

**NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL****STATUS OF THE OPCW'S CONTRIBUTION TO  
GLOBAL ANTI-TERRORISM EFFORTS****INTRODUCTION**

1. As decided by the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) in paragraph 12.4 of the report of its Sixtieth Session (EC-60/3, dated 22 April 2010), and consistent with the Council’s request contained in paragraph 16 of its decision entitled “Addressing the Threat Posed by the Use of Chemical Weapons by Non-State Actors” (EC-86/DEC.9, dated 13 October 2017), the Director-General hereby submits for the Council’s consideration at its Ninety-Sixth Session this annual Note to keep the Council informed about the OPCW’s contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts, as well as its efforts in implementing the aforementioned decisions.
2. The activities of the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) summarised in this Note, covering the period from 8 February 2020 to 4 February 2021, have continued to be based on the approach outlined in the decision by the Council at its Twenty-Seventh Session entitled “The OPCW’s Contribution to Global Anti-Terrorist Efforts”, namely, that “the full and effective implementation of all provisions of the Convention is in itself a contribution to global anti-terrorist efforts” (paragraph 1 of EC-XXVII/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2001).
3. The outcome document of the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, held in April 2013 (RC-3/3\*, dated 19 April 2013), also continued to provide reference for, and guide, the activities of the Secretariat.
4. Furthermore, in paragraph 1 of decision EC-86/DEC.9, the Council underscored the “role of the Organisation within its mandate with respect to preventing and responding to the threat posed by the use of chemical weapons by non-State actors to the object and purpose of the Convention” and, in doing so, provided additional impetus to the Secretariat’s activities.
5. Decision EC-86/DEC.9 also recognised the important role of assistance and cooperation in support of capacity building to achieve full and effective national implementation, and in assisting States Parties in investigating and prosecuting non-State actors for crimes related to the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), or in countering terrorism as it relates to chemical weapons (paragraphs 9 and 11 of EC-86/DEC.9). The Secretariat will continue to examine and implement cooperation and assistance for States Parties in this regard.



6. The Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T) remains the primary platform for the States Parties to interact with international experts and to exchange their views on the challenges posed by chemical terrorism, as well as on ways the OPCW can further address this subject through the full and effective implementation of the Convention. In 2020, the Secretariat supported the convening of two OEWG-T meetings.

### **THE OPCW'S SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL COUNTER-TERRORISM COOPERATION**

7. In 2020, the OPCW continued its active participation in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, to which it became a signatory in 2018, and in the Compact's Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection. The OPCW was selected as a vice-chair of the Working Group alongside the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), under the chairmanship of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). In this framework, the third phase of a project to enhance interagency interoperability and public communications in the event of a chemical or biological attack, jointly developed by the OPCW along with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the World Health Organization (WHO), INTERPOL, UNICRI, and the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC ISU), is to be launched in early 2021 with a new implementation schedule that re-prioritises many of the in-person activities in favour of activities achievable online.
8. The Secretariat and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 Committee Group of Experts continued to collaborate in strengthening States Parties' awareness of their relevant obligations, and to offer practical assistance in the areas in which the Convention and United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) are mutually reinforcing; namely, national legislation, chemical security, and customs and border control.

### **ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**

#### **Criminalisation of activities prohibited by the Chemical Weapons Convention**

9. The criminalisation of activities prohibited by the Convention, such as stockpiling, developing, and acquiring a chemical weapon, is a key element in preventing the use of a chemical weapon by a non-State actor. Given the transnational nature of the terrorism threat, penal legislation concerning such activities needs to be in place, and effective, in all States Parties.
10. The importance of States Parties' adoption of effective national legislation to criminalise acts prohibited by the Convention, as required by Article VII, has been highlighted by the OEWG-T discussions, and also prominently reflected in paragraphs 5 and 6 of decision EC-86/DEC.9.

11. Currently, 119 of 193 States Parties have now reported having enacted legislation covering all initial measures.<sup>1</sup> However, a sizeable global legal gap still remains, as 39 States Parties have reported having legislation covering only some of the initial measures, while 35 States Parties have yet to report on the adoption of legislation.

#### Support to the policy-making process

12. The OEWG-T continued to focus attention on the topic of legal accountability in 2020. The 9 March 2020 meeting of the Group focused on strengthening legal frameworks to counter chemical terrorism. On the basis of a presentation from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the aim of the meeting was to examine the range of international counter-terrorism instruments and to consider the role of the UNODC in supporting their implementation, as well as cooperation with the OPCW in this connection.

#### Support to States Parties

13. The Secretariat continued to support those States Parties that have yet to adopt national implementing legislation covering all initial measures. The Secretariat organised a pilot National Legislative Review Forum with a representative of the National Authority of Armenia on 27 October 2020. A second such forum was organised on 11 December 2020 with seven delegates from the National Authority of Cambodia. Participants completed preparatory online training prior to the live session. Through these events, States Parties received targeted support in assessing their national legislative and administrative frameworks and in implementing their obligations under the Convention. Specifically, the Secretariat worked to assist States Parties in reviewing the scope of their national laws and regulations relating to the Convention, identifying respective gaps and needs, and discussing potential approaches to addressing them.
14. The second Scientific International Conference on CBRNe,<sup>2</sup> held virtually from 10 to 12 December 2020 by the University of Rome Tor Vergata, was sponsored by the Secretariat under the Conference Support Programme. The Conference included discussions and presentations on legal aspects of counter-terrorism.
15. To raise awareness of the importance of adopting national legislation among National Authorities and relevant stakeholders, the Secretariat included this topic at regional meetings of the National Authorities in the Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America and Caribbean regions. Further information specific to the “Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention” (hereinafter “the Africa Programme”) is detailed below.

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<sup>1</sup> See annual reports on the status of implementation of Article VII of the Convention in 2020 (EC-95/DG.8 C-25/DG.6, dated 4 September 2020 and Corr.1, dated 2 October 2020; EC-95/DG.9 C-25/DG.7, dated 4 September 2020 and Corr.1, dated 2 October 2020; and EC-95/DG.10 C-25/DG.8, dated 4 September 2020 and Corr.1, dated 2 October 2020).

<sup>2</sup> CBRNe = chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive.

16. Noting that decision EC-86/DEC.9 encouraged States Parties “to examine their national laws to ensure that there are appropriate offences which could be used to prosecute indirect perpetrators of Convention-related crimes at the domestic level”, and also requested them “to consider whether additional mutual legal assistance arrangements would be useful in ensuring the accountability on non-State actors” (paragraphs 7 and 8), the Secretariat continued to stand ready to provide assistance or advice in this regard.

#### **Measures to prevent the hostile use of toxic chemicals by non-State actors**

17. The enhancement of global chemical security in all stages of the chemical life cycle, for instance, throughout the stages of research and development, manufacture, transport in the supply chain, storage, and disposal of toxic chemical waste, continued to serve as a useful framework for considering the OPCW’s further contribution to global efforts to prevent chemical terrorism.
18. Furthermore, decision EC-86/DEC.9, which underscored the “obligation of each State Party under paragraph 2 of Article VI of the Convention to ‘adopt the necessary measures to ensure that toxic chemicals and their precursors are only developed, produced, otherwise acquired, retained, transferred, or used’ for purposes not prohibited under the Convention” (paragraph 4), is not limited to the physical aspects of security throughout the chemical life cycle, but includes the overall management of this life cycle. This management may exist in a national chemical security programme and may include measures such as regulations, policy, and national risk assessments, as deemed necessary by each State Party.

#### Support to the policy-making process

19. During the 2 October 2020 meeting of the OEWG-T, States Parties were briefed by Mr Ulrik Ahnfeldt-Mollerup and Ms Maria Eugenia Rettori of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT). UNOCT provided information on, inter alia, its work with States, international organisations, and others to prevent and prepare for terrorist attacks involving CBRNe materials.

#### Support to States Parties

20. The Secretariat continued its tailor-made capacity-building programmes conducted on a regional basis under the OPCW’s Chemical Safety and Security Management Programme. In 2020, one workshop was hosted by a State Party and six online courses were held, together benefiting more than 200 participants.
21. Noting paragraph 10 of decision EC-86/DEC.9, which requested the Secretariat “to enhance its capacity-building programmes that facilitate the sharing of chemical safety and security best practices among States Parties”, the Secretariat in 2020 organised five events: one in-person training course and four online capacity-building programmes related to chemical safety and security management. An in-person training event was organised in Zagreb, Croatia, on 25 and 26 February 2020. Online training programmes were organised for South Asian States Parties on 25 June 2020, for African States Parties on 12 and 19 August 2020, and for East Asian and Southeast Asian States Parties on 17 November 2020.

22. The Secretariat also organised a forum on the peaceful uses of chemistry entitled “New Norms on the OPCW Capacity-Building Programme After the COVID-19 Pandemic”, which was held online on 1 July 2020. The forum provided a platform for States Parties to share lessons learned and best practices related to capacity building, and to identify ways forward and potential areas for future international cooperation in the field of chemical activities.
23. In addition, the Secretariat organised a joint online executive programme on integrated chemicals management and a seminar on the Convention and chemical safety and security management for States Parties in the Africa region on 19 August 2020. The event brought together participants ranging from representatives of government agencies and academia to the chemical industry, with the aim of strengthening synergies and providing platforms for stakeholders at all levels to cross-learn and share best practices in chemical safety and security management.
24. In order to assist States Parties in monitoring chemical trade and to prevent illicit transfers, the Secretariat continued its partnership with the World Customs Organization (WCO). In cooperation with the WCO, the Secretariat organised an online training course on the enforcement of the Convention’s transfers regime for scheduled chemicals, aimed at strengthening the capacity of customs officers from States Parties to implement relevant provisions of the Convention. More than 100 representatives of customs administrations from 38 States Parties completed the e-learning modules and participated in the live sessions. Participants learned about the transfers regime, tools to identify scheduled chemicals, the reporting of imports and exports of scheduled chemicals, and practical issues in handling chemical shipments.
25. A training course on declarations and inspections obligations under Article VI of the Convention was held online from 15 to 24 June 2020. Through this course, States Parties were assisted in the effective fulfilment of Article VI obligations and the management of contemporary security challenges in that context.
26. In response to the growing interest among States Parties to enhance their respective legal regimes to prevent an attack on a chemical facility or the unlawful release or theft of toxic chemicals, the Secretariat organised an online training course on legislative and regulatory issues of chemical security from 13 to 20 November 2020. The course aimed at enhancing the capacities of participants from States Parties in Asia in analysing respective national legal and regulatory frameworks, including identifying gaps and potential means to address them, and in developing appropriate chemical security measures. Participants completed specific training modules, provided information on respective national legal frameworks on chemical security, and attended an interactive session. The course was attended by 49 participants from 16 States Parties, as well as by technical experts from relevant international organisations, scientific laboratories, and industry and trade associations.
27. Further information specific to the Africa Programme is detailed below.

### **Ensuring an effective response to the hostile use of toxic chemicals**

28. Enhancing global capacity to respond to the hostile use of a toxic chemical has continued to be a priority area for the OPCW. The Secretariat’s efforts were aimed at supporting national and regional response capacities, enhancing the OPCW’s own

capacity to respond and provide assistance, and improving the collective response of the United Nations and other international organisations.

Support to the policy-making process

29. The 2 October meeting of the OEWG-T featured a presentation by UNOCT, which included the topic of response to terrorist attacks involving CBRNe materials.

Activities to enhance the Secretariat's capacity and readiness to respond

30. In acknowledging decision EC-86/DEC.9, which noted in its final preambular paragraph "the need to continue to enhance the Secretariat's capacity and readiness, in response to alleged incidents of chemical weapons use, to provide technical assistance, to deploy emergency measures of assistance under Article X of the Convention at the request of a State Party, and to enhance the Secretariat's readiness to conduct investigations of alleged use under Article IX and Article X of the Convention and Part XI of the Verification Annex to the Convention", the activities below are highlighted.
31. Since the establishment in 2016 of the OPCW Rapid Response and Assistance Mission (RRAM), the Secretariat has continued to improve its capacity and readiness to deploy the RRAM through field exercises, specialised training for RRAM personnel, and the Organisation's lead role in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact's Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection.
32. Despite the ongoing restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, OPCW inspectors continued to receive training courses, mostly remotely delivered but where possible in person, in a number of relevant areas, including preparation for investigations of alleged use. Training courses were also conducted for newly promoted and rehired inspectors, including team leader induction courses with enhanced content to address the needs in relation to leading OPCW teams.

Support to States Parties

33. Throughout 2020, the Secretariat continued to provide capacity-building support to States Parties to deliver on its assistance and protection mandate under Article X. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many scheduled in-person training events were converted into remote learning opportunities, and were adapted and recalibrated in an online format.
34. The Secretariat continued to provide support to States Parties in the development of their national programmes for protective purposes, pursuant to paragraph 4 of Article X. With the pandemic limiting these efforts to online formats, the Secretariat focused on theoretical aspects of chemical emergency response that could be conveyed through synchronous and asynchronous online courses. Ultimately, States Parties benefited from 15 events supporting implementation of Article X, involving over 400 first responders and other relevant stakeholders.

35. As the impact of COVID-19 extends into 2021, the Secretariat will continue to offer the above-mentioned types of online training packages for States Parties. The Secretariat will build on, leverage, and integrate these successful recent experiences for its assistance and protection programmes in the future, to supplement and complement the traditional in-person training formats. The Secretariat intends to return to its more practical face-to-face training for first responders and emergency managers as soon as circumstances safely permit.
36. Further information specific to the Africa Programme is detailed below.

### **Enhancing laboratory capacity at the OPCW and in States Parties**

37. The capability to safely analyse a wide range of chemicals and types of samples, both within the Secretariat itself and within each State Party, is of fundamental importance to the full and effective implementation of the Convention. Such capability can take a number of practical forms, ranging from the detection of chemicals in the field with handheld equipment, such as by customs agencies, to the analysis of samples in a laboratory to identify chemicals used in an attack or to determine the likely provenance of a chemical weapons agent. Forward-looking research and development is also key to making practical advancements, such as in medical countermeasures. Addressing the need to develop, nurture, and enhance this capability in a sustainable way has always been a priority for the Organisation, and continues to be important in the context of the non-State actor threat.

### Support to States Parties

38. The Secretariat continued to support States Parties in the building of their laboratory capacity across a wide range of capacities (from “basic” up to, and including, the capacity to undertake proficiency testing with the aim of receiving OPCW designated laboratory status).
39. In 2020, the Secretariat continued to implement the project “Assessing and Enhancing Capacity of Analytical Laboratories from African and GRULAC<sup>3</sup> Member States” with a voluntary contribution from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, aimed at laboratories from the Africa and GRULAC regions that are seeking OPCW designation. The first phase was completed on 31 March 2020 and resulted in the identification and assessment of capacity of seven laboratories from Brazil (two), Chile (three), Kenya (one), and Nigeria (one). Also, initial capacity-building activities for these laboratories were conducted in cooperation with Finland and Spain. In August 2020, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland renewed the funding for the project up to March 2021.
40. The OPCW Laboratory Twinning Initiative is aimed at assisting laboratories in States Parties with economies that are either developing or in transition to improve their performance in the OPCW proficiency tests, which must be successfully completed in order to become an OPCW designated laboratory. Progress was made in the development of a twinning project between Protechnik Laboratories in South Africa and the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO), for which

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<sup>3</sup> GRULAC = Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

memoranda of understanding were signed between the Secretariat and two institutions in early 2020. TNO, an OPCW designated laboratory, offers its resources with support from the Secretariat to implement a series of training and mentorship visits, aiming to enhance the capacity of Protechnik in the analysis of environmental and biomedical samples and to help it regain OPCW designation. The visits, originally planned to take place between the years 2019 and 2022, will commence as soon as travel restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic are removed.

41. Within the Fellowship Programme, the Secretariat supported six fellowships in 2020. Through the Programme for Support of Research Projects, the Secretariat supported 14 research projects focused on analytical chemistry methodologies of relevance to Convention-related chemicals. Moreover, among the new projects for which OPCW funding was approved in 2020, three projects will research analytical methods and verification techniques of relevance to the Convention.
42. Further information specific to the Africa Programme is detailed below.

#### The role of the Scientific Advisory Board

43. Through its work in assessing and reporting on developments in scientific and technological fields that are relevant to the Convention, the OPCW's Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) has an important role to play in ensuring that the Secretariat and States Parties are better placed to mitigate the threat posed by the use of chemical weapons by non-State actors. The SAB endeavours to stay abreast of emerging technologies and developments that may be attractive to non-State actors. To that end, in 2020 the Board received briefings from both OPCW and external experts on several topics of note at both its Twenty-Ninth and Thirtieth Sessions.
44. In 2020, the SAB's Temporary Working Group (TWG) on Investigative Science and Technology presented its final report, including formal recommendations of relevance to the provision of technical assistance in cases of suspected chemical terrorism. Against the background of the Secretariat's ongoing contingency operations, the objective of the TWG was to review science and technology relevant to investigative work, especially for validating and determining the provenance (chronology of ownership, custody and/or location) of evidence, and the integration of multiple and diverse inputs to reconstruct a past event. The work of the TWG was intended to identify capabilities, skill sets, and equipment that would augment and strengthen the Secretariat's investigative capabilities, with particular relevance for countering the terrorist use of chemical weapons. The Secretariat is currently reviewing the recommendations, to understand how they can impact ongoing and future work.

#### The OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology and the network of designated laboratories

45. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, progress was made in 2020 in the project to upgrade the OPCW Laboratory and Equipment Store to a Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre) within the planned timeline and budget. The final design was completed in July, and the tender process for construction of the project was begun. In addition, the application for the construction permit was submitted to the municipality of Pijnacker-Nootdorp, which is the permitting authority for this project. Furthermore, the Secretariat continued to maintain a dedicated webpage for the project on the OPCW website, which was updated regularly.



46. To date, EUR 33.4 million in funding from 46 countries, the European Union, and other donors has been received, with a further EUR 50,000 required to reach full funding. Once completed, the ChemTech Centre will provide expanded and enhanced analytical, operational, and capacity-building capabilities that will help States Parties to better prepare for and respond to threats and uses of chemical weapons by non-State actors.
47. The OPCW network of partner laboratories that were available for off-site analysis of samples remained strong in 2020; 21 laboratories from 18 States Parties met the requisite criteria to become or to retain their status as OPCW designated laboratories for the analysis of environmental samples.
48. In 2020, the Secretariat conducted the Fifth Biomedical Proficiency Test. The OPCW network of partner laboratories has increased since 2019, with 18 laboratories from 13 States Parties having met the requisite criteria to become or to retain their status as OPCW designated laboratories for the analysis of biomedical samples.
49. In December 2020, the OPCW Laboratory began the fifth exercise on the analysis of biologically derived toxins. These exercises further enhance the OPCW partner laboratories' capabilities in this area and help arrive at commonly accepted analysis and reporting criteria.
50. The OPCW Laboratory continued to monitor scientific progress and developments in the field of chemical forensics, and is actively pursuing the transfer of methods among the network of laboratories for in-depth evaluation. Such methods will enlarge the toolkit available to the designated laboratories for the analysis of samples and the determination of chemical signatures.

**Efforts by the OPCW to enhance chemical security and counter-terrorism efforts as part of the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2020**

51. Africa continues to face particular challenges from terrorist threats and attacks in several countries, including in the Sahel, the Chad Basin, the African Great Lakes, and the Horn of Africa subregions. The potential use of chemicals by non-State actors, including terrorist and violent extremist groups, to perpetrate terrorist attacks is a serious threat.
52. Since 2007, the OPCW has operated the Africa Programme with a view to responding to African States Parties' needs and priorities in relation to the Convention, including the promotion of peaceful uses of chemistry for a developed, safe, and secure Africa. The Programme is based on triennial cycles (or phases). The fifth phase was launched on 1 January 2020. Its specific objectives were developed based on wide and inclusive consultations conducted by the Secretariat with African States Parties throughout 2019.
53. In terms of preventing and responding to chemical terrorism in Africa, the fifth phase follows an integrated approach aimed at enhancing chemical security in the continent. This approach is multidimensional and focuses on developing the capacities of African States Parties in the areas listed in paragraphs 54 to 59 below.

Advancing national implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in Africa

54. The relevant activities conducted by the Secretariat in 2020 included a study visit by a Moroccan parliamentary delegation to the OPCW Headquarters (17 February) and regional meetings of National Authorities. Moreover, the Secretariat secured the active participation of African States Parties in the Seventh Annual Meeting of Representatives of Chemical Industry and National Authorities of States Parties to the Convention (17 and 18 November) and in the online Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of National Authorities (23 to 25 November). In addition, the Secretariat convened productive information and coordination meetings with the Steering Committee of the Africa Programme (26 June and 16 November) and with the African delegations based outside The Hague (18 November).

Control of cross-border transfers of toxic chemicals

55. Thirty-four participants from 10 African States Parties took part in an online training course, organised with the WCO, on the enforcement of the Convention in respect of strengthening controls on cross-border transfers of toxic chemicals so as to prevent access to such chemicals, including by non-State actors, for purposes prohibited under the Convention.

Advancing chemical safety and security culture, standards, and practices in Africa

56. In 2020, the Secretariat organised a series of capacity-building activities that benefitted African Member States, including those referred to in paragraphs 17 to 26 above, in respect of measures to prevent the hostile use of toxic chemicals by non-State actors.

Enhancing protection and response capabilities against chemical incidents and attacks

57. In 2020, the Secretariat arranged the participation of African States Parties in an international course on pre-hospital medical care for chemical casualties in Doha, Qatar (17 to 20 February). The Secretariat also organised a national basic training course on assistance and protection against chemical weapons in Kigali, Rwanda (2 to 6 March); an online basic training course on the use of the wireless information system for emergency responders in the East African Community (19 and 20 October); a regional virtual table-top exercise on chemical emergency response for the Economic Community of West African States (16 and 17 November); an online basic course on assistance and protection for members of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (23 and 24 November); an online basic course on emergency response to chemical incidents for North Africa and the Sahel, jointly run with the Government of Morocco (7 to 10 December); and a refresher course for instructors on chemical emergency response, planning, and management from States Parties in the East African Community with the support of and co-facilitation by the Population Protection Institute of the Czech Republic (15 December).
58. In addition, the Secretariat initiated a project aimed at assisting States Parties in the Southern African Development Community to identify critical needs related to their national protection against chemical weapons through the assessment of existing chemical risks and response capacity at the national level.

Strengthening and developing chemical laboratory competencies and infrastructure

59. In the year under review, the Secretariat ensured the participation of African laboratories in a training course on the analysis of Convention-related chemicals and preparation for OPCW proficiency testing in Helsinki, Finland (10 to 14 February) and in an online workshop entitled “Assessing and Enhancing Capacity of Analytical Laboratories from African and GRULAC Member States: Toward OPCW Designation” (2 and 3 June). In addition, jointly with VERIFIN, the Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Secretariat accommodated the participation of African States Parties in online analytical chemistry courses focusing on liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry and on laboratory quality management (7 to 11 September). The Secretariat also facilitated the transfer of laboratory equipment donated by Germany to the Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania.
60. Furthermore, in order to enhance the effectiveness of the African States Parties in the implementation of the Convention and in countering chemical terrorism, in 2020 the Secretariat devised eight proposals for special projects for extra-budgetary funding under the fifth phase of the Africa Programme, with a total estimated budget of EUR 1,203,000. These projects are: Africa CHEMEX, developing chemical emergency response capacity in Africa; a regional conference on enforcing effective control of the trade in toxic chemicals in Africa; a specialised analytical chemistry course for laboratories supporting customs services in Africa; peer-to-peer customs “train the trainers” courses delivered by African customs training institutions with the support of the OPCW; a specialised course on equipment maintenance for African laboratories; an influential visitors’ programme for members of the Pan-African Parliament; a legal workshop for African parliamentary institutions; and enhancing South-South cooperation through the Mentorship/Partnership Programme. The Secretariat has been actively seeking voluntary funding for these projects, including through direct contacts with potential donors.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Further detail on the estimated budget is contained in EC-95/DG.11 C-25/DG.9 (dated 10 September 2020).