

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT****UPDATE ON EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT  
IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE  
SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 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 OPCW 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 September to 31 December 2019.

**IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT – ARTICLE VII****Training Course on Fulfilling Declarations and Inspections Obligations Under Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention, The Hague, the Netherlands, 2 to 6 September 2019**

2. The training course was organised with the aim of enhancing the practical knowledge and skills of the National Authorities and other stakeholders to implement specific obligations under Article VI of the Convention related to declarations and inspections. Participants appreciated in particular the introduction to the new electronic declaration tool—the Electronic Declaration Information System (EDIS)—through declaration exercises in the form of role plays. The Netherlands continued to contribute to the training course by offering sessions on national implementation practices and making a chemical plant site available for a mock inspection exercise. A total of 37 participants from 35 States Parties participated in the training, including four participants representing the chemical industry.

**Subregional Stakeholders Forum on Advancing National Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and Cooperation in Latin America, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17 to 19 September 2019**

3. The subregional forum on national implementation provided a venue for key national stakeholders of States Parties to the Convention in Latin America to exchange views, experiences, and practices on national Convention implementation, identifying gaps, challenges, and ways to improve their national implementation, as well as developing recommendations to address such gaps and challenges. The forum was attended by roughly 30 participants from seven States Parties and three international and regional organisations.



**Regional Training-of-Trainers (ToT) Course for Representatives of Customs Training Institutions in GRULAC Member States on Technical Aspects of the Transfers Regime of the Chemical Weapons Convention, Montevideo, Uruguay, 17 to 20 September 2019**

4. The purpose of the course was to strengthen the capacity of the Member States of the Latin America and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) to implement the Convention transfers regime for scheduled chemicals by assisting them with the introduction of the Convention modules in their respective national customs training programmes. Representatives of the participating Member States clarified their current status of Convention implementation, increased their knowledge about the Convention transfers regime and the tools to identify toxic chemicals, and strengthened partnerships between National Authorities and customs. An important output of the course was each participating Member State's development of national customs training action plans on Convention issues. The event, implemented in cooperation with the World Customs Organization, was attended by more than 30 participants representing 10 GRULAC Member States.

**Round Table Side Event, 141st IPU Assembly: "Role of Parliamentarians in Enhancing National Implementation of the Convention", Belgrade, Serbia, 14 October 2019**

5. The round table event was held on the sidelines of the 141st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), which took place from 13 to 17 October 2019. The event was attended by parliamentarians from Australia, Bangladesh, Malaysia, and Serbia. The parliamentarians shared their views on how national parliaments can play a more active role in enhancing national implementation of the Convention, and shared national experiences in implementing the Convention. In addition to the parliamentarians, the event was attended by about 15 delegates to the Assembly. The event proved a useful approach to effectively engage with parliamentarians to garner their support of the Convention.

**The Sixth Annual Meeting of Representatives of Chemical Industry and National Authorities of States Parties to the Convention, Doha, Qatar, 15 to 17 October 2019**

6. The annual event provided an opportunity for States Parties to enhance the engagement of the chemical industry in the national implementation of the Convention through effective collaboration between chemical industry and the National Authorities. The meeting sought to consolidate the views of these two key national stakeholders to improve the effective and efficient industry verification mechanism, which should keep pace with advancements in science and technology, while taking into account emerging issues. The annual meeting continued to be highly valued as a unique opportunity for direct interaction between the National Authorities and the chemical industry. A total of 74 participants from 25 States Parties from all regions attended this event. The entire cost of the event was supported by a voluntary contribution from the Government of Qatar.

**Twenty-First Annual Meeting of National Authorities, OPCW Headquarters, The Hague, the Netherlands, 5 to 7 November 2019**

7. The Annual Meeting of the National Authorities is an important event that provides a platform for National Authorities of all regions to highlight and work through relevant issues in order to enhance their capacity to comply with their Convention obligations. It also provides an opportunity for the Secretariat and States Parties to interact and discuss ways for the effective provision of capacity-building support in an integrated and comprehensive manner.
8. The programme included information and deliberation segments that addressed different developments and aspects related to Convention implementation. The proceedings entailed presentations and discussions in plenary as well as break-out groups, which provided the participants with opportunities for effective deliberation and interaction. The meeting promoted cooperation among National Authorities in order to further implementation of the Convention at the national, subregional, and regional levels.
9. The meeting fully achieved its anticipated objectives, with a total of 160 participants from 110 States Parties from all regions attending. More than 100 bilateral consultations between the Secretariat and States Parties were also conducted to discuss and address specific issues regarding national implementation.

**National Legal Workshop for the Syrian Arab Republic, The Hague, the Netherlands, 12 to 15 November 2019**

10. The workshop was organised in response to a request for assistance from the Permanent Representation of the Syrian Arab Republic to the OPCW. Five delegates from different Syrian Government ministries attended the workshop, which comprised two days of presentations aimed at familiarising them with the Convention and the obligations thereunder, and two days of legal drafting during which the delegates developed a draft bill to implement obligations under the Convention.
11. The resulting draft bill covers the required initial measures and will be further considered by Syrian Government authorities before submission to parliament. The delegation also presented an action plan outlining the next steps required to be undertaken for adoption of the bill.

**Mentorship/Partnership Programme for Representatives of National Authorities**

12. Under the Mentorship/Partnership Programme, representatives of the National Authority of Côte d'Ivoire visited France from 2 to 6 December. The visit provided the participants with diverse insights into the national Convention implementation process, as well as an opportunity to share experiences and good practices. The representatives of the National Authority of France will undertake a return visit to Côte d'Ivoire in 2020.

**Global Stakeholders Forum on the Adoption of National Implementing Legislation on the Chemical Weapons Convention, OPCW Headquarters, The Hague, the Netherlands, 3 to 5 December 2019**

13. The forum was a follow-up to the four regional and subregional stakeholder forums organised by the Secretariat in 2016 and 2017 to assist States Parties in advancing the status of adoption of national implementing legislation. It was aimed at enhancing the understanding of key stakeholders of the obligations and their respective roles in the legislative adoption process, and to update national road maps on the national implementing legislation adoption process. The programme entailed presentations, break-out group discussions, and a scenario-based exercise, which facilitated the substantial exchange of information and ideas. At the end of the event, participants committed to undertake specific actions to move the legislative adoption process forward, and developed key messages to convey to high-level decision makers on the importance of national implementation of the Convention.
14. Forty participants from 12 States Parties participated in the event, including high-level representatives from the ranks of minister, parliamentarian, and undersecretary. A representative from the 1540 Committee Group of Experts was also in attendance to discuss the link between the obligations under United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 and the Convention.

**Briefing on the Convention for Non-Hague-Based Permanent Representations, Brussels, Belgium, 14 November 2019**

15. This event is conducted annually with the aim of providing a briefing on the Convention and enhancing the understanding and awareness of different capacity-building activities and programmes to support national implementation, including the OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Africa Programme”). Representatives from 24 States Parties attended. The Director-General, the Deputy Director-General, and the Director of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division (ICA) were also in attendance.

**ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION – ARTICLE X**

**Regional Pilot Workshop on National Protective Programmes Against Chemical Weapons for States Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean, Lima, Peru, 9 to 13 September 2019**

16. This workshop was a tailored capacity-building undertaking for the Latin America and Caribbean region to assist regional States Parties in the design of their national protective programmes and in the submission of information according to paragraph 4 of Article X. It consisted of an introductory panel on best practices and a workshop devoted to providing risk and threat analysis tools to States Parties for the identification of the necessary elements to design and/or establish a national protective programme and/or implement national measures to counter a potential chemical attack.
17. The workshop was held in coordination with the Peruvian National Authority and included contributions by a panel of experts from the National Authorities of Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, and Panama. Twenty-nine experts from 15 States Parties

from the GRULAC region benefitted from this activity, which was funded through a voluntary contribution from Germany.

**Regional Advanced Course on Chemical Emergency Response for First Responders from the Asia Region, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 23 to 27 September 2019**

18. This advanced course was the second stage of the OPCW 2019 regional first responder training cycle for Asian States Parties. It was co-organised by the Secretariat and the National Authority of Malaysia, with support from the Fire and Rescue Department of Malaysia (FRDM) and the Department of Chemistry of the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Environment.
19. Participants completing the course strengthened their knowledge about chemical warfare agents, individual protective and detection and decontamination equipment, and gained an understanding of how all such equipment is to be used. The course also provided participants with knowledge on how to manage the response to an incident involving hazardous chemicals, ensuring that samples are properly taken and handled and that evidence is preserved. The training was attended by 25 participants from different Asian States Parties and was funded from the regular budget.

**Operational Training on Chemical Emergency Response, Planning, and Management for Member States of the East African Community (EAC), Jinja, Uganda, 30 September to 10 October 2019**

20. The fourth edition of this training was organised jointly with the Ugandan National Authority in coordination with the Ugandan Ministry of Defence as a part of the OPCW initiative on “Strengthening chemical emergency response, planning and management for the EAC Partner States”, which was launched in 2015 under the Africa Programme. For the first time, the operational training curriculum was delivered by an instructor team composed entirely of OPCW-trained experts from East Africa, with facilitation by a team of instructors from the Population Protection Institute of the Czech Republic.
21. Twenty-one participants and instructors from different EAC Member States attended the course, which was funded from the regular budget and a voluntary contribution from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

**Specialised Training Course on Sampling and Analysis in Highly Contaminated Areas, Algiers, Algeria, 6 to 9 October 2019**

22. This specialised training was offered by the Secretariat for the first time to French-speaking States Parties in the Africa region, and was jointly organised with the Algerian National Authority in coordination with the National Institute of Forensic Science and Criminology of the National Gendarmerie in Algiers.
23. Twenty French-speaking expert first-responders from the Africa region received full theoretical and intensive practical training in sampling and analysis of toxic chemical substances. The training course was funded through a voluntary contribution from Germany.

**Chemical Incident Preparedness for Hospitals National Training: Serdang Hospital, Selangor, Malaysia, 9 to 11 October 2019**

24. This national training course for Malaysia was organised under the Chemical Incident Preparedness for Hospitals (HOSPREP) Programme and in coordination with the Ministry of Health of Malaysia.
25. Fifty-eight participants representing medical institutions in Malaysia attended the training, along with representatives from participating HOSPREP facilities in Bangladesh and Kenya. The instruction followed established programme themes on hazard vulnerability analysis, needs assessment, and hospital emergency planning for chemical incidents, and was delivered by instructors from the Secretariat, the United States of America, and Japan.
26. The training course was jointly funded through a voluntary contribution from the United States and from the regular budget.

**International Course on Medical Aspects of Assistance and Protection Against Chemical Weapons, Xi'an, China, 14 to 18 October 2019**

27. This international training course was jointly organised by the Secretariat and the Chinese National Authority, with the support of the Air Force Medical University in the city of Xi'an. The course was designed to train medical responders in the field of emergency response to chemical incidents, and targeted medical practitioners, emergency physicians, and other medical professionals who are involved in providing hospital care for chemical casualties.
28. The course was attended by 25 participants from all geographical regions and was funded from the regular budget of the OPCW.

**Swiss Laboratory Course VIII, Spiez, Switzerland, 28 October to 1 November 2019**

29. This specialised laboratory course targeted chemists and scientific experts who may be tasked with analysing samples from a suspected chemical weapon or toxic industrial chemical scene.
30. The course was jointly organised by the Secretariat, with the support from the Government of Switzerland, and was held at the Spiez Laboratory of the Swiss Federal Institute for Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC) Protection. It attracted 10 participants from different geographical regions and was co-funded by the Swiss Government and the Secretariat.

**Regional Table-Top Exercise on Chemical Emergency Response for States Parties from the Asia Region, Nusa Dua, Indonesia, 29 October to 1 November 2019**

31. This table-top exercise was jointly conducted by the Secretariat and the National Authority of Indonesia, with the support of experts from the Indonesian Army. It focused on key operational and procedural issues of international assistance and consequence management in the case of a major chemical incident, in the light of the

relevant OPCW decisions and policies on efforts against terrorism and the provision of assistance.

32. The training was attended by 31 emergency management experts and first responders from the Asia region, and was funded through a voluntary contribution from Germany.

**Advanced Laboratory Skills Training Course, Zemianske Kostol'any, Slovakia, 4 to 14 November 2019**

33. This specialised training course, jointly organised by the Secretariat and the Slovakian National Authority, was conducted at the Reference Chemical Laboratory and Technical Training Centre in Zemianske Kostol'any, Slovakia. The course was targeted at laboratory professionals from States Parties who may be called upon to conduct analysis of scheduled chemicals as a function of their official duties. The training conveyed state-of-the-art methods and techniques relating to sample preparation and detection, analysis, and decontamination of chemical warfare agents as well as toxic industrial chemicals.
34. Ten chemists from different geographical regions were trained in the course, which was funded from the regular budget.

**Third OPCW Assistance and Protection Course for Instructors from GRULAC Member States, Mexico City, Mexico, 11 to 15 November 2019**

35. This specialised training course was jointly run by the OPCW and the National Authority of Mexico, in close cooperation with the Secretariat of the Mexican Navy (SEMAR), and with technical backing from the Peruvian Centre for Chemical Information (CINQUI) and a team of OPCW-trained instructors from Argentina, Peru, Uruguay, and Spain.
36. The course provided knowledge on instruction techniques that can be used in the provision of national and regional training on response to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals, taking stock of regional training capacities aiming at a more efficient use of available resources. The course gathered a group of 34 potential instructors from 12 States Parties of the GRULAC region and was funded through a voluntary contribution from Germany.

**Ninth International Advanced Course on Assistance and Protection Against Chemical Weapons, Islamabad, Pakistan, 11 to 15 November 2019**

37. This advanced course was intended for first responders from different geographical regions who had previously attended a basic assistance and protection training course in Serbia.
38. The course equipped 18 participants from eight States Parties with in-depth theoretical and practical knowledge on response to chemical incidents, including training in the use of protective equipment, types and characteristics of chemical warfare agents and munitions, and detection and decontamination methods. The course also included a field exercise on appropriate response to a chemical incidents and rescue of chemical casualties. This course was funded from the regular budget.

**Chemical Incident Preparedness for Hospitals Workshop for the East African Community, Mombasa, Kenya, 18 to 22 November 2019**

39. This regional HOSPREP workshop for EAC Member States was organised by the Secretariat in coordination with the Kenyan National Authority and the EAC Secretariat. The event served as a hybrid workshop-training course, delivering a combination of practical instruction and administrative policy-focused content along HOSPREP themes. Thirty-four clinical staff members and administrators of medical facilities from Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania attended the event, along with five HOSPREP programme representatives from Malaysia and Nigeria.
40. The workshop was nested within the OPCW initiative on “Strengthening chemical emergency response, planning and management for the EAC Partner States” and the fourth phase of the Africa Programme, and was funded through a voluntary contribution by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

**Field Exercise on Chemical Emergency Response for Asian States Parties, Singapore, 9 to 13 December 2019**

41. This field exercise, jointly organised by the Government of Singapore and the Secretariat, was the last stage of the OPCW 2019 regional first responder training cycle for Asian States Parties.
42. Participants had the opportunity to use the specialised knowledge and skills they had received during previous courses. Twenty-three experts/first responders finalised this specialised training, which was funded from the regular budget.

**INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION – ARTICLE XI**

**Associate Programme 2019 (the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and elsewhere), 26 July to 27 September 2019**

43. The nine-week capacity-building programme has continued to add value to global efforts to ensure that chemical weapons never again re-emerge, and that chemistry is applied exclusively for the benefit of humankind. The twentieth edition of the programme equipped 32 scientists, chemical engineers, and technological specialists from 32 States Parties with enhanced knowledge of the Convention, practical aspects of its implementation, and best practices specific to modern chemical industry. The programme included three weeks of exercises and lectures at OPCW Headquarters, a three-week chemical engineering course at the University of Surrey in the United Kingdom, and three weeks of practical training at one of 17 industrial plant facilities located in 12 OPCW Member States in Europe, Asia, and Latin America.

**Third edition of the Executive Programme on Integrated Chemicals Management, Bangkok, Thailand, 3 to 6 September 2019**

44. The programme was intended for chemists, chemical engineers, and other relevant professionals from States Parties who assume managerial and leadership responsibilities related to the implementation of the Convention. It continued to support the States Parties to build and further enhance their capacity to develop in-depth knowledge and leadership skills in integrated chemicals management,



including in the areas of chemical safety, security, and sustainability. Thirty-three participants from 20 States Parties attended the programme.

**Workshop on Policy and Diplomacy for Scientists: Introduction to Responsible Research Practices in Chemical and Biochemical Sciences, Trieste, Italy, 9 to 13 September 2019**

45. The workshop, organised for the third time since 2016, aimed to raise the awareness of young scientists holding a PhD in natural sciences and working in institutions in the States Parties in the fields of applied chemical, biochemical, or related sciences (research, academia, or industry). The programme covered policy and diplomacy aspects that are related to the use of chemicals in various scientific disciplines, including chemistry, biochemistry, biotechnology, and other related fields. In particular, scientists were updated on the Convention and other international treaties and regulatory tools governing the transfer and use of chemicals. Aspects related to sustainability, ethics, and responsibility in research practices, as well as safety and security norms and standards in science, were also addressed. The event was attended by 18 participants from 17 States Parties, with a number of international experts lecturing at the workshop.

**Two Courses on the Enhancement of Laboratory Skills at the Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN), Helsinki, Finland, 9 to 20 September 2019**

46. The two courses were aimed at enhancing the laboratory skills of participating States Parties on chemical weapons-related quantitative mass spectrometry (QMS) and nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy. Ten analytical chemists from States Parties whose economies are developing or in transition attended the courses

**Wuppertal Annual Courses on Loss Prevention and Safety Promotion in the Chemical Process Industries, Wuppertal, Germany, 23 to 27 September 2019**

47. The year 2019 marked the tenth anniversary of the Wuppertal course, which continues to be organised jointly by the OPCW, the German Federal Foreign Office, and the University of Wuppertal in view of fulfilling the overall goal of the International Cooperation Branch under Article XI of the Convention, namely, to contribute to economic and technological development through the peaceful application of chemistry. The tenth edition of the annual course included 24 participants from previous editions, who had distinguished themselves as ambassadors of safety through their special performance during and after such courses. The participants learned about the role of human factors and were introduced to risk analysis methods using the example of failure mode and effects analysis. The course focused on process control engineering, handling of protection devices, and safety management, as well as emergency planning, risk and disaster communication, and risks associated with human factors. Furthermore, a visit to the Evonik chemical company was organised.

**Training Seminar on the Chemical Weapons Convention and Port and Maritime Chemical Safety and Security Management, Doha, Qatar, 30 September to 2 October 2019**

48. The training provided a platform for attendees to share their views on new approaches to building strong ports and maritime security systems to transfer hazardous

chemicals in a more secure manner. The training was attended by 60 representatives of port authorities, coast guards, and maritime security authorities from 12 States Parties.

**Workshop on Chemical Safety and Security Management, Manama, Bahrain, 8 to 10 October 2019**

49. The training focused on building strong chemical safety and security management skills in chemical industry clusters to mitigate threats posed by non-State actors. The workshop also addressed the importance of verification measures, risk assessment in health and safety management, and chemical emergency planning to protect critical infrastructure. The training, which OPCW representatives attended as resource persons, was organised by the OPCW and Bahrain's National Committee on the Prohibition of Development, Production, Stockpiling or Use of Chemical Weapons and the Destruction of such Weapons.

**Seoul Workshop on the Peaceful Development and Use of Chemistry for Asian States Parties, Seoul, the Republic of Korea, 29 to 31 October 2019**

50. This programme was intended to enhance the capacities of Asian States Parties in the area of chemical safety and security management and in the Responsible Care® programme. During the workshop, participants gained a further understanding and knowledge in the area of chemical safety and security management, including security risk assessment, chemical threat reduction, and mitigation strategies, as well as human factor analysis of safety management. The workshop was attended by 29 participants from 13 States Parties.

**Seminar on the Chemical Weapons Convention and Chemical Safety and Security Management for Member States of the OPCW in the Eastern Europe Region, Belgrade, Serbia, 21 to 23 October 2019**

51. The seminar aimed to raise awareness of the importance of chemical safety and security policy and guidelines, so as to prevent chemical accidents and the potential misuse of toxic chemicals in Eastern European countries. The programme provided a platform for the sharing of best practices among Eastern European countries, and included presentations from the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) and from both a representative and the Chairperson of the OPCW Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), who provided insights into chemical management globally and the importance of developing a responsible culture in chemical safety and security management. Forty participants from 13 States Parties attended the programme. Participants also had the opportunity to visit the company Hip Petrohemija a.d. Pančevo and learned about best practices adopted by the chemical industry in the area of safety and security.

**Fourth Edition of the "Forum on the Peaceful Uses of Chemistry: Bridging the Gap: Chemical Security Knowledge Transfer and Capacity Building for the Next Generation", Casablanca, Morocco, 12 to 14 November 2019**

52. The main purpose of this forum was to create a platform for sharing lessons learned and best practices in chemical security management, in addition to learning about the policies adopted by OPCW Member States to foster international cooperation for chemical security management. The discussions during the forum provided an

insightful overview of various initiatives, approaches, and perspectives within academia, industry associations, and international organisations. Participants had an opportunity to discuss chemical accident and incident scenarios, and policies on chemical security capacity-building programmes for relevant stakeholders and future generations. Forty representatives from 23 States Parties comprising international and regional organisations, government agencies, chemical industries, academia, and relevant stakeholders participated in this forum. Participants also had an opportunity to visit the OCP Group industrial facility and learned about best practices adopted by the chemical industry in the area of security management.

**Workshop on Chemical Supply Chain Safety and Security Management for Member States of the OPCW in South-East Asia, Bogor, Indonesia, 19 to 21 November 2019**

53. The workshop was intended for experts from various government agencies, chemical industries, and academia and relevant stakeholders and was aimed at building and further improving the understanding and capacities of States Parties in the region in the various specific chemical supply chain safety and security management issues related to the chemical risk assessment process and inventory management that have a direct bearing on the effective implementation of the Convention. Thirty-three experts from five States Parties attended the workshop, which was funded through a voluntary contribution from the United States Department of State Chemical Security Program. Participants also had the opportunity to visit the company PT BASF Indonesia and learned about best practices adopted by the chemical industry in the area of security management.

**Advanced Proficiency Test Training for African Member States, Rijswijk, the Netherlands, 11 to 15 November 2019**

54. Two participants attended this training course provided by the OPCW Laboratory in the area of advanced analytical skills related to proficiency testing.

**Course on Analytical Skills Development, the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad, India, 25 November to 6 December 2019**

55. The course was intended for laboratory experts from various States Parties whose economies are developing or in transition and who are working in the analysis of Convention-related substances. The course equipped the participants with knowledge and skills in this area using GC/MS and in equipment maintenance and sample collection and storage. The course was attended by 20 participants from 19 States Parties.

**Second Edition of the Workshop on Developing Tools in Chemical Safety and Security Management, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 2 to 6 December 2019**

56. Under the framework of Article XI, the Secretariat organised this follow-up 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. As an outcome of this workshop, panel experts finalised a document containing indicative guidelines on chemical safety and security management for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Twenty-one representatives from international and regional organisations,

government agencies, chemical industries, and academia participated in this workshop.

**Seminar on the Chemical Weapons Convention and Chemical Safety and Security Management for Member States in the Asian Region, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 3 to 5 December 2019**

57. This programme was intended for experts from the National Authorities and relevant stakeholders dealing with chemical safety and security management. The programme equipped participants with knowledge in the area of chemical safety and security management, including chemical safety and security risk assessment, chemical threat assessment and vulnerability studies, and mitigation strategies. The course was attended by 17 participants from nine States Parties.

**Training workshop in Russian on Best Practices for Developing the Responsible Care® Programme for the Chemical Industry, Moscow, the Russian Federation, 16 to 20 December 2019**

58. The workshop was intended for environmental health and safety managers, qualified technologists, and representatives of chemical industry associations and governmental organisations from OPCW Member States in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. During the workshop, 11 participants from five States Parties gained knowledge and skills on the fundamentals of the Responsible Care® programme, which encompasses high standards of safety, security, and environmental protection throughout the chemical life cycle. The Responsible Care® programme is a global voluntary initiative developed by and for the chemical industry, and is coordinated by ICCA.

**Fellowship and Conference Support Programmes**

59. During the reporting period, three fellowships for Argentina, Kenya, and Nigeria were completed. Four fellowships were ongoing for fellows from Algeria, Cameroon and Uganda. A total of six conferences in five States Parties were sponsored under the Conference Support Programme, namely in Argentina (two), Australia, Germany, Malaysia, and Malta. In total, 31 participants have been sponsored.