visited the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from 8 to 12 April. The visits provided the participants with diverse insights into the national implementation process of the Convention, as well as an opportunity to share experiences and good practices. Togo and Morocco have completed their visits within the programme, while the representatives of the National Authority of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland will undertake a return visit to the Gambia later this year.

Regional training course for States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean on fulfilling declaration and inspection obligations under Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention, Panama City, Panama, 25 to 29 March 2019

7. The objective of this training course was to enhance the practical knowledge and skills of the National Authorities and other stakeholders involved in Article VI declaration and inspection processes at the national level. The training course allowed the participants to gain and further improve their knowledge and practical skills on various aspects of declaration and inspection processes pursuant to Article VI. The participants also discussed their post-training action plan for applying their knowledge and skills.
8. Thirty representatives from 16 States Parties from the Latin America and Caribbean (GRULAC) region participated in the training. It was funded from the regular budget.

National legal workshop on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, 26 and 27 March 2019

9. This workshop aimed to support Brunei Darussalam in advancing the implementation of its obligations under the Convention. At the conclusion of the event, Brunei Darussalam made its first Article VII(5) submission, discussed the steps to be taken to advance the adoption of its draft implementing legislation, and considered the formal legal designation of its National Authority.
10. The workshop was attended by 40 representatives from 12 ministries and government agencies. It was funded from the regular budget.

Round table side event on “The Role of Parliamentarians in Enhancing National Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention”, Doha, Qatar, 7 April 2019

11. The event was held in the margins of the 140th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which took place from 6 to 10 April 2019, and was attended by parliamentarians from Bangladesh, Chile, Mongolia, Qatar, and Spain. The parliamentarians exchanged views on how national parliaments can play a more active

role in enhancing national implementation of the Convention and shared national experiences in its implementation.

12. The event was attended by more than 20 delegates to the Assembly. It was funded from the regular budget.

Workshop on the role of implementing legislation in addressing threats arising from non-State actors, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 9 to 11 April 2019

13. The workshop was aimed at raising awareness of relevant stakeholders in the Asia region on how national legislation implementing the Convention can contribute to addressing threats involving toxic chemicals arising from non-State actors, including chemical terrorism. The participants exchanged views on their respective roles in the implementation of national legislation on the Convention for it to serve as an effective tool in addressing these threats, and discussed modalities for enhancing national, regional, and international cooperation in the implementation of the Convention from a security perspective.
14. The workshop was attended by over 50 participants from 12 States Parties and a number of international and regional organisations. It was funded from the regular budget.

ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION – ARTICLE X

Basic regional course for specialists in response to chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals, Panama City, Panama, 11 to 15 March 2019

15. This course supported first responders from institutions involved in chemical emergency response against chemical weapons and incidents with toxic chemicals from States Parties from the GRULAC region. The objective of the course was to provide basic knowledge on protective and responsive measures to chemical emergency situations involving the use of chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals.
16. The course successfully prepared the participants for the advanced assistance and protection training held in April in Argentina. Twenty-eight participants from 16 States Parties from the GRULAC region participated in the event. The course was funded using resources from the regular budget.

Sixth Swiss advanced international assistance and protection course, Spiez, Switzerland, 1 to 5 April 2019

17. This biennial course on assistance and protection against chemical weapons organised by Switzerland and the Secretariat under Article X of the Convention was intended to support protective capacity building in States Parties. The course provided advanced training on matters relevant to chemical emergency response, such as the proper use of individual protective equipment, monitoring, detection, and sampling and decontamination techniques, in a way that participants can play an instructor role in their own countries.

18. The course fully achieved its goals. It was attended by 21 participants from 17 States Parties representing all geographical regions and was co-funded by the Swiss Government and the regular budget.

National workshop on assistance and protection against chemical weapons for Mozambique, Maputo, Mozambique, 15 to 18 April 2019

19. This national workshop was organised within the project for strengthening the chemical emergency response planning and management of the Southern African Development Community Member States. The aim of this workshop was to support Mozambique with the provision of tools for the development of a national programme for protective capacity in line with paragraph 4 of Article X of the Convention.
20. The workshop contributed to achieving a better understanding of chemical emergency response planning, preparation, and delivery, with emphasis on the challenges of delivering an effective emergency response. This event also contributed to further awareness raising for national institutions involved in the approval of legislation relevant to the Convention.
21. The workshop was attended by 30 participants from ministries and other institutions involved in implementation of the Convention and developed a roadmap aimed at the submission to the OPCW of a draft national programme for protective purposes in the coming months. This activity was fully funded from a voluntary contribution provided by the Government of Germany.

Regional advanced course and exercise on assistance and protection for Arabic-speaking States Parties, Amman, Jordan, 14 to 18 April 2019

22. The training was the second and closing stage of the training cycle on assistance and protection against chemical weapons for Arabic-speaking States Parties in the Middle East and North Africa, following the regional basic course held in Tunisia in November 2018. The main aim of the training programme was to improve the knowledge and skills of first responders on the proper use of individual and protective equipment, reconnaissance, detection, sampling, rescue, and decontamination techniques, as well as emergency planning in response to a chemical incident.
23. The objectives of the course and exercise were fully achieved. The training was attended by 35 participants from nine Arabic-speaking States Parties and was funded from a voluntary contribution provided by the Government of Germany.

Eighth advanced regional assistance and protection training course to respond to chemical emergencies, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 29 April to 3 May 2019

24. The training was the second stage of the training cycle for States Parties from the GRULAC region on assistance and protection in chemical emergency response, initiated in Panama in March 2019.
25. Practical elements of chemical emergency response, simulated in scenarios close to reality, constituted the main part of the course. The course successfully built the chemical response competencies of 22 participants from 16 GRULAC States Parties. It was funded from the regular budget.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION – ARTICLE XI

14th annual Chemical Weapons Convention workshop, Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC), Zagreb, Croatia, 12 and 13 February 2019

26. This workshop is for representatives of National Authorities and relevant stakeholders (defence, emergency management agencies, civil defence, and so on). The main purpose of this event was to discuss relevant issues related to the implementation of the Convention in South-Eastern Europe. This year's workshop focused on the theme of "Chemical Safety and Security Management to Prevent Accidents and Incidents".
27. Participants shared best practices and gained knowledge on the management of chemical hazards and reduction of risk. Sixteen participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Romania were in attendance.

Seminar on the Chemical Weapons Convention and chemical safety and security management for Member States of the OPCW in the Asia region, Doha, Qatar, 26 to 28 February 2019

28. This programme was intended for Asian States Parties' governmental representatives, chemical industry associations, and managers involved in chemical safety and security and in the Responsible Care® programme.
29. The participants gained knowledge and better understanding on various aspects of chemical safety and security management, including development of a national framework, the chemical facility oversight mechanisms, chemical plant audit mechanism, and the role of academia and other stakeholders in learning and sharing of best practices in the area. The meeting was also an opportunity to raise awareness about regional issues related to implementation of the Convention.
30. The event was attended by 66 participants from 16 Asian States Parties. Funding was provided through a voluntary contribution from the Government of Qatar.

Workshop on developing tools for chemical safety and security management, The Hague, the Netherlands, 25 to 27 March 2019

31. Under the framework of Article XI, the Secretariat organised the first workshop to provide a platform for a cross-sector partnership of experts to develop a non-binding guidance document that will identify high risk chemicals, as well as provide tools for chemical safety and security management.
32. As a result of the workshop, the experts produced a preliminary document that lays out the key elements of chemical safety and security and established a drafting committee in order to finalise the document.
33. Twenty-one representatives comprising international and regional organisations, government agencies, chemical industries and academia participated in this workshop.

Basic proficiency test training course, Rijswijk, the Netherlands, 8 to 12 April 2019

34. Five participants from Qatar attended this course held at the OPCW Laboratory, which provided training on basic analytical skills related to proficiency testing.
35. The course equipped the participants with knowledge and skills in the analysis of Convention-related chemicals using gas chromatography/mass spectrometry, and in equipment maintenance, and sample collection and storage. The course was designed to support national preparations for the 2022 FIFA World Cup and was funded by the Government of Qatar.

Research projects and fellowships

36. During the reporting period, five requests for support under the Programme for Support of Research Projects (Italy, Kenya, Malaysia, Serbia, and South Africa) were initiated, as were three new fellowships (Panama to Finland, Uganda to Sweden, and Uganda to South Africa).

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