



S/2026/2022  
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**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), S/1956/2021 (dated 17 May 2021), S/1965/2021 (dated 24 June 2021), and S/2003/2021 (dated 9 November 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 (hereinafter “the 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 from 2018 to 2021. 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). A presentation on the design of the ChemTech Centre was provided by the architect during the “first pillar” ceremony on 23 September 2021.
4. The latest information on the project has been made available on the ChemTech Centre webpage (<https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/featured-topics/chemtech-centre>).



5. This Note updates States Parties on the progress made in the planning and implementation of the project since the previous update in November 2021 (S/2003/2021).

## **IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS**

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

6. 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 any 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.

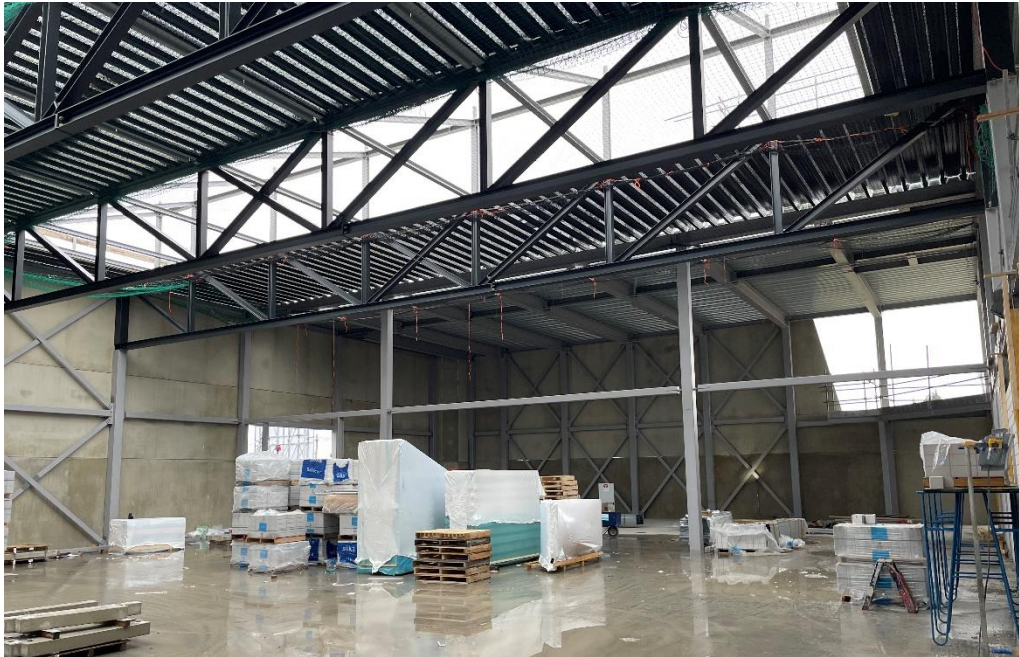
### **Construction phase progress**

7. The construction of the new facility is on schedule. Mounting of the prefabricated concrete structure and steel structure was completed in January 2022 (see Figures 1, 2, and 3 below), after which the work on the facade and roof of the building began. The installation of the mechanical systems such as ductwork and piping for the laboratories also began at the end of January 2022.

**FIGURE 1: PLACEMENT OF THE STRUCTURE AND FACADE  
(28 JANUARY 2022)**



**FIGURE 2: EQUIPMENT STORE WITH FACADE AND WALLS IN PLACE (3 FEBRUARY 2022)**



**FIGURE 3: STRUCTURE OF THE CENTRAL HEART (3 FEBRUARY 2022)**



### **Procurement**

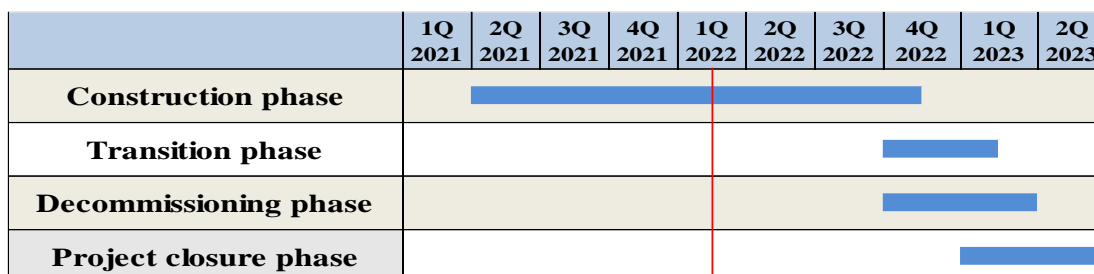
8. The tender for isolators (glove boxes) to be placed in the ChemTech Centre laboratory facilities started in January 2022. The preparation of the tenders for the non-fixed furniture such as desks, chairs, and monitors, as well as workstations for the expanded training facilities, has also started.



### Overall implementation progress

9. Figure 4 below indicates the overall progress made in respect of project implementation. The project remains on schedule, with the construction of the ChemTech Centre planned to be completed by the end of 2022.

**FIGURE 4: OVERALL PROGRESS TO DATE**



### FINANCIAL STATUS

#### Expenditures to date

10. As at 31 January 2022, approximately EUR 9.9 million had been spent on the project. The expenditure to date, as compared to the cost estimate provided to States Parties in Note S/1956/2021, is shown in the table below. The project remains on budget.

**TABLE: PROJECT BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE**

<b>ChemTech Centre Project Budget and Expenditure</b>		
<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>COLUMN A Current Estimate (April 2021, in EUR)</b>	<b>COLUMN B Expenditure To Date (as at 31 January 2022, in EUR)</b>
Building costs	20,763,000	3,907,379
Land purchase and related costs	2,363,000	2,306,564
Design costs	1,385,000	1,047,173
Outside area and site infrastructure	553,000	17,773
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	1,162,261
Project management and advisory services	2,401,561	1,041,280
Contingency	1,690,000	0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>32,351,062</b>	<b>9,532,430</b>
Programme support costs	1,091,254	349,735 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,442,316</b>	<b>9,882,165</b>

<sup>1</sup> The number reflects the adjustments of the programme support costs (S/1956/2021).

### **Fundraising progress**

11. To date, approximately EUR 33.7 million in voluntary contributions has been pledged or provided to the project's Trust Fund by 53 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, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, 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.
12. The ChemTech Centre Trust Fund remains open for further contributions. Additional contributions would provide extra assurance for the successful completion of the project and for projects to be carried out at the Centre as soon as the building is operational.

### **COMMUNICATION**

13. A video on the construction progress of the Centre up to November 2021 was presented to States Parties during the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference and is available on the ChemTech Centre webpage (<https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/featured-topics/chemtech-centre>). An updated version of the video is being prepared and is expected to be available in March 2022.
14. The construction site may be viewed in real time via a publicly accessible webcam, which is available online (<https://bouw.live/chemtech-centre/>).

### **NEXT STEPS**

15. In the coming months, the project team's priorities will include construction, procurement, and detailed planning for the transition phase.
16. The Secretariat will continue to update the ChemTech Centre webpage (<https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/featured-topics/chemtech-centre>).
17. 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 100th Session of the Council.