



**REPORT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR OJI NYIMENUATE NGOFA
CHAIRPERSON OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON TERRORISM
TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AT ITS NINETY-FIRST SESSION**

1. Mr Chairperson, Director-General, distinguished colleagues, it is my pleasure to provide a short oral report of the meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T) held on 8 July 2019. I do so on behalf of Ambassador Ngofa, who is unavoidably absent today.
2. The meeting's theme was building capacity to counter chemical terrorism. As on previous occasions, the meeting examined elements of the Executive Council's ("the Council") October 2017 decision on non-State actors (EC-86/DEC.9, dated 13 October 2017). In particular, it provided an opportunity to learn about the European Union's (EU) approach to preventing chemicals of security concern falling into the wrong hands, and the meeting was also briefed on two recent capacity-building initiatives led by the Technical Secretariat ("the Secretariat") that have directly addressed the challenge posed by chemical terrorism.
3. In his opening remarks, the Director-General underlined the importance of national implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention ("the Convention") in countering chemical terrorism. He highlighted two key elements: establishing appropriate legal sanctions for perpetrators of acts prohibited by the Convention, and taking the necessary measures to control toxic chemicals and their precursors. The Director-General noted that the EU's approach to controlling chemicals of security concern may help States Parties considering the necessary measures to take in their own national context. He also emphasised the Secretariat's role as a builder of capacity, noting that new training programmes had been put in place in response to the Council's October 2017 decision on non-State actors. The Director-General further expressed his wish to promote dialogue among the States Parties and with the Secretariat on further assistance required to counter the threat of chemical terrorism.
4. The OEWG-T was then briefed by Ms Eva-Maria Engdahl, from the Terrorism and Radicalisation Unit in the European Commission's Directorate-General of Migration and Home Affairs. Her presentation provided an overview of the European Union's approach to chemicals of security concern. Ms Engdahl outlined the EU's 2017 CBRN¹ Action Plan to enhance preparedness against CBRN security risks because of credible security threats. She gave an overview of the EU's legislation on explosive precursors and the challenges in implementing the legislation in 28 Member States.

¹ CBRN = chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear.



Further, she provided the details of the methodology used to develop the EU's list of high-risk chemicals and some of the immediate actions taken by the European Commission to address credible chemical security threats.

5. Following Ms Engdahl's presentation, questions and comments from delegations focused on capacity-building and knowledge-sharing on chemical-security matters, and raised the importance of regulating the sale of sensitive chemicals, particularly online. Ms Engdahl noted that she saw some scope to strengthen cooperation between the OPCW and the EU on chemical-security matters.
6. The second presentation was given by Mr Kesrat Sukasam, Head of the Implementation Support Branch (IPB) of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division. He briefed the Working Group on the Secretariat's pilot workshops on the role of Convention-implementing legislation in addressing threats arising from non-State actors. He highlighted that the workshops are an important step in acknowledging the broader role that Convention-implementing legislation can play in addressing contemporary security concerns. Participants at the workshops agreed on the importance of involving a broad range of relevant national stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention. They also recognised the need in many cases to enhance the legal and regulatory infrastructure that supports chemical security, and the need for further capacity-building measures in this area.
7. The third presentation was given by Mr Shahriar Khateri, Acting Head of the Assistance and Protection Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division. He briefed the Working Group on the support the Secretariat has provided to States Parties on chemical emergency planning and response during major events. In preparation for the 2022 FIFA World Cup, the Secretariat is supporting the State of Qatar, bringing in experts from different State Parties to share their experiences on chemical emergency response during major events, and conducting threat and risk assessments.
8. Under the agenda item "Any Other Business", the Delegation of Germany provided a useful update to the Working Group on the legal disposition of the Cologne ricin case, which German experts had presented to OEWG-T's March meeting. I thank Germany for continuing to share information on this matter, in line with the Council's 2017 decision, and encourage other States Parties to follow this example should they have relevant items to report.
9. I would like to express my appreciation to the delegates and Ms Engdahl, Mr Sukasam, and Mr Khateri for their participation and presentations. The next meeting of the OEWG-T is scheduled for 7 October 2019.