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REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT NETWORK FOR VICTIMS OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

1. The Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) at its Sixteenth Session endorsed a proposal for the establishment of the international support network for victims of chemical weapons and the establishment of a voluntary trust fund for this purpose (C-16/DEC.13, dated 2 December 2011).
2. The Conference also decided that all activities undertaken in the context of this network should be financed solely from voluntary contributions, without any financial implications for the regular budget through the Trust Fund for the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons, to be established for this purpose by the Director-General.
3. In order to implement this decision, the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) encourages the States Parties in a position to do so to actively support the network, inter alia, by:
 - (a) providing financial contributions to the trust fund;
 - (b) providing medical treatment to victims of chemical weapons in their countries;
 - (c) organising events to raise awareness at the national level on victims of chemical weapons;
 - (d) exchanging information on experiences related to treatment of victims of chemical weapons, through e.g. providing research scholarships to the developing States Parties in the field of the treatment of victims of chemical weapons; and
 - (e) facilitating materials- and equipment-related assistance to States Parties to assist and support the victims of chemical weapons.
4. The Secretariat has created an International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons website to facilitate the exchange of information by States Parties. This website will allow the widest possible access to publicly available information on matters relating to victims of chemical weapons. States Parties are invited to share information of this nature with the Secretariat on an ongoing basis, in order to ensure that the website contains current and relevant documents.



5. As at 31 August 2013, the Secretariat had received voluntary contributions for the Trust Fund for the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons from the Islamic Republic of Iran (EUR 15,000) and from Iraq (EUR 5,000), amounting in total to EUR 20,000 for the support network.

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