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**REPORT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR OJI NYIMENUATE NGOFA  
CHAIRPERSON OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON TERRORISM  
TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AT ITS NINETY-SECOND 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 7 October 2019.
2. The meeting's theme was building capacity to respond to chemical terrorism. As on previous occasions, the meeting examined elements of the Executive Council's October 2017 decision on non-State actors (EC-86/DEC.9, dated 13 October 2017). In particular, it provided an opportunity to learn about INTERPOL's approach to countering and responding to acts of chemical terrorism. The meeting was also briefed on a capacity-building initiative led by the Technical Secretariat to address emergency planning and preparedness in hospitals.
3. In his opening remarks, the Director-General underlined three key elements in the OPCW's strategy to counter chemical terrorism: prevention, effective response, and legal accountability. Given the role of law enforcement agencies in all three aspects, INTERPOL's work supporting police forces around the world makes it a key partner for the OPCW in combatting chemical terrorism. The Director-General noted that the Technical Secretariat also works with police and other first responders to fulfil its cooperation and assistance mandate under the Convention. In this respect, he emphasised the Secretariat's new and innovative efforts to create institutional capabilities among first responders and medical services, noting that this signalled a shift in the OPCW's capacity-building approach. The Director-General highlighted the importance of continued dialogue between the Technical Secretariat, States Parties, and relevant international organisations on further efforts required to counter the threat of chemical terrorism.
4. The working group was then briefed by Mr Alan Grimmer, head of INTERPOL's Chemical and Explosives Terrorism Unit. Mr Grimmer briefed the Working Group on INTERPOL's capacity-building and incident-response support to its 194 member countries. He outlined the range of INTERPOL's programmes addressing the threat of chemical terrorism, including on chemical smuggling, scene management, command and control, and chemical risk identification. Mr Grimmer emphasised that organisations must work collaboratively to effectively confront the threat of CBRNe<sup>1</sup> terrorism. In this regard, he acknowledged the longstanding cooperation between

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<sup>1</sup> Chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive.



OPCW and INTERPOL, and the potential to build on that foundation through the complementary nature of each organisation's mandate.

5. The working group was also addressed by Mr Guy Valente, Programme Officer in the Assistance and Protection Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division. He briefed the Working Group on the Secretariat's Chemical Incident Preparedness for Hospitals, also known as HOSPREP, programme. Mr Valente explained that the HOSPREP programme uses a new approach for OPCW capacity-building, focusing on institutional rather than individual capabilities. He highlighted that clarifying institutional roles and responsibilities and identifying solutions given available resources were critical steps in creating emergency operations plans to increase hospital preparedness. Based on the examples of successful implementation of the programme in Bangladesh and Malaysia, Mr Valente noted that the local dissemination of this type of capacity building is dependent on the proper identification of institutions with which to engage. With that in place, the programme has yielded concrete, sustainable results.
6. I would like to express my appreciation to the delegates, Mr Grimmer and Mr Valente for their participation and presentations. The next meeting of the OEWG-T is scheduled for 9 March 2020. Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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