



**REPORT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR VUSIMUZI PHILEMON MADONSELA
CHAIRPERSON OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON TERRORISM
TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AT ITS NINETY-SIXTH SESSION**

1. Mr Chairperson, Director-General, distinguished colleagues, it is my pleasure to provide a short oral report on the meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T) held on 8 March 2021.
2. The Working Group met again in an online format due to the ongoing difficulties associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. I would like to thank all delegates who took part in the meeting, thus demonstrating that the OPCW's work in countering chemical terrorism can continue despite the current situation.
3. As I stated in my last report to the Executive Council (hereinafter "the Council"), I intend to continue the Working Group's focus on the implementation of the Council's decision on non-State actors (EC-86/DEC.9, dated 13 October 2017). Our meeting yesterday, therefore, focused on international cooperation in countering chemical terrorism. Through a presentation delivered by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the meeting was an opportunity for delegates to learn about a new INTERPOL region-by-region study on access to and use of CBRNE¹ materials by non-State actors. The meeting also allowed for consideration of the current and future scope for partnership between INTERPOL and the OPCW in the area of chemical terrorism.
4. In his opening remarks, the Director-General emphasised the ever-strengthening relationship between INTERPOL and the OPCW. He highlighted both organisations' membership of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, and in particular the leading roles both play as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively of its Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection. He also observed that both organisations interact closely in this context on the third phase of an OPCW-led project to enhance interagency cooperation and public communications in the event of a chemical or biological attack. The Director-General expressed a wish for the relationship to operate in due course under a memorandum of understanding to further facilitate collaboration between the two organisations.
5. The Working Group was then briefed by Mr Christian Carnus, Criminal Intelligence Analyst at the CBRNE and Vulnerable Targets Sub-Directorate of INTERPOL. Mr Carnus outlined the study, including its objectives, the methodology to be

¹ CBRNE = chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives.



employed, information sources to be used, as well as current and future activities to be carried out. In addition, Mr Carnus described INTERPOL's partnership with the OPCW, including the intent for formalised cooperation through agreeing a memorandum of understanding.

6. Following the presentation by INTERPOL, questions and comments from the Director-General and delegations addressed the use of the Internet, including the deep web, by non-State actors, as well as plans for the study, as it pertains to certain countries and regions. There was also a discussion on the role of the Working Group as a forum for sharing information on experiences related to non-State actors, and on how the consideration of specific cases raised by delegations in the Group, while not falling within its current mandate, are and can be addressed by the Secretariat through other means.
7. At the end of the meeting, under the item "Any other business", no further issues were raised by delegations.
8. I take this opportunity to express my profound appreciation to the delegates and to our expert presenter, Mr Carnus, for his participation.
9. The next meeting of the OEWG-T is scheduled to take place prior to the Ninety-Seventh Session of the Executive Council. The date and modalities of the meeting will be communicated closer to the time.
10. Thank you, Mr Chairperson.