

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT****PROGRESS IN THE PROJECT TO UPGRADE THE OPCW LABORATORY  
AND EQUIPMENT STORE TO A CENTRE FOR CHEMISTRY AND TECHNOLOGY****BACKGROUND**

1. On 10 July 2017, the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) issued Note S/1512/2017 entitled “Upgrading the OPCW Chemical Laboratory to a Centre for Chemistry and Technology”, explaining the new challenges and changing requirements that made it necessary to modernise and expand the capabilities of the current OPCW Laboratory and Equipment Store in Rijswijk. In Note S/1561/2017 entitled “Request from the Director-General to States Parties for Voluntary Contributions to a New Trust Fund for Upgrading the OPCW Chemical Laboratory to a Centre for Chemistry and Technology” (dated 8 December 2017), the Secretariat informed States Parties of the establishment of a trust fund for this project and requested voluntary contributions.
2. The key objectives, project scope, and initial cost estimate and schedule were described in the Note entitled “Needs Statement for Upgrading the OPCW Chemical Laboratory to a Centre for Chemistry and Technology” (S/1564/2017, dated 22 December 2017 and Corr.1, dated 3 January 2018). Updates on the progress made in implementing the project were provided in Notes S/1769/2019 (dated 9 July 2019), S/1859/2020\* (dated 9 March 2020), S/1881/2020 (dated 30 June 2020), S/1912/2020 (dated 16 November 2020), and S/1956/2021 (dated 17 May 2021) entitled “Progress in the Project to Upgrade the OPCW Laboratory and Equipment Store to a Centre for Chemistry and Technology”. Note S/1769/2019 also provided detailed information regarding the project’s expected benefits as well as its revised scope, cost, and schedule.
3. The Secretariat has provided numerous briefings on the project to States Parties at side events during regular sessions of the Executive Council and of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”). Additional briefings were provided to States Parties during the meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities of the OPCW on 2 October 2017, and during informal budget facilitations and meetings of the Friends of the Laboratory Group in 2018, 2019, and 2020. A pre-recorded briefing was provided to States Parties in April 2020 to present the preliminary design of the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre).
4. This Note is intended to update States Parties on the progress made in the planning and implementation of the project since the issuance of the previous update in May 2021 (S/1956/2021).



## **IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS**

### **Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic**

5. The Secretariat continues to closely monitor the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the project. To date, owing to the mitigation efforts by the Secretariat, the pandemic has not had a material impact on the project. The Secretariat will continue with its efforts to assess and mitigate, to the extent possible, the existing and potential impact of the pandemic on the project, and will keep States Parties informed.

### **Construction phase initiation and progress**

6. As reported previously, the main construction contract was signed in April 2021. Preparatory activities for construction began immediately after the contract was signed. These activities consist primarily of:
  - (a) mobilisation of the construction team and contracting of the required subcontractors by the main contractor (hereinafter “the Contractor”);
  - (b) preparation of process documents by the Contractor for OPCW review and approval—these documents contain the project management and quality assurance plans;
  - (c) preparation of a detailed design for the production of construction and installation components—the Contractor has joined the design team for the development of this design to ensure that the necessary construction expertise is provided; and
  - (d) preparation of the production design drawings by the Contractor, which are based on the detailed design—these are the drawings that will be used by the Contractor for construction.
7. Work on the detailed design and production design drawings will proceed in parallel with construction. Upon the completion of the detailed design such as the concrete foundation and superstructure of the building, the Contractor will prepare the production design drawings and then build these elements of the building. As construction of these elements proceeds, the detailed design and production design drawings of the subsequent elements to be constructed will be developed.
8. Construction activities on site started in June with the ground excavation (see Figure 1). Work on the foundation will start in early July before the traditional holiday period in the construction industry begins in mid-July. This work will begin with the drilling of 195 pile foundations in the ground to a depth of approximately 22 metres, to create a stable ground layer capable of supporting the weight of the new building.
9. After the holiday break, in mid-August, the construction company will continue with the foundation and the ground flooring, which is scheduled to be completed at the end of the third quarter of this year. At the beginning of the fourth quarter, the structural works will start with the mounting of the steel structure and the prefabricated concrete walls and concrete floors.

**FIGURE 1: START OF THE FIRST GROUND WORK ON SITE (10 JUNE 2021)**



10. The structural work is currently planned to be finished in the first quarter of 2022. After this work, the facade and roof works will start, together with the installation of the mechanical systems. The finishing work will start in the second quarter of 2022. It will consist of the installation of electrical, safety, and security systems, and of the laboratory fixtures, panelling, interior walls, doors, ceilings, and other finishings. During this period the security and laboratory furnishing contractors will provide their services.
11. The commissioning of the building will take place in the third and fourth quarters of 2022 to enable construction to be finished by the end of 2022, in accordance with the time schedule.

**FIGURE 2: TIME SCHEDULE OF THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE**

Construction Phase	2Q 2021	3Q 2021	4Q 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022
Detailed design							
Production design							
Foundation							
Ground floor							
Steel structure and flooring							
Facade and roof							
Mechanical engineering							
Finishing work incl. electrical, safety and security systems							
Laboratory interior							
Commissioning							

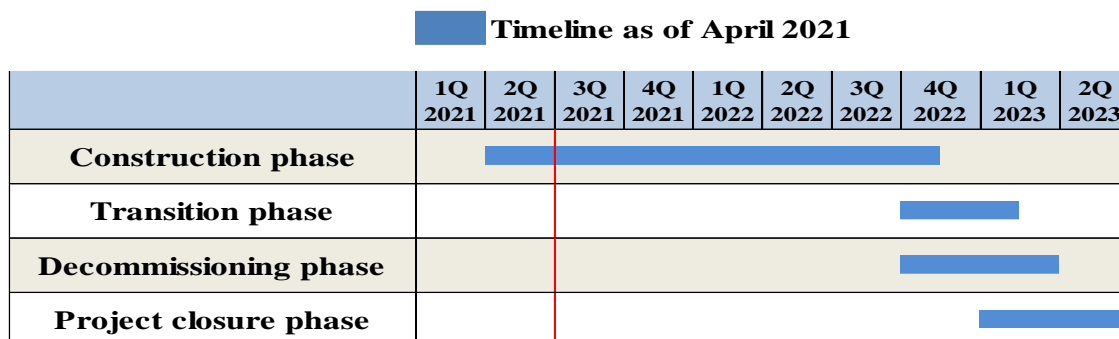
### Construction tenders progress

12. After the award of the main construction contract in April 2021, there remain two construction tenders:
- (a) Security tender: This lot contains the security-related installations for the ChemTech Centre, such as the perimeter fence, access control, and surveillance systems. The preselection of companies for this tender was completed in December 2020 and the request for the proposal phase began in January 2021. The tender is now in its final stages and the contract is expected to be awarded in July 2021.
  - (b) Laboratory furnishings tender: This lot contains the installation of the laboratory furnishings for the ChemTech Centre, such as the fume hoods and laboratory benches. The preselection phase for this tender was completed in May 2021, and the selection phase is ongoing. The contract is expected to be awarded in the autumn of 2021.

### Overall implementation progress

13. Figure 3 below indicates the overall progress made to date in respect of project implementation. The project remains on track, with the construction of the ChemTech Centre scheduled to be completed by the end of 2022.

**FIGURE 3: OVERALL PROGRESS TO DATE**



### FINANCIAL STATUS AND REGULAR BUDGET IMPACTS

#### Expenditures to date

14. As at 1 June 2021, approximately EUR 5.2 million had been spent on the project. The expenditures to date, as compared to the cost estimate provided to States Parties in Note S/1956/2021, are shown in the table below.

**TABLE: PROJECT BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE**

<b>ChemTech Centre Project Budget and Expenditure</b>		
<b>Budget Item</b>	<b><u>COLUMN A</u> Current Estimate (April 2021, in EUR)</b>	<b><u>COLUMN B</u> Expenditure To Date (as at 1 June 2021, in EUR)</b>
Building costs	20,763,000	0
Land purchase and related costs	2,363,000	2,306,564
Design costs	1,385,000	860,356
Outside area and site infrastructure	553,000	0
Equipment costs	50,000	50,000
Furniture and workstations	924,000	0
Transition costs	316,000	0
Decommissioning of facilities	400,000	0
OPCW project management staff	1,505,501	844,098
Project management and advisory services	2,401,561	787,506
Contingency	1,690,000	0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>32,351,062</b>	<b>4,848,524</b>
Programme support costs (7%)	1,091,254	318,352
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,442,316</b>	<b>5,166,876</b>

**Fundraising progress**

15. To date, approximately EUR 33.6 million in voluntary contributions has been pledged or provided to the project's Trust Fund by 47 countries, the European Union, and other donors. These contributions have been made or pledged by: Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the European Union, Israel (signatory State), and other donors. Additional States Parties have indicated that they are considering making contributions.

16. The ChemTech Centre Trust Fund remains open for further contributions. Additional contributions would provide extra assurances for the successful completion of the project and for international cooperation projects to be carried out at the Centre as soon as the building is operational. This will afford further opportunities for States Parties to participate in supporting the ChemTech Centre.

#### **COMMUNICATION**

17. The Secretariat is planning a ceremony on 23 September on the plot of the ChemTech Centre in Heron Business Park in Pijnacker-Nootdorp to mark the start of construction, if conditions allow. The details will be developed considering the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Secretariat will keep States Parties updated in this regard.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

18. In the coming months, the Secretariat will focus on the construction of the ChemTech Centre with its detailed design and production design, the completion of the security and laboratory furnishing contracts, and the planning for the ceremony to mark the start of construction.
19. The Secretariat will continue to update the ChemTech Centre webpage at <https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/featured-topics/chemtech-centre>.
20. The Secretariat will also continue to provide States Parties with briefings and written reports to keep them informed of the status of the project. The next report will be submitted to the States Parties in advance of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference.