

# Science Advice, Science Diplomacy and Science Communication at the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

## The Scientific Advisory Board

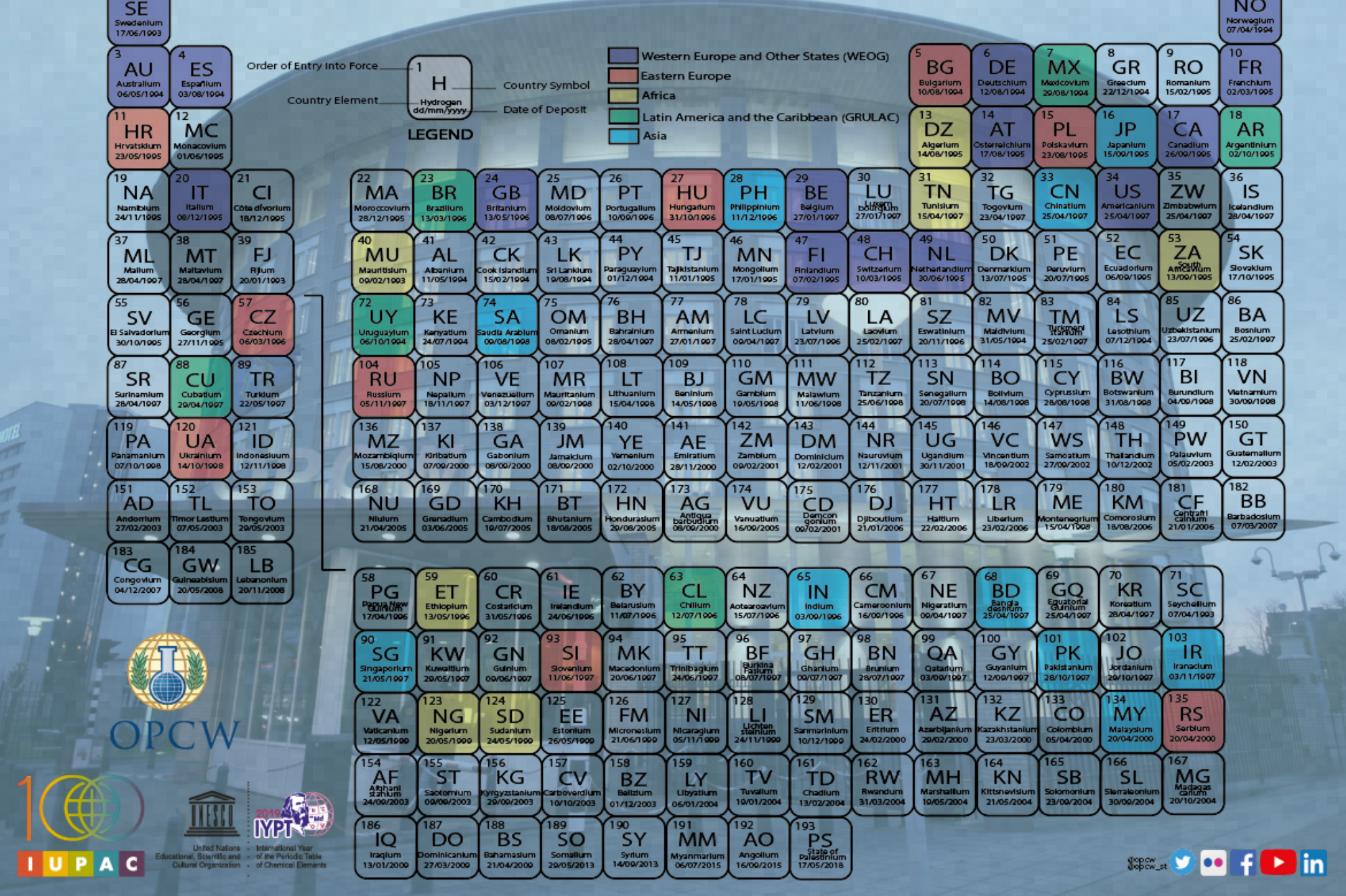


The Scientific Advisory Board at its 25th Session, 11 June 2019

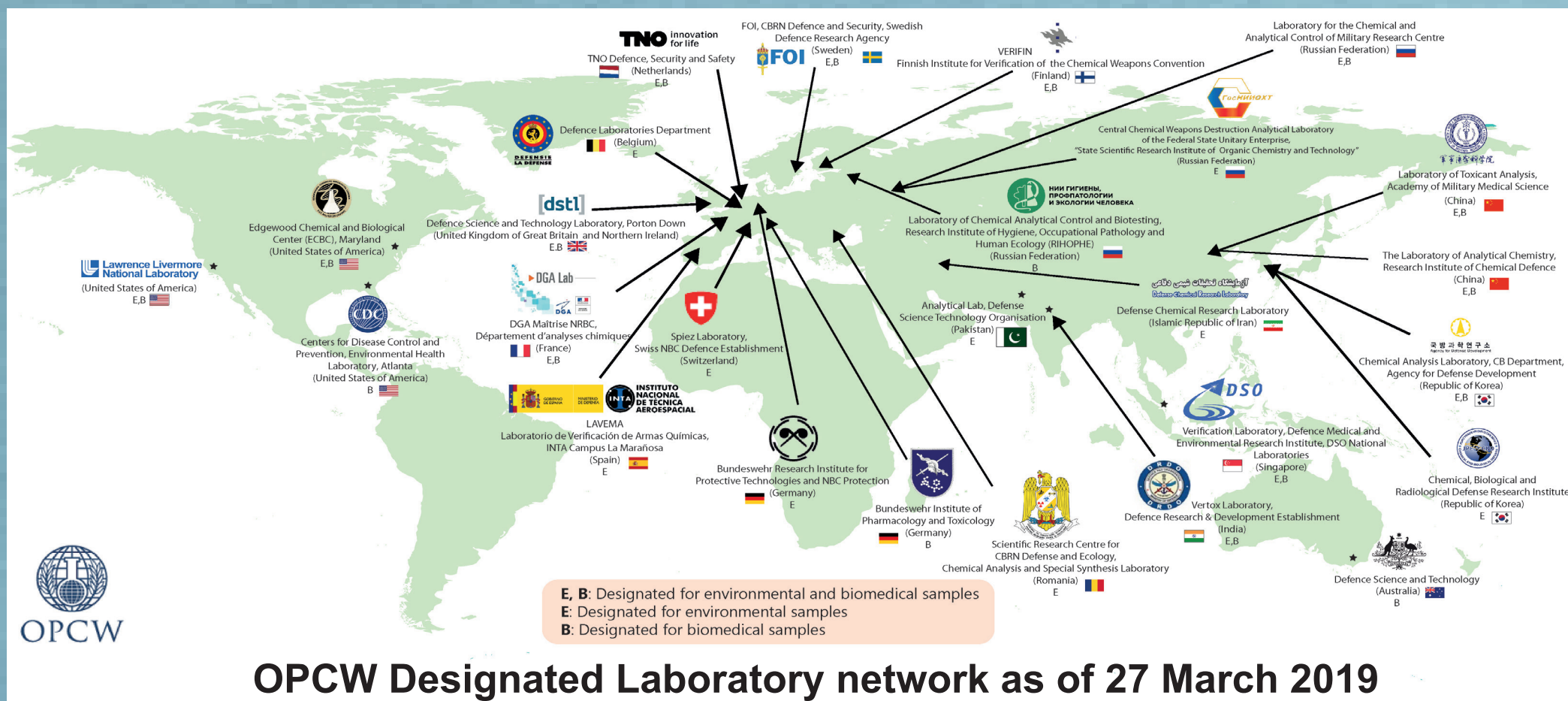
The SAB was established in accordance with the Chemical Weapons Convention to enable the Director-General to render specialized advice in areas of science and technology relevant to the Convention, its State Parties, the Conference of States Parties, and the Executive Council. For the basis of the SAB in the Chemical Weapons Convention, see Article VIII Paragraph 21 (h).

### Scientific Diplomacy in Support of the Convention

Periodic Table of the OPCW Scientific Advisory Board and its Temporary Working Groups from 1998 to 2019  
In Honour of the International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements 2019



From 1998-2019 the members of the SAB and its working groups have come from 44 different State Parties



OPCW Designated Laboratory network as of 27 March 2019

The Chemical Weapons Convention is built on a scientific foundation, requiring technical expertise for effective implementation, and scientific literacy for decision making.

Scientific principles provide the definitions for what is, and what is not a chemical weapon; ensure completeness of declarations; guarantee the robustness of sampling and analysis and other verification methodologies; guide the processes and methods used for inspections, investigations and destruction; inform approaches to assistance and protection; and benefits outreach to scientific communities."

The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) is a subsidiary body of the OPCW serving as an independent science advisory mechanism to provide advice to inform the work and processes of the OPCW, and to bring scientific literacy into the policymaking process.



The SAB is made up of 25 experts from OPCW Member States. Members serve in their personal capacity (not as representatives of their respective States Parties) for up to two consecutive three-year terms. The SAB chair and vice-chair are elected annually.

Scientists from more than 40 States Parties have served on the SAB and/or its working groups since its first Session in 1998. Upholding core values of the Convention, international cooperation and science for peace, the SAB exemplifies the value of science diplomacy.

International scientific collaboration to support the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention is further exemplified by the network of Designated Laboratories.

Learn more about the Designated Laboratory Network

The SAB reports to the Director-General, who provides responses and views on its work and recommendations. States Parties receive the reports and the responses through the Director-General.

Find out more: SAB

Reports and other documents



OPCW

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Infographics and science and technology reference materials available online.



A periodic table of State Parties #IYPT2019



## Science Communication and Engagement

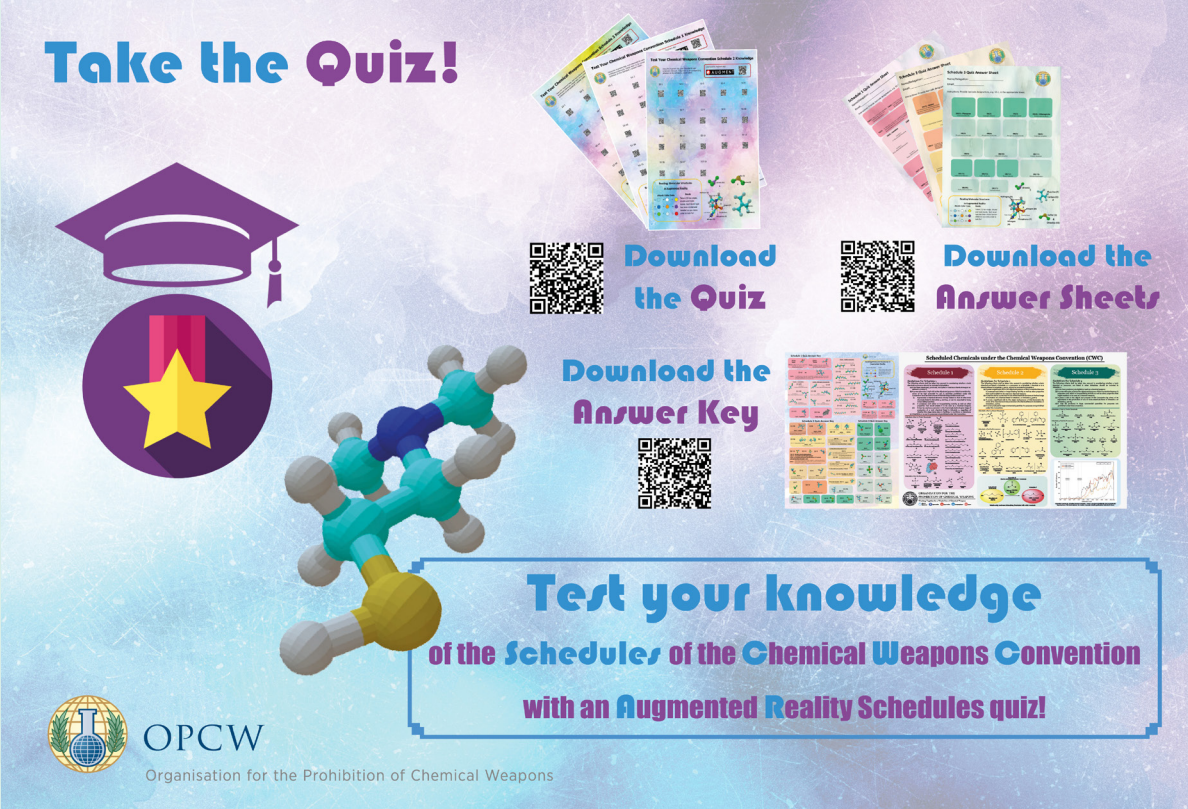
OPCW actively promotes scientific literacy for policymaking and treaty implementation. This requires productive discourse between scientific experts and diplomats from OPCW's State Parties.



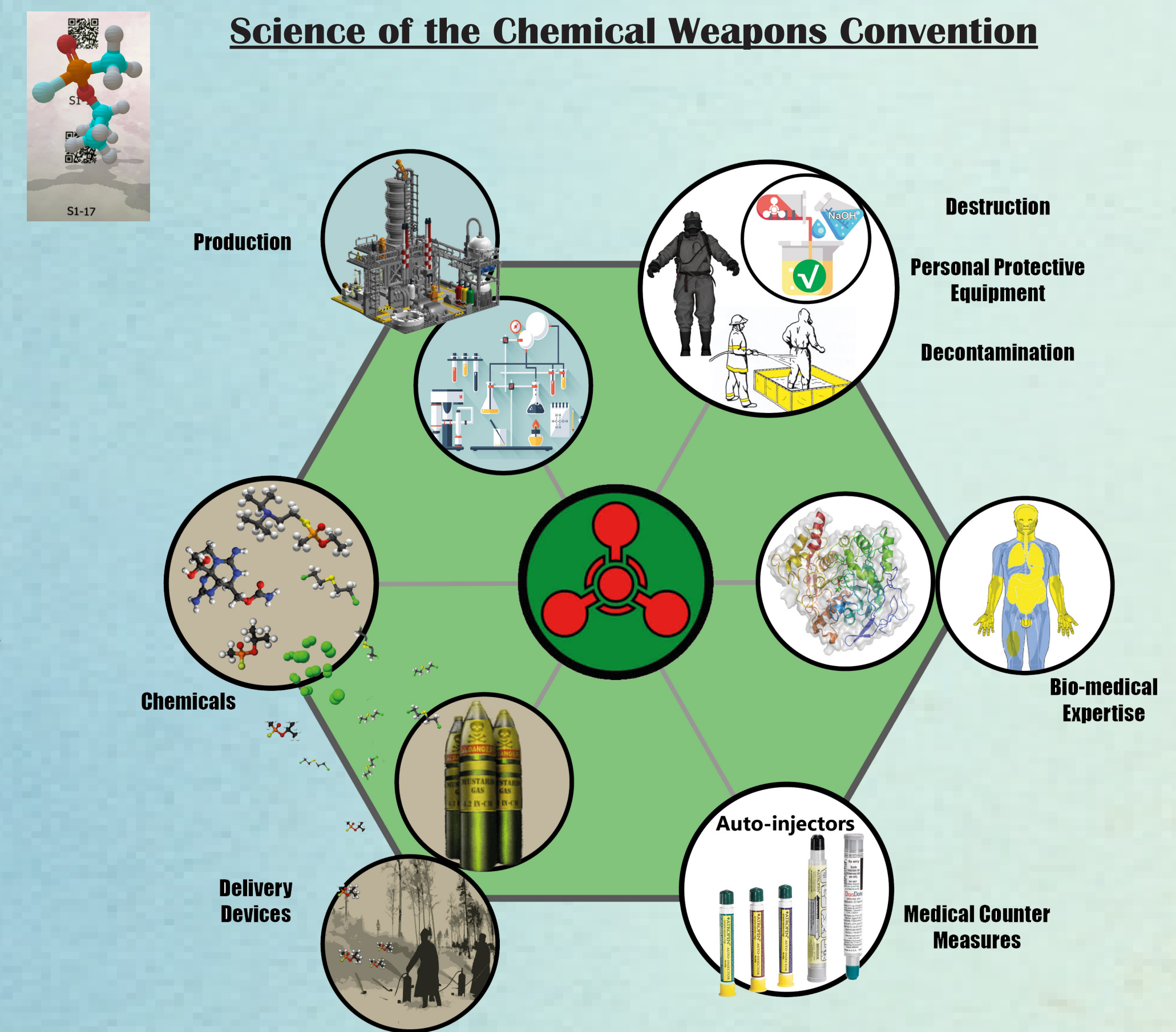
The SAB regularly briefs States Parties on its work and the OPCW's Science for Diplomats initiative provides a forum for interactive engagement with diplomats involved in the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Learn more about the Science for Diplomats Initiative

Download the quiz



### Science of the Chemical Weapons Convention



## Scientific Review for the Fourth Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention

The Scientific Advisory Board serves as an independent body that assesses and reports to the Director-General on developments in scientific and technological fields relevant to the Convention. Recognising where technological change both benefits and challenges the implementation of the Convention is an important and continual aspect of this work (in particular for verification purposes).

To ensure the OPCW keeps pace with scientific and technological change, the SAB submits a substantive report on developments in science and technology which includes recommendations for the operation of the Convention to each 5-yearly Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The most recent Review Conference (RC-4) was held 21 – 30 November 2018.

The SAB took inputs for its report to RC-4 from previous considerations to the first three Review Conferences, participation scientific conferences and meetings, review of scientific and patent literature, and a variety of new sources highlighted below (see A-D).

### A. The deliberations of the SAB during its eight regular sessions held from June 2013 to March 2018 (SAB-20 to SAB-27)

Report of the Scientific Advisory Board at its 27th Session  
(SAB-27/1, dated 23 March 2018)



Director-General's Response to the Report of the 27th Session of the Scientific Advisory Board  
(EC-88/DG.5, dated 9 May 2018)

Report of the Scientific Advisory Board at its 26th Session  
(SAB-26/1, dated 20 October 2017)



Director-General's Response to the Report of the 26th Session of the Scientific Advisory Board  
(EC-87/DG.11, dated 25 January 2018)

Report of the Scientific Advisory Board at its 25th Session  
(SAB-25/1, dated 31 March 2017)



Director-General's Response to the Report of the 25th Session of the Scientific Advisory Board  
(EC-85/DG.8, dated 19 May 2017)

Report of the Scientific Advisory Board at its 24th Session  
(SAB-24/1, dated 28 October 2016)



Director-General's Response to the Report of the 24th Session of the Scientific Advisory Board  
(EC-84/DG.9, dated 18 January 2017)

Report of the Scientific Advisory Board at its 23rd Session  
(SAB-23/1, dated 22 April 2016)



Director-General's Response to the Report of the 23rd Session of the Scientific Advisory Board  
(EC-82/DG.13, dated 7 June 2016)

Report of the Scientific Advisory Board at its 22nd Session  
(SAB-22/1, dated 21 July 2015)



Director-General's Response to the Report of the 22nd Session of the Scientific Advisory Board  
(EC-80/DG.7, dated 28 August 2015)

Report of the Scientific Advisory Board at its 21st Session  
(SAB-21/1, dated 27 June 2014)

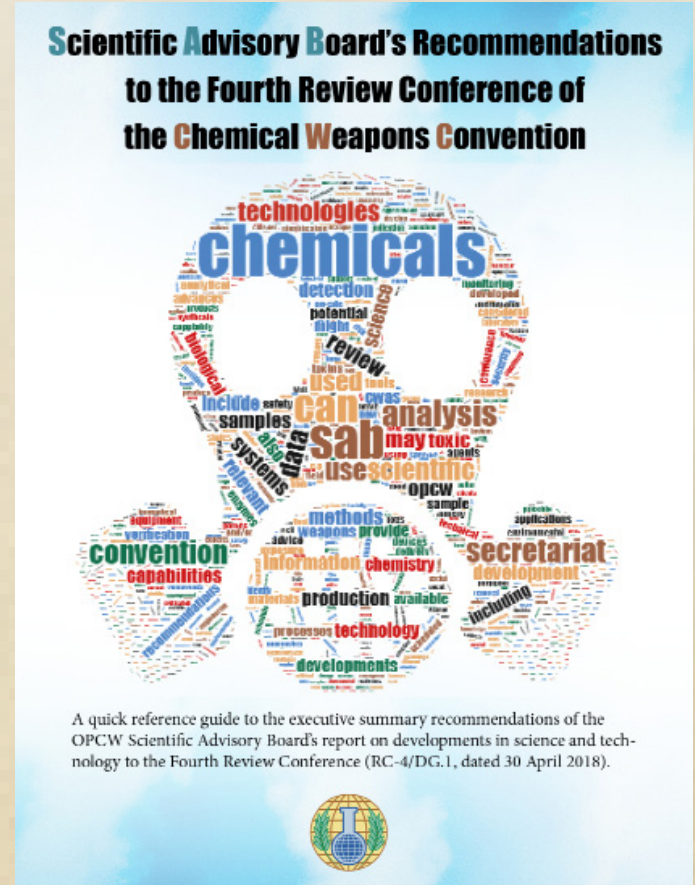


Director-General's Response to the Report of the 21st Session of the Scientific Advisory Board  
(EC-77/DG.10, dated 5 September 2014)

Report of the Scientific Advisory Board at its 20th Session  
(SAB-20/1, dated 14 June 2013)



Director-General's Response to the Report of the 20th Session of the Scientific Advisory Board  
(EC-74/DG.1, dated 24 July 2013)



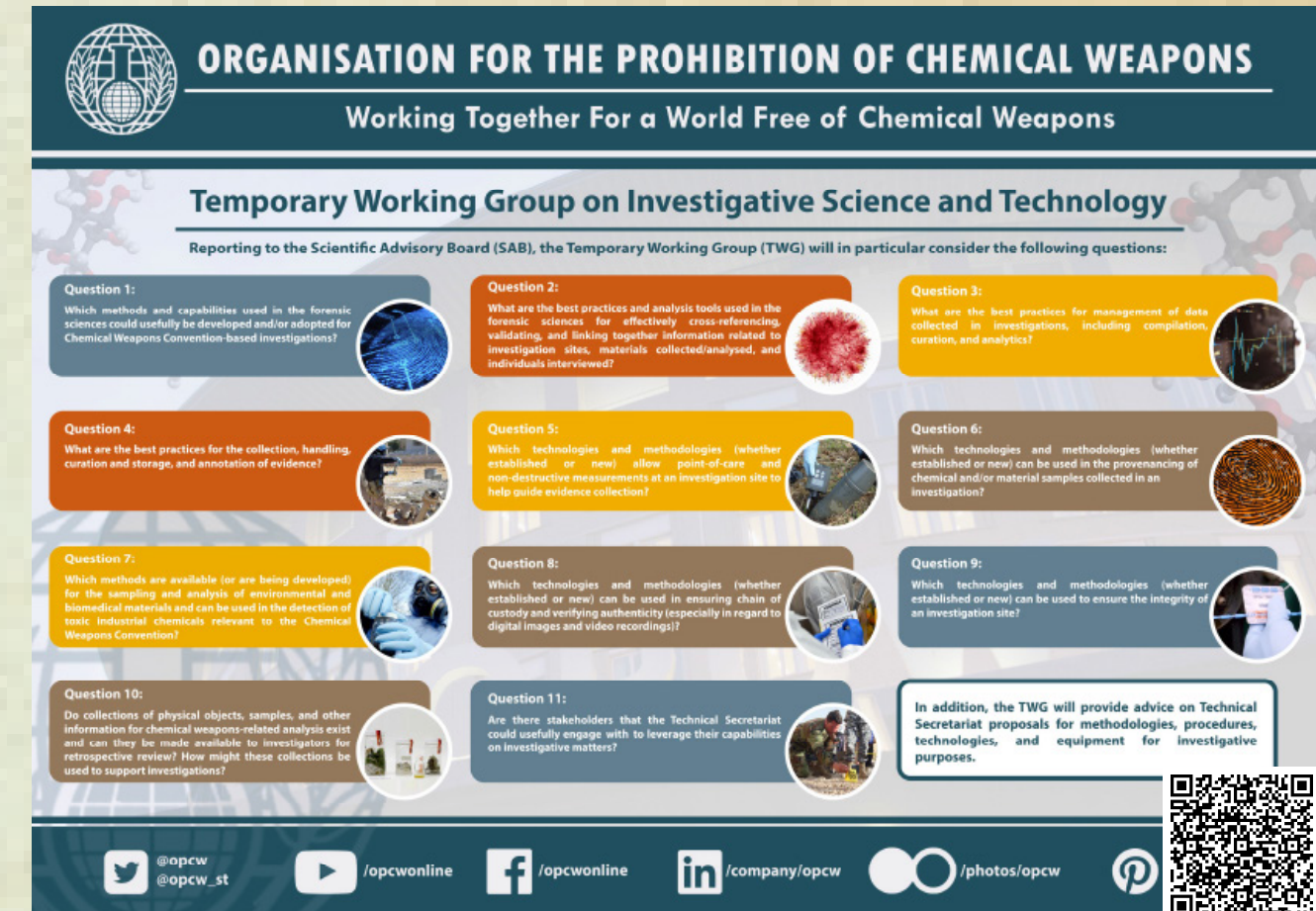
Read the Executive Summary of Recommendations to RC-4



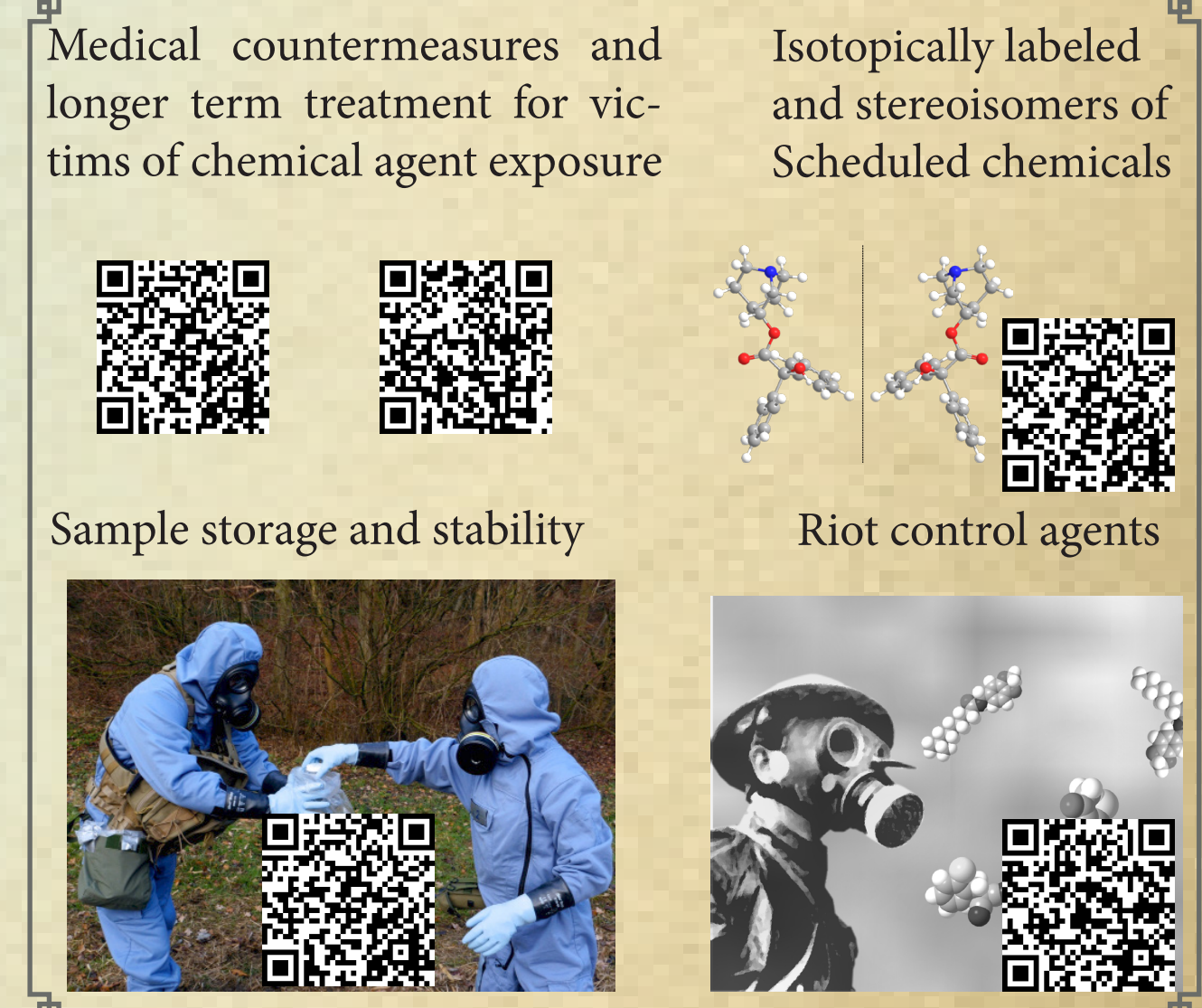
RC4 report RC-4/DG.1 30 April 2018



### B. Findings from four Temporary Working Groups



### C. Intersessional responses to requests for advice from the Director-General (2013 to 2017)



### D. A series of workshops, co-organised by external partners and kindly funded by the European Union



In the RC-4 Review Process, the SAB held 27 meetings and workshops with 747 Attendees (289 individuals from 58 State Parties) and 453 Speakers (201 individuals from 58 State Parties) were published 33 Reports

Examples of infographics and reference materials to accompany SAB advice.



Thematic considerations of the SAB in its report to the Fourth Review Conference

