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REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE X OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2023. All dates provided herein fall within that period, unless otherwise stated. As part of its drive to continuously improve official reporting, and to improve clarity of submissions made under paragraphs 4 and 7 of Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention), the Technical Secretariat (the Secretariat) has changed the annual reporting period for Article X from 1 July to 30 June, covering two consecutive years, to 1 January to 31 December of the same calendar year. This report aligns the annual status update on the implementation of Article X with the 2023 international cooperation and assistance work programme.
- 1.2 As set out in this report, the Secretariat has continued to assist States Parties in implementing the provisions of Article X of the Convention. The aim of the Assistance and Protection Branch is to support States Parties in reducing risks associated with incidents involving toxic chemicals, as part of the focus on preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons. The Branch's mission is:
- (a) to reduce the harm and impact caused by incidents involving toxic chemicals by supporting States Parties in their development of robust and effective first-response capabilities and capacities and national protection plans; the hardening of targets through enhanced first-response capabilities will also have an important deterrent effect; and
 - (b) to deter the malicious use of toxic chemicals by building the capacities of States Parties to investigate incidents involving the use of toxic chemicals.
- 1.3 As long as the threat of the malicious use of toxic chemicals persists, there will be a need to maintain and improve the protective capabilities of all States Parties in terms of their domestic response, and their ability to assist other States Parties through partnership frameworks. During the reporting period, the Secretariat continued to work closely with several regional and subregional organisations to enhance collective capacities to respond effectively to chemical emergencies. It will continue to reach out to such organisations in other regions, thereby strengthening its facilitation of regionally coordinated response measures.

- 1.4 In partnership with donor States Parties and partner training centres, the Assistance and Protection Branch conducted a total of 36 capacity-building activities, resulting in a total of 805 individuals benefitting from a broad range of training opportunities aimed at supporting Article X implementation.
- 1.5 During the reporting period, the Assistance and Protection Branch implemented a new approach to the regional training cycles—which are the keystone of its capacity-building activities—and moved from a training cycle comprising three in-person components to a more efficient hybrid set-up that comprises five continued training components: two in-person courses and three online courses. This improvement to the core capacity-building activity follows the request of the States Parties to further improve the cost-efficiency of the International Cooperation and Assistance Programme. This new approach will evolve further, bearing in mind lessons learned and with a view to increasing the efficiency and impact of the training programmes, while also allowing needs-based delivery of specialised trainings.
- 1.6 The online components referred to above provide specialists from all States Parties with information relevant to the implementation of Article X, including the basic principles of protection against chemical weapons and response to incidents involving toxic industrial chemicals. They support preparation for more intensive two-phase practical, hands-on training and scenario-based exercises, which consist of the basic training course and the advanced training and exercise course.
- 1.7 The Secretariat has continued to conduct activities under Article X related to assistance and protection for Ukraine, upon its request, as a consequence of the ongoing war there.
- 1.8 During the reporting period, the Assistance and Protection Branch conducted in-person capacity-building activities in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as at the international level to participants across all regional groups.
- 1.9 During the reporting period, the Secretariat also successfully used its Instructor Development and Exchange Programme for both online and in-person training to enhance the exchange of expertise and to foster a broader approach to the standardisation and harmonisation of training curriculum delivery under the new hybrid approach. This Programme also helps maintain the Organisation's state of readiness to respond to a request for assistance.
- 1.10 The Online Self-Assessment Tool (OSAT) will continue to support the development of robust national protection plans at the subregional and national level, through risk-based needs assessment and a better targeting of areas for capacity-development assistance. To promote the use of the OSAT, during the reporting period the Assistance and Protection Branch engaged with the OPCW Member States of the Caribbean subregion, the Member States of RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation in South-Eastern Europe, and Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

- 1.11 The multi-component chemical emergency response capacity-building exercise for the Africa region (CHEMEX) was the first-ever OPCW large-scale chemical emergency response exercise for African countries. During this two-week capacity-building programme, African instructors trained African first responders, in South-South collaboration, on how to identify, manage, and mitigate threats posed by toxic industrial chemicals and chemical warfare agents. A total of 102 participants received rigorous training in the identification of toxic industrial chemicals and chemical weapons agents, decontamination procedures, detection and sampling techniques, the proper use of personal protective equipment, and incident command.
- 1.12 Progress in the implementation of the medical action plan, which provides assistance to States Parties on medical antidotes, treatments, and advice on protective measures against chemical weapons, continued towards the standardisation and harmonisation of medical training. During the reporting period, the Assistance and Protection Branch organised two medical training courses—a regional event for the Latin America and the Caribbean region hosted in Spain and an international event hosted in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The events also fostered the participation in these courses of experts who will coordinate future training, which will focus on sharing experiences and harmonising medical response-related content. By increasing the number of trained professionals in the medical field, engaging with national experts in this area, and approaching health centres dedicated to the treatment of victims, it will be possible to establish a dedicated medical network that can provide support to States Parties in the event of use of chemical weapons or other incidents involving toxic industrial chemicals.
- 1.13 To support States Parties in building the capacities of their respective law enforcement communities in the investigation of incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic chemicals, the Assistance and Protection Branch conducted three trainings that focused on initial and advanced incident site management and assessment (scene assessment). These trainings apply innovative techniques that are used to identify, collect, analyse, and collate technical information, and to handle forensic samples both pre- and post-incident in a scientific manner to ensure the admissibility of collected samples in court.
- 1.14 The Secretariat has further identified several areas for addressing policy and technical issues related to gender aspects in national protective programmes. Applications from women are encouraged, and engagement of women instructors in all capacity-building activities has resulted in increased participation of women in training and women instructor skills development activities. The Secretariat has continued to develop an inclusive gender programme to support awareness-raising among States Parties and to build the capacities necessary to fully address gender-related factors in their national protective programmes.

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE X

- 2.1 In accordance with the Programme and Budget of the OPCW and the relevant decisions of the policy-making organs, the activities of the OPCW in relation to Article X of the Convention during the period under review were focused on the following main areas:
- (a) information submitted by States Parties on their national programmes for protection against chemical weapons;
 - (b) support for the renewed OPCW Protection and Assistance Databank (PAD);
 - (c) mobilisation of international contributions to capacity-building activities for the enhancement of States Parties' capabilities to respond to chemical weapons-related incidents through the use of offers by States Parties, including those related to in-person and remote training courses on assistance and protection;
 - (d) support for States Parties in developing and improving their national capabilities in relation to protection against chemical weapons, including the provision of technical advice;
 - (e) assistance in the implementation of the decision entitled "The Establishment of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons and the Establishment of a Voluntary Trust Fund for This Purpose" taken by the Conference of the States Parties (the Conference) at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.13, dated 2 December 2011);
 - (f) engagement with relevant international organisations with mandates relating to assistance and protection to strengthen cooperation and coordination in the provision of assistance to the States Parties concerned in cases of use or serious threat of use of chemical weapons, as provided for in paragraph 9 of Article X; and
 - (g) facilitation of informal consultations on Article X issues and the fostering of other exchange platforms to further strengthen the framework for the full implementation of Article X.

Information submitted by States Parties on their national programmes for protection against chemical weapons (paragraph 4 of Article X)

- 2.2 Between 1 January and 31 December 2023, the following States Parties provided information on their national programmes and/or measures that they have in place for protection against chemical weapons: Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belarus, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, the Niger, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Of these, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Kenya, Lebanon, Myanmar, Peru, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) declared that they had neither national programmes nor measures in place for protection against chemical weapons.

- 2.3 Between entry into force of the Convention and 31 December 2023, 160 out of 193 States Parties submitted information on their national programmes for protection against chemical weapons. In order to increase the number of submissions from States Parties and to achieve universal compliance with the obligation under paragraph 4 of Article X, the Secretariat has repeatedly reminded States Parties, both collectively and individually, of the importance of meeting the deadline for submission of information on national programmes. Furthermore, the Secretariat has developed an action plan to support States Parties' submissions under paragraph 4, and to improve the overall submission rate.
- 2.4 The Secretariat continues to approach States Parties in a tailored manner, in order to assist them in complying with this important transparency provision of the Convention. In addition, tailored reporting facilitation activities, including multilingual guidelines, are being designed to facilitate national reporting and to improve the implementation rate of reporting on obligations across all regions. Annex 1 to this report reflects the status of submissions between 31 December 2013 and 31 December 2023.
- 2.5 To facilitate the exchange of information and the compilation of national policies and effective practices concerning gender-related factors in protection against chemical weapons, the Secretariat encourages States Parties to consider adding the relevant information to their annual information on national programmes.

Support of the OPCW's Protection and Assistance Databank (paragraph 5 of Article X)

- 2.6 At its First Session, the Conference adopted a decision requesting the Secretariat to establish and maintain a databank containing freely available information on various means of protection against chemical weapons (C-I/DEC.53, dated 16 May 1997). Pursuant to that decision, the Secretariat established the PAD, as required under paragraph 5 of Article X of the Convention. Since December 2006, a version of the databank has been available for use by National Authorities and Permanent Representations to the OPCW through the OPCW extranet, with password-protected access.
- 2.7 In a Note circulated in 2023 (EC-103/S/2, dated 16 June 2023), the Secretariat updated the Executive Council (the Council) on the status of the databank, its improved functionality, and its content and use, covering paragraphs 3, 4, and 7 of Article X of the Convention.

Mobilisation of international contributions for the enhancement of States Parties' capabilities to respond to chemical weapons-related incidents through the use of offers by States Parties, including those related to international training courses on assistance and protection

- 2.8 During the period under review, the Secretariat issued Note Verbale NV/ICA/APB-499/23 relating to the mobilisation and revision of international contributions for the enhancement of States Parties' capabilities to respond to chemical weapons-related incidents using offers by States Parties, including those related to international training courses on assistance and protection.

- 2.9 In accordance with Article X, each State Party has the right to request and receive assistance and protection in the event of use or threat of use of chemical weapons. The OPCW must, therefore, be ready to mobilise an international response that would be required in such a situation. Since entry into force of the Convention, 82 States Parties have made offers of assistance or provided assistance through the Organisation under paragraph 7 of Article X in one or several of the following modalities, namely by:
- (a) contributing to the Voluntary Fund for Assistance;
 - (b) concluding an agreement with the Organisation concerning the procurement of assistance; or
 - (c) declaring the kind of assistance they might provide in response to a request of the Organisation (Annex 2).
- 2.10 As at 31 December 2023, 47 States Parties had made contributions to the Voluntary Fund for Assistance, the balance of which had reached a total of EUR 1,594,084.59 (see Annex 3).
- 2.11 During the reporting period, the Organisation did not conclude any new bilateral agreements concerning the procurement of assistance. To date, only the Islamic Republic of Iran and Peru have signed such an agreement with the Secretariat.

Support for States Parties in developing and improving their national capabilities in relation to protection against chemical weapons, including the provision of technical advice (paragraph 5 of Article X)

- 2.12 During the reporting period the Secretariat, in cooperation with States Parties, continued to organise online and in-person capacity-building activities aimed at the development and improvement of national protection capabilities against chemical weapons. Cooperation received from the States Parties included the development of the training course concept, video lectures, e-learning materials, peer reviews, the hosting of events, the sharing of specialised facilities and expertise, and the provision of instructors, as well as other national resources that were placed at the disposal of the Organisation.

Activities conducted during the reporting period (1 January to 31 December 2023)

- 2.13 Article X implementation activities conducted in the first three quarters of 2023 are reflected in Notes by the Secretariat S/2178/2023 (dated 7 June 2023), covering the period January to April 2023 (see paragraphs 5 to 13) and S/2210/2023 (dated 25 September 2023), covering the period May to August 2023 (see paragraphs 10 to 18). The Notes contain updates on events organised by the Secretariat in the area of international cooperation and assistance.
- 2.14 Details of the events organised for the remainder of the reporting period, that is September to December 2023, can be found in paragraphs 2.15 to 2.29 below.
- 2.15 From 11 to 15 September, a basic course on assistance and protection for first responders from all regions was conducted in partnership with the German Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK) under the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (as part of the 2023 international training cycle). The course was held at the BBK's Federal Academy of Civil Protection and Civil Defence in Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler.

- 2.16 From 11 to 22 September, the Secretariat, in cooperation with the National Authority of Italy, delivered a specialised course on the investigation of incidents involving toxic industrial chemicals, at the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Center) in Pijnacker-Nootdorp, the Netherlands.
- 2.17 From 23 September to 5 October, CHEMEX Africa was organised in partnership with the Government of Algeria in Algiers.
- 2.18 From 2 to 31 October, an online training course on the Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders (WISER), the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG), and the Incident Command System (ICS) was delivered (as part of the 2023 international training cycle).
- 2.19 From 6 to 30 October, an online training course on WISER, the ERG, and the ICS was delivered (as part of the 2023 training cycle for Asia).
- 2.20 From 15 to 19 October, an international medical training course was organised in Tehran in partnership with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- 2.21 From 30 October to 3 November, the regional integrated advanced course and exercise on emergency response was held in partnership with the National Authority of Malaysia and the Fire Rescue Division of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur (as part of the 2023 training cycle for Asia).
- 2.22 From 6 to 10 November in Murcia, Spain, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Government of Spain and the City Council of Murcia, organised a specialised course on emergency response involving toxic chemicals in unconventional environments for States Parties from the Latin America and the Caribbean region.
- 2.23 From 6 to 11 November in Spiez, Switzerland, the Secretariat, together with the National Authority of Switzerland and the Swiss Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defence School, organised the annual laboratory course involving chemical warfare agents for States Parties to the Convention.
- 2.24 From 13 to 17 November, the Secretariat and the Defence Science and Technology Organization of Pakistan co-organised an integrated advanced course and exercise on responding to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals for first responders from all OPCW regions (as part of the 2023 international training cycle). The course was held at the Regional Chemical Weapons Convention Assistance and Protection Centre in Islamabad.
- 2.25 From 13 to 24 November in Singapore, a specialised assistance and protection course on deterrence and prevention of the use of chemical weapons and toxic industrial chemicals, from a law enforcement officer first responder perspective, was organised in cooperation with the National Authority of Italy for States Parties that are also members of ASEAN.
- 2.26 On 27 November, a hybrid presentation on the ERG was delivered at the ChemTech Centre for Russian-speaking States Parties, in partnership with the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC).

- 2.27 From 5 to 14 December, the sixth edition of the operational training on chemical emergency response for East African Community Partner States was conducted in collaboration with the National Authority of Uganda at the Uganda Rapid Deployment Capability Center in Jinja.
- 2.28 From 6 to 7 December, a specialised workshop on the OSAT was held in partnership with the National Authority of Malaysia for ASEAN States Parties in Kuala Lumpur.
- 2.29 On 12 December, the follow-up online seminar for participants in the regional training cycle for Latin American and Caribbean States Parties was held as the final segment of the 2023 training cycle.
- 2.30 Finally, as a consequence of the war in Ukraine, the Secretariat has provided several training courses to Ukrainian first responders and other specialists, with similar activities planned for the future. The Secretariat has also purchased chemical detection equipment for Ukrainian first responders and will now plan for the delivery and arrange for specialist training in the use of this equipment.

Assistance in the implementation of Conference decision C-16/DEC.13 on “The Establishment of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons and the Establishment of a Voluntary Trust Fund for This Purpose”

- 2.31 As at the closing date of this report, the balance of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons stood at EUR 98,729.
- 2.32 Following the publication in 2020 of an updated version of the Practical Guide for Medical Management of Chemical Warfare Casualties, the Secretariat gathered a group of State Party experts to initiate the drafting of a companion book, which will address the long-term effects of exposure to chemical weapons on victims. The companion book is in its final revision and is expected to be published in 2024.
- 2.33 During the reporting period, the Secretariat organised two medical training sessions to highlight assistance and protection in relation to medical aspects and protective measures for victims and potential victims of chemical weapons.
- 2.34 From 17 to 21 April in Madrid, Spain, the Secretariat conducted a hospital preparedness course for States Parties from the Latin America and the Caribbean region. The event, held in Spanish, highlighted the strong bond between the Iberoamerican countries and their interest in contributing mutually to strengthening medical capacities from an interregional perspective.
- 2.35 From 15 to 19 October, an international training course on medical aspects of assistance and protection against chemical weapons was held in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Engagement with relevant international organisations with mandates relating to assistance and protection in order to strengthen cooperation and coordination in the provision of assistance to the States Parties concerned in cases of use or serious threat of use of chemical weapons (paragraph 9 of Article X)

- 2.36 The Secretariat has continued its interaction with relevant international and regional organisations and continues to seek partnerships and synergies, where interests are shared and mandates are complementary.
- 2.37 Cooperation also continued at the subregional level, particularly in the Caribbean, Central America, Southeast Asia, and South-Eastern Europe, and among the African regional economic communities.

The holding of informal consultations on Article X issues and the fostering of other exchange platforms to further strengthen the conceptual framework for the full implementation of Article X

- 2.38 The facilitator for Article X issues, Ms Giedrė Geleževičienė, Deputy Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the OPCW, convened informal consultations in February 2023 to present an overview of the work of the Assistance and Protection Branch and to discuss the challenges and strategy for 2023.
- 2.39 Further informal consultations on the implementation of Article X were conducted in hybrid format on 15 June 2023 by Ms Martina Filippiová, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the OPCW, the then newly appointed facilitator for Article X-related issues. The delegations in attendance were given an update by the Secretariat on the implementation of Article X and the work of the Assistance and Protection Branch, as well as on the use of the PAD. They also discussed issues regarding the preparations for the large regional training and field exercise that was to be held in Africa (CHEMEX project).
- 2.40 The final informal consultations during the reporting period were held in hybrid mode on 29 September 2023. The participating delegates discussed the report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 December 2022” (EC-104/DG.6, dated 4 September 2023). The Assistance and Protection Branch also presented the new training cycle on investigation of incidents involving toxic chemicals, as well as the planning outline for the 2024 work plan.

Current status and considerations

- 2.41 Progress continued to be made during the reporting period in order to advance the objectives of Article X, namely, to maintain and increase the level of readiness of the Organisation to respond to a request for assistance, which includes the improvement of States Parties’ capabilities to counter chemical attacks and other incidents involving toxic chemicals.

2.42 The following significant facts should be highlighted:

- (a) Fulfilment of obligations according to paragraph 4 of Article X continues to pose a difficulty, given the ongoing low rate of submissions by States Parties. The Assistance and Protection Branch continues to combine tailored individual and collective efforts aimed at achieving a better understanding and an in-depth sensitisation of States Parties with regard to this important transparency provision of the Convention, with a view to improving the rate of submissions, which has modestly increased over the past few years. Concrete activities in that context were conducted during the regional meetings of the National Authorities. The online tool is available in the renewed PAD, enabling States Parties to make their annual submissions electronically. Furthermore, the Assistance and Protection Branch has formulated an action plan to support States Parties with submissions under paragraph 4 of Article X, with a view to improving submission rates.
- (b) The Secretariat continues to encourage States Parties to consider the options contained in paragraph 7 of Article X as an important means to support and to strengthen Article X implementation and to review and update offers currently archived in the PAD. The Secretariat, under subparagraph 39(b) of Article VIII, is ready to work alongside States Parties to ensure that offers of assistance under subparagraphs 7(b) and (c) remain current.
- (c) The PAD is being continuously updated and its functionality improved, so as to make the fullest and best use of modern technology, creating an easy-to-use resource for States Parties on all matters related to Article X implementation.
- (d) From 1 January to 31 December 2023, States Parties benefitted from 36 assistance and protection-related activities, resulting in a total of 805 individuals benefitting from a broad range of training opportunities aimed at supporting Article X implementation. A total of 26 training events were conducted in person, nine training courses and workshops were delivered online, and one capacity-building event was conducted in hybrid mode.
- (e) In order to identify suitable institutions to help implement the regional capacity-building approach followed by the Secretariat, continuous interaction with States Parties remains pivotal, and has allowed the OPCW to count on the support of a number of institutions of States Parties from all geographical regions. These institutions currently interact with the Secretariat in the provision of international, regional, and subregional training and constitute important pillars of assistance and protection capacity-building programmes.
- (f) The new hybrid regional training cycles have high potential for further improvement and continue to be the keystone of regional capacity-building programmes under Article X. While online training cannot replace traditional classrooms, hands-on training, or field exercises, virtual courses complement and augment in-person training and provide an efficient means to deliver theoretical knowledge, such that in-person activities can focus almost exclusively on learning by doing, which is essential for the target audience. The repository of online learning and development resources on assistance and

protection fundamentals cover, inter alia, procedures, techniques, and operational approaches, ensuring ongoing engagement with the States Parties. Activities conducted in this format are under review in parallel with their implementation in different regions, with a view to building up and delivering hybrid training cycles in the most efficient way possible.

- (g) Furthermore, the inauguration of the ChemTech Centre in May 2023 provided for the development of new opportunities, particularly training of trainers, where the ChemTech Centre will provide a uniquely equipped training environment in which instructors from States Parties can exchange and share experience and best practices with Secretariat experts.
- (h) The Instructor Development and Exchange Programme continued to enjoy wide support, as it contributes to the enhancement of individual and collective preparation and to increased sustainability of the Organisation's capacity-building efforts. It will continue to be implemented, including at the regional and subregional level. Interaction among partner training centres will also continue to be promoted and facilitated as circumstances allow. Their engagement with the online assistance and protection capacity-building activities, from basic to specialised courses, has been beneficial to expanding and strengthening the network of experts within and across the regions.
- (i) Progress continued to be made in the Africa region with regard to improving national and regional capacity to respond to chemical incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals. Relevant online and in-person activities took place to launch the sixth phase of the OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2023.
- (j) CHEMEX Africa tested and confirmed the benefits of the OPCW model for regional capacity building in the area of assistance and protection, which is based on the provision of a comprehensive training cycle that culminates in a pan-regional simulation exercise. The CHEMEX project could be replicated for other geographical regions should prerequisites be met.
- (k) Additionally, the CHEMEX exercise confirmed the relevance of the OPCW's forward-thinking approach to the provision of capacity-building support to States Parties in the post-destruction phase, facilitating and leveraging South-South cooperation whenever possible. The exercise showcased the added value of extrabudgetary projects in further achieving the OPCW's mandate and activities in the area of capacity-building support to Member States. An exercise of such magnitude would not have been possible without the substantial voluntary contribution from Canada and the significant resources and support provided by Algeria as the host nation.
- (l) The Assistance and Protection Branch has continued to promote the use of the OSAT among the States Parties. During the reporting period, the new tool was further extended to the States Parties in the Caribbean subregion, States Parties that are also members of ASEAN, and States Parties in South-Eastern Europe that are Member States of RACVIAC – Centre for Security

Cooperation. The OSAT has assisted National Authorities in assessing the risks posed by hazardous chemicals, auditing existing response capacities, and identifying necessary improvement measures, including those that may be supported by the Secretariat. Based on the first two years of implementation experience, the OSAT questionnaire was further streamlined to capture the comprehensive scope of national protective programme needs assessments, based on existing capabilities, capacities, and risks, while making it more user-friendly. States Parties can use this tool to review their national protective programmes and to inform the OPCW's capacity-building assistance.

- (m) The implementation of the medical action plan successfully continued in 2023, through the execution of training activities delivered at the regional and international level, the planning of new events, the launch of training materials, as well as the coordination of activities aimed at strengthening the medical capabilities of States Parties in areas related to preparedness and response to emergencies involving the use of chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals.
- (n) The systematic approach to enhancing medical capabilities at the global and regional level continues to integrate health professionals from various levels of response, as well as members of the health teams responsible for attending to victims. States Parties have benefitted from newly trained health personnel, which will contribute to increased capacity to attend to victims of chemical weapons. During the implementation of the medical action plan, special consideration has been given to gender-related aspects.
- (o) In addition, the exchange of instructors in different regions has been fostered within the framework of the medical action plan, and the process has begun to identify potential centres to support activities related to medical preparedness (and eventually response), with the future objective of establishing networks of health professionals and hospitals dedicated to attending to victims. Additionally, activities related to the identification of partners and relevant stakeholders in the medical field have continued as planned.
- (p) The drafting of a companion book to the Practical Guide for Medical Management of Chemical Warfare Casualties has progressed and is planned to be published in 2024. In addition, the Secretariat will continue to support States Parties' initiatives within the framework of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons. Wider participation in the funding of the Network's activities, in accordance with the relevant decision of the Conference, is paramount in support of future projects.
- (q) The Secretariat continued its capacity-building efforts aimed at providing expert advice to States Parties hosting major public events. States Parties with considerable experience in this field are invited to offer assistance to other States Parties planning to host such events.

- (r) In line with the report of the Council at its Eighty-Sixth Session (EC-86/11, dated 13 October 2017) and its decision EC-86/DEC.9 (dated 13 October 2017) as well as the decision of the Conference at its Twenty-Eighth Session (C-28/DEC.12, dated 30 November 2023), the Assistance and Protection Branch developed a new specialised training programme focused on law enforcement, deterrence, and prevention of the use of chemical weapons and the malicious use of toxic industrial chemicals, including investigations and the countering of chemical terrorism. This training has been launched and implemented successfully in Asia and in Africa. Additionally, a new specialised training cycle for law enforcement officers, covering basic response and management procedures, the countering of chemical terrorism, and planning and incident response, has been developed and will be implemented in 2024.
- (s) Cooperation continues to be offered by the States Parties in the sharing of specialised facilities such as partner training centres, the provision and exchange of instructors, the hosting of events, and the provision of voluntary contributions for different programmes.
- (t) In addition, the widest possible participation of States Parties in their roles as recipients and donors continues to be indispensable for the full implementation of the provisions of Article X. During the reporting period, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland provided additional support to Article X implementation projects through extrabudgetary contributions.
- (u) Throughout the reporting period, the Assistance and Protection Branch continued to develop and strengthen its role in assisting States Parties in their endeavours to implement the provisions of Article X, also thanks to continuous interaction with the States Parties as described throughout this report.

Annexes (English only):

- Annex 1: Submissions of Information on National Protection Programmes, by Year, in Accordance with Paragraph 4 of Article X of the Convention, between 31 December 2013 and 31 December 2023
- Annex 2: Assistance Measures Adopted by States Parties Pursuant to Paragraph 7 of Article X of the Convention as at 31 December 2023
- Annex 3: Contributions to the Voluntary Fund for Assistance as at 31 December 2023

Annex 1

SUBMISSIONS OF INFORMATION ON NATIONAL PROTECTION PROGRAMMES, BY YEAR, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 4 OF ARTICLE X OF THE CONVENTION, BETWEEN 31 DECEMBER 2013 AND 31 DECEMBER 2023

	State Party	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1.	Afghanistan	Yes	No									
2.	Albania	Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	
3.	Algeria	Yes	Yes	Classified		Classified		Yes	Classified	Classified	Yes	Yes
4.	Andorra	No	No	No		No	No	No	No	No	No	
5.	Angola											
6.	Antigua and Barbuda											
7.	Argentina	No	No	Yes	Classified	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
8.	Armenia	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
9.	Australia	Yes	Yes	Yes		Classified	Yes	Yes	Classified	Classified	Yes	Yes
10.	Austria	Yes	Yes	Yes						Yes	Yes	Yes
11.	Azerbaijan								Yes			
12.	Bahamas											
13.	Bahrain	No	No							Yes		
14.	Bangladesh	No	No	No		No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		
15.	Barbados	No		No					No			No
16.	Belarus	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes
17.	Belgium	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
18.	Belize			No	No					No		
19.	Benin	No										
20.	Bhutan								No	No	No	No
21.	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	No		No				No	No		No	No
22.	Bosnia and Herzegovina						No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
23.	Botswana											
24.	Brazil	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Classified	Yes	Classified	Classified	Yes	Yes	Yes
25.	Brunei Darussalam		Yes									
26.	Bulgaria	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
27.	Burkina Faso		Yes			No						
28.	Burundi	No	No	No								
29.	Cabo Verde											
30.	Cambodia	Yes		Yes							Yes	
31.	Cameroon	No	No		No	No						

	State Party	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
32.	Canada	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Classified	Classified	Classified	Yes	Yes	Yes
33.	Central African Republic											
34.	Chad											
35.	Chile	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			No	No	No	No
36.	China	Yes	Yes		Classified	Classified	Classified	Classified	Classified	Classified	Classified	
37.	Colombia			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
38.	Comoros											
39.	Congo											
40.	Cook Islands											
41.	Costa Rica	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	
42.	Côte d'Ivoire	Yes		No		No					Yes	
43.	Croatia	Yes	Yes		Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes	
44.	Cuba	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
45.	Cyprus	No	No		No						Yes	
46.	Czech Republic	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Classified	Yes	Classified	Classified	
47.	Democratic Republic of the Congo		No	Yes								
48.	Denmark	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes
49.	Djibouti											
50.	Dominica	No	No	No								
51.	Dominican Republic											
52.	Ecuador		No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes		
53.	El Salvador			No	No			Yes	No	No	No	
54.	Equatorial Guinea											
55.	Eritrea											
56.	Estonia	Yes			Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes	
57.	Eswatini											
58.	Ethiopia	Yes	Yes	Yes						No	No	No
59.	Fiji											
60.	Finland	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
61.	France	Yes	Yes	Yes	Classified	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
62.	Gabon		No									
63.	Gambia											
64.	Georgia	Yes							No	No		
65.	Germany	Yes	Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
66.	Ghana			No								
67.	Greece	Yes			Classified			Classified				

	State Party	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
68.	Grenada											
69.	Guatemala				Classified				Yes	Yes		
70.	Guinea											
71.	Guinea-Bissau											
72.	Guyana	Yes			No					No		
73.	Haiti											
74.	Holy See	Yes						Yes	Yes	Yes		
75.	Honduras											
76.	Hungary	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
77.	Iceland	No										
78.	India	Yes	Yes	Classified	Classified	Classified	Classified	Classified	Classified	Classified	Classified	
79.	Indonesia					Yes			Yes		Classified	
80.	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Classified	Yes	Classified	Yes	Classified	Classified	Classified	Classified	Classified		
81.	Iraq	Yes				Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		
82.	Ireland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
83.	Italy	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
84.	Jamaica					No						
85.	Japan	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
86.	Jordan	Yes	Yes	Yes		Classified			Yes		Yes	
87.	Kazakhstan	No										
88.	Kenya		No	No					No	No	No	No
89.	Kiribati											
90.	Kuwait											
91.	Kyrgyzstan	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes			Yes		Yes	Yes
92.	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Yes								No		
93.	Latvia		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
94.	Lebanon										No	No
95.	Lesotho											
96.	Liberia											
97.	Libya											
98.	Liechtenstein	No	No	Classified	No				No	No		No
99.	Lithuania	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes						
100.	Luxembourg	No	No		No	No		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
101.	Madagascar			No		No		No				
102.	Malawi											
103.	Malaysia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Classified	Yes	Classified	Yes	Yes

	State Party	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
104.	Maldives									No	No	
105.	Mali											
106.	Malta	No	No									
107.	Marshall Islands											
108.	Mauritania											
109.	Mauritius						No	No	No	No		
110.	Mexico	No	No	No	No	Classified	Classified	No	Classified		No	
111.	Micronesia (Federated States of)											
112.	Monaco	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				Yes		
113.	Mongolia	Yes		Yes				Yes	Yes			
114.	Montenegro	Yes							Yes	Yes	Yes	
115.	Morocco							Yes		Classified	Classified	
116.	Mozambique											
117.	Myanmar				Classified					No	No	No
118.	Namibia	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes			
119.	Nauru											
120.	Nepal	No										
121.	Netherlands		Yes	Classified	Yes	Yes	Yes	Classified		Classified	Yes	No
122.	New Zealand	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
123.	Nicaragua					No		No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
124.	Niger		No	No							Yes	Yes
125.	Nigeria									No		
126.	Niue											
127.	North Macedonia	Yes	Yes			Yes		Yes				
128.	Norway	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
129.	Oman					Yes		Yes				
130.	Pakistan	Classified	Yes	Yes	Yes	Classified	Yes		Yes	Classified		Classified
131.	Palau							Classified				
132.	Panama					Yes		Yes	Yes			
133.	Papua New Guinea											
134.	Paraguay	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes				
135.	Peru			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
136.	Philippines							Yes				
137.	Poland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
138.	Portugal	Yes	Yes	Classified		Classified		Classified				
139.	Qatar	Classified	Yes	Yes	Classified	Classified		Yes	Classified		Classified	
140.	Republic of Korea	Yes					Yes		Yes			

	State Party	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
141.	Republic of Moldova	Yes	Yes									
142.	Romania	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
143.	Russian Federation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
144.	Rwanda	No						Yes				
145.	Saint Kitts and Nevis		No					Yes		No	No	
146.	Saint Lucia	No										
147.	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines											
148.	Samoa											
149.	San Marino		No								No	No
150.	Sao Tome and Principe											
151.	Saudi Arabia	Yes	Yes		Classified				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
152.	Senegal											
153.	Serbia	Yes	Yes	Classified	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes
154.	Seychelles	No										
155.	Sierra Leone								Yes			
156.	Singapore	Classified	Yes	Classified	Classified	Classified	Yes		Classified	Classified	Classified	
157.	Slovakia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
158.	Slovenia	Yes			Yes	Yes		Classified				
159.	Solomon Islands							Yes				
160.	Somalia											
161.	South Africa	Yes	Yes	Classified	Classified	Classified	Classified		Yes	Classified	Classified	Yes
162.	Spain	Yes	Yes	Classified	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes
163.	Sri Lanka	Yes	Yes				Yes	Classified	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
164.	State of Palestine											
165.	Sudan			Yes	Yes		No					
166.	Suriname		No			No					No	No
167.	Sweden	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
168.	Switzerland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Classified	Yes	Yes
169.	Syrian Arab Republic							Yes	Classified	Classified		
170.	Tajikistan		No		No				No			
171.	Thailand		Yes	Yes	Classified	Yes	Yes			Classified	Classified	Yes
172.	Timor-Leste							Classified				
173.	Togo											
174.	Tonga											
175.	Trinidad and Tobago											
176.	Tunisia					Yes						

	State Party	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
177.	Türkiye	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes
178.	Turkmenistan	Yes				Yes		Yes				
179.	Tuvalu											
180.	Uganda			Yes								
181.	Ukraine	No	No	No	No	No	No		No			
182.	United Arab Emirates		Yes	No		No		No	Yes			
183.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
184.	United Republic of Tanzania				Yes			Yes				
185.	United States of America	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
186.	Uruguay				Yes				Yes			
187.	Uzbekistan	No							Yes	No		
188.	Vanuatu											
189.	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)						No	No			No	No
190.	Viet Nam	Yes	Yes	Classified	Yes	Yes			Classified			
191.	Yemen	No	No									
192.	Zambia					No						
193.	Zimbabwe											
Subtotal for protection programmes		70	57	57	53	60	49	60	65	60	56	39
Total number of submissions		96	83	75	65	75	57	71	78	78	71	53

Annex 2

**ASSISTANCE MEASURES ADOPTED BY STATES PARTIES PURSUANT TO
PARAGRAPH 7 OF ARTICLE X OF THE CONVENTION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

(Status: subparagraphs 7(a), (b), and (c) of Article X)

	State Party	Submission Date	Voluntary Fund	Bilateral Agreement	Unilateral Offer
1.	Albania	May 2002	✓		
2.	Algeria	Dec 2011	✓		
3.	Argentina	Jan 2014			✓
4.	Armenia	Mar 2003			✓
5.	Australia	Oct 1997 (updated, 2006)			✓
6.	Austria	Oct 1997			✓
7.	Bangladesh	Apr 2006			✓
8.	Belarus	May 1997 July 2006 Apr 2008			✓ ✓ ✓
9.	Belgium	Dec 1997	✓		
10.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Jan 2004	✓		
11.	Brazil	Mar 2017			✓
12.	Bulgaria	Jan 1998 Oct 2007 Jan 2008			✓ ✓ ✓
13.	Burundi	Jul 2008	✓		
14.	Canada	Sept 1997	✓		
15.	Chile	May 1997	✓		
16.	China	Sept 1999			✓
17.	Colombia	Nov 2006			✓
18.	Croatia	Jul 1999			✓
19.	Cuba	Nov 1997 Jul 2006			✓ ✓
20.	Cyprus	Oct 2010	✓		
21.	Czech Republic	Oct 1997 Dec 2012	✓		✓
22.	Denmark	Jan 1998	✓		
23.	Estonia	Oct 2001	✓		
24.	Ethiopia	Jun 2002	✓		
25.	Fiji	Dec 2005	✓		
26.	Finland	Dec 1997	✓		
27.	France	Oct 1997			✓
28.	Georgia	Oct 2000			✓
29.	Germany	Oct 1997			✓
30.	Greece	Jun 2000 Jun 2003	✓ ✓		
31.	Guatemala	Aug 2006			✓

	State Party	Submission Date	Voluntary Fund	Bilateral Agreement	Unilateral Offer
32.	Hungary	Dec 1998	✓		
33.	India	Nov 1997 Sept 2007			✓ ✓
34.	Indonesia	Sept 2008	✓		
35.	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Jun 1998		✓	✓
36.	Ireland	Jan 1998	✓		
37.	Italy	Oct 1997 Jul 2006 Oct 2014 May 2016 Jul 2020 Jun 2021	✓		✓ ✓ ✓
38.	Japan	Mar 1999 Feb 2006 Jun 2008	✓		✓ ✓
39.	Jordan	May 2006			✓
40.	Kenya	Dec 2003	✓		
41.	Kuwait	Jun 1999	✓		
42.	Latvia	Jun 1999			✓
43.	Lesotho	Nov 2012	✓		
44.	Liechtenstein	Jan 2001	✓		
45.	Lithuania	Jun 1999	✓		✓
46.	Luxembourg	Nov 1997	✓		
47.	Malta	Dec 2000	✓		
48.	Mexico	Nov 2005 Nov 2006 Oct 2007 Oct 2008 Sept 2011 Sept 2015	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓		
49.	Mongolia	Jan 1998 Dec 2007			✓ ✓
50.	Morocco	May 1997			✓
51.	Netherlands	Jul 1997 Nov 2001 Oct 2006	✓ ✓		✓
52.	New Zealand	Jun 1997	✓		
53.	Nigeria	May 2006			✓
54.	North Macedonia	Oct 2003	✓		
55.	Norway	Nov 1997	✓		
56.	Oman	Mar 1998	✓		
57.	Pakistan	Aug 1998 Feb 2004 Feb 2009	✓		✓ ✓

	State Party	Submission Date	Voluntary Fund	Bilateral Agreement	Unilateral Offer
58.	Peru	Apr 1998 Sept 2009 Oct 2011	✓	✓	✓
59.	Poland	Oct 1997	✓		
60.	Portugal	Mar 1999 Oct 2006 Apr 2010 Apr 2021			✓ ✓ ✓
61.	Qatar	Aug 2012	✓		
62.	Republic of Korea	Dec 1997 Oct 1998	✓ ✓		
63.	Republic of Moldova	Jan 2001			✓
64.	Romania	Jan 2006 Feb 2006	✓		✓
65.	Russian Federation	Sept 1999 Dec 2007 Apr 2009			✓ ✓ ✓
66.	Saudi Arabia	Nov 2004	✓		
67.	Serbia	May 2005 Mar 2006 Jan 2007			✓ ✓ ✓
68.	Singapore	Dec 1997 Apr 2008			✓ ✓
69.	Slovakia	Nov 1997 Dec 2013			✓ ✓
70.	Slovenia	Jul 1998 Jan 2002 Jul 2007 Jun 2008 Apr 2010	✓		✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
71.	South Africa	Nov 1997 (expired, 2005)			✓ Expired
72.	Spain	Nov 1997 Sept 2002 Jul 2009			✓ ✓ ✓
73.	Sweden	Oct 1997	✓		✓
74.	Switzerland	Oct 1997 Sept 2007	✓		✓ ✓
75.	Thailand	Mar 2004	✓		
76.	Türkiye	Apr 1998	✓		
77.	Turkmenistan	Mar 2008	✓		
78.	Ukraine	Jan 2000 Jun 2006 May 2008			✓ ✓ ✓

	State Party	Submission Date	Voluntary Fund	Bilateral Agreement	Unilateral Offer
79.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Oct 1997 Dec 2001	✓		✓
80.	United States of America	Oct 1997			✓
81.	Uruguay	Apr 2006			✓
82.	Zimbabwe	Jan 2001	✓		
	Total	82	48	2	46

Annex 3

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE VOLUNTARY FUND FOR ASSISTANCE
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023¹**

State Party		Amount Contributed (in Euros)
1.	Albania	3,000.00
2.	Belgium	24,767.86
3.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,500.00
4.	Burundi	3,049.80
5.	Canada	22,689.01
6.	Chile	9,153.88
7.	Cyprus	3,500.00
8.	Czech Republic	9,873.23
9.	Denmark	7,454.25
10.	Estonia	2,000.00
11.	Ethiopia	5,275.93
12.	Fiji	4,920.00
13.	Finland	25,333.86
14.	Greece	36,344.51
15.	Hungary	4,410.34
16.	Indonesia	6,868.13
17.	Ireland	11,344.51
18.	Italy	172,442.18
19.	Japan	45,378.02
20.	Kenya	2,942.00
21.	Kuwait	45,378.02
22.	Lesotho	60,240.88
23.	Liechtenstein	6,527.42
24.	Lithuania	2,328.42
25.	Luxembourg	12,389.33
26.	Malta	2,490.30
27.	Mexico	67,185.16
28.	Netherlands	234,033.52
29.	New Zealand	7,237.43
30.	North Macedonia	1,676.57
31.	Norway	22,689.01
32.	Oman	9,257.12
33.	Pakistan	3,000.00
34.	Peru	4,628.56
35.	Poland	22,689.01
36.	Qatar	14,953.00
37.	Republic of Korea	36,233.90
38.	Romania	5,000.00

¹ This table does not include payments announced, but not received, by the cut-off date for this report.

State Party		Amount Contributed (in Euros)
39.	Saudi Arabia	15,000.00
40.	Slovenia	2,299.30
41.	Sweden	11,591.82
42.	Switzerland	49,066.12
43.	Thailand	4,000.00
44.	Türkiye	11,108.54
45.	Turkmenistan	1,833.56
46.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	162,108.38
47.	Zimbabwe	1,942.18
Voluntary contributions		1,219,135.05
Accumulated interest		374,949.54
Total		1,594,084.59

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