

**NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL****THE THIRD PHASE OF THE PROGRAMME TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION  
WITH AFRICA ON THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION****INTRODUCTION**

1. The Director-General's Note to the Executive Council (hereinafter "the Council") at its Seventy-Fourth Session on the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter "the Africa Programme") (EC-74/DG.6 C-18/DG.8, dated 20 August 2013) details the delivery of the Africa Programme in 2013 and reports on the assessment of its entire second phase, which ended on 31 December 2013. The Council considered and noted the Director-General's Note on the subject, which was subsequently submitted to the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter "the Conference") at its Eighteenth Session, which also took note of it (C-18/5, dated 5 December 2013).
2. In light of the experience with the second phase, the Director-General's Note affirmed the intention of the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") to continue with the implementation of the Africa Programme in a third phase, commencing on 1 January 2014.
3. The Africa Programme was instituted by the Director-General in 2007 to give strategic direction to the Secretariat's engagement with African Member States in the implementation of the Convention (EC-50/DG.17, dated 26 September 2007).
4. Progress made towards realising the objectives of the Africa Programme is chronicled annually in the Director-General's Notes to the sessions of the Council and Conference. Progress made during the second phase of the Africa Programme is detailed in the Director-General's Notes to the Conference at its Sixteenth, Seventeenth, and Eighteenth Sessions (C-16/DG.14, dated 20 September 2011; C-17/DG.10, dated 12 September 2012; and C-18/DG.8, dated 20 August 2013).
5. In late 2013, an in-depth assessment of the entire second phase of the Africa Programme was undertaken by the Secretariat. The Director-General presented its findings in a report incorporated into his Note to the Council at its Seventy-Fourth Session and the Conference at its Eighteenth Session (EC-74/DG.6 C-18/DG.8). To provide the programme with more relevance, focus, and scope and thereby enhance its impact, the objectives and specific components of the second phase of the programme were comprehensively reviewed after the assessment, and reconstituted and realigned for the third phase.



6. The objectives and components of the third phase of the Africa Programme are presented below, as are the matters it seeks to address.

### **RATIONALE AND JUSTIFICATION**

7. The urgent need for the Secretariat to address the factors that continue to hinder the development of national capacities in African States Parties and the progress made during the first and second phases of the Africa Programme in this context provide the *raison d'être* for extending the Africa Programme. These factors include, but are not limited, to the following:
  - (a) limited financial, institutional, and human resources available to National Authorities, which has an impact on their effective functioning and their capacity to effectively implement the Convention;
  - (b) limited relevant technical expertise and reliable equipment;
  - (c) limited number of tailor-made interventions to address specifically African States Parties' needs. These include activities to enhance south-south, regional, subregional, and bilateral cooperation;
  - (d) need for a comprehensive approach to national implementation to fill gaps in national implementation in line with each State Party's constitutional requirements and ensure that national-implementation measures are consistent with the provisions of the Convention;
  - (e) lack of awareness of the Convention, and its provisions and obligations among relevant senior decision- and policy-makers in the region who often have a crucial role to play in national implementation, including parliamentarians;
  - (f) lack of awareness on the part of National Authorities of the nature, type, and amount of support and resources provided by the OPCW and its collaborators, including access to trained experts and facilities. For this reason, many National Authorities are not able to take full advantage of these opportunities to further their national implementation efforts;
  - (g) delays in the adoption of national implementing legislation, which deny many National Authorities the legal basis for enforcing the provisions of the Convention. These include measures required for them to effectively coordinate local efforts required for the timely and efficient implementation of the Convention, such as the collection of relevant information for submission to the OPCW; and
  - (h) limited regional and subregional synergies to support the implementation of the Convention in Africa.

### **OBJECTIVES**

8. The third phase of the Africa Programme seeks to achieve the following:
  - (a) the full and effective implementation of the Convention in Africa;

- (b) establishment of collaborative mechanisms, regional and subregional, to support the implementation of the Convention;
- (c) increase participation by African States Parties in relevant programmes and activities; and
- (d) the universality of the Convention in Africa.

### **KEY FEATURES**

9. The key features of the third phase of the Africa Programme are as follows:
- (a) funding from the regular Programme and Budget of the OPCW, complemented with voluntary contributions;
  - (b) use of multi-pronged, innovative, and new approaches;
  - (c) promotion of bilateral assistance and networking;
  - (d) additional activities to complement regular support and capacity-building interventions undertaken by the Secretariat; and
  - (e) increasing collaboration with relevant institutions in Africa.

### **TIME FRAME**

10. In order to address the key features of the Africa Programme and achieve its overall objectives, a time frame of three years has been allotted to its third phase.
11. The third phase of the Africa Programme extends from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2016.

### **ELEMENTS OF THE THIRD PHASE OF THE AFRICA PROGRAMME**

#### **Activities to be pursued by the International Cooperation and Assistance Division**

12. Under the next phase of the Africa Programme, the International Cooperation and Assistance Division, in cooperation with other units of the Secretariat, will, within the limits of available resources, continue to assist African States Parties in their efforts to meet fully their obligations under the Convention. This will be achieved through the delivery of the interventions planned for the third phase, as listed in the Annex to this Note.
13. The Secretariat will continuously assess the needs of African States Parties in order to ensure that the planned interventions are relevant and beneficial, and that they contribute to the implementation of the Convention in the region.

#### **Assistance-and-protection activities**

14. Regional workshops on the implementation of Article X will continue to be held in order to provide a forum for representatives of African Member States to discuss

issues related to assistance and protection, and to exchange information and experiences. The workshops will contribute to promoting the rights and obligations of States Parties under the Convention and the opportunities available under Article X.

15. The annual assistance and protection course for African States Parties has been held in Tshwane, South Africa, since 2005. The course provides training for instructors from the African region who are involved in emergency response to a chemical incident. This training will continue throughout the third phase of the Africa Programme.
16. In order to continue building capacity in Africa, the Secretariat will seek to accommodate larger numbers of participants from African States Parties in regular courses and events addressing assistance and protection offered by other Member States.
17. Successful participants in the assistance-and-protection training programme, as well as other suitable candidates from African States Parties, will be invited to participate in “train-the-trainer” courses at the OPCW Headquarters or at other locations where States Parties offer such advanced training.
18. The Secretariat will continue to encourage and facilitate the donation and transfer of protective equipment offered by other Member States.

#### Capacity-building activities at subregional level

19. The Secretariat has developed and will implement a training course and exercise in assistance and protection for French-speaking Member States in Central Africa. This project is being supported by the Government of Switzerland and the Government of Cameroon. The purpose of the project is to provide support to the countries in the Central Africa subregion to develop emergency-response capabilities against an attack or threat of attack with chemical weapons or involving toxic industrial chemicals. The project will also foster regional cooperation and establish a regional network for response to chemical incidents.
20. Practical exercises and table-top exercises will be held, with the aim of further developing cooperation at the subregional level in the areas of civilian protection, defence, rescue, and decontamination operations in contaminated areas, and appropriate responses in the event of incidents involving chemical-warfare agents or toxic chemicals.
21. Follow-up activities, such as advanced training and refresher training, will be held for participants of past subregional assistance-and-protection projects implemented under the Africa Programme.

#### **International-cooperation activities**

22. The third phase of the Africa Programme relating to international cooperation activities will focus on networking and supporting institutions. The focus will be to enhance their capacities to operate on their own and provide direct assistance in

activities relating to the full implementation of the Convention, especially in areas relating to Article XI.

23. Such support will continue to be focused and revolve around the following four thematic areas supported through the international-cooperation activities:
- (a) chemical knowledge promotion and exchange
  - (b) enhancing laboratory capabilities
  - (c) industry outreach
  - (d) integrated chemicals management
24. The strategy will be to provide direct training and support from the Secretariat, as well as to identify institutions from other States Parties that can also provide such support. The activities and assistance provided in the earlier phases of the Africa Programme have strengthened a number of institutions that have the capacity now to support the above activities independently. It will also be an endeavour to identify new areas of support, such as nano-chemistry, natural products chemistry, and chemical safety and security in the region.

### **Chemical-knowledge promotion and exchange**

#### Conference-Support Programme

25. The existing Conference-Support Programme supports scientific events such as seminars, workshops, and conferences, which are attended by scientists and technical personnel and which facilitate the exchange of scientific and technical information. Under the Africa Programme, the Secretariat will increase this support, particularly in such areas as food and chemical safety, water, the environment, and nano-chemistry, as well as sustainable agriculture, waste management, and natural products.
26. Institutions in Africa could benefit through increased networking, for example by organising more scientific events in the region. Under the third phase of the Africa Programme, the Secretariat will explore ways to foster such cooperation, such as through liaisons with chemical associations, academic institutions, and other relevant bodies.

#### Programme for Support of Research Projects

27. This programme facilitates scientific research in areas related to the use of chemistry for peaceful purposes in States Parties with developing economies. Under the third phase of the Africa Programme, support for applicants from African States Parties in the area of chemistry and its application will increase. Collaboration with the International Foundation for Science (IFS) in Stockholm, Sweden and the African Academy of Sciences in Nairobi, Kenya, will be strengthened.
28. In order to assist applicants from African States Parties in developing proposals that meet its formal and technical requirements, the Secretariat proposes to organise

regional and subregional workshops on the writing of research proposals, with the assistance of the IFS.

#### Internship-Support Programme

29. Under the third phase of the Africa Programme, more scientists from African States Parties will benefit from the Internship-Support Programme, which allows scientists to work for a limited time in an advanced research laboratory or facility active in an area related to the use of chemistry for peaceful purposes. Some internships have already been hosted at advanced laboratories in Africa under this programme, and more laboratories in Africa that have advanced technical expertise will be approached with a view to hosting interns. Voluntary contributions in the form of placements for African scientists in laboratories in developed countries will also be sought, and twinning relationships with laboratories and institutions with special expertise will be encouraged.

#### **Enhancing laboratory capabilities**

##### Laboratory-Assistance Programme

30. A number of African States Parties will receive laboratory assistance in the form of laboratory equipment that has been donated by institutions from other Member States, as well as through technical-assistance visits to laboratories and the training of laboratory personnel. Based on requests for such assistance, it is expected that at least two such laboratories will benefit under the Africa Programme each year.
31. The Secretariat is exploring ways to organise training provided by leading laboratories and institutions in Africa. Two laboratories are now offering such training on a regular basis, with the assistance of the Secretariat and other experts from designated laboratories. The Secretariat will support and encourage leading laboratories in other subregions to follow suit.
32. Laboratories that can act as regional centres will be identified and supported to provide assistance and training to a network of laboratories in that particular subregion, with the objective of improving standards and accreditation.
33. Synergies will be developed to provide assistance through existing networks, such as the East and Southern Africa Laboratory Managers Association (E-SALAMA), the African Network of Analytical Chemists, and the Pan African Chemistry Network (PACN).

##### Increasing the scope of analytical-skills-development courses

34. These courses benefit personnel involved in the implementation of the Convention by offering training in analytical chemistry and good laboratory practices, and by increasing the pool of human resources from which National Authorities and the Secretariat might draw in the future. Under the third phase of the Africa Programme, the Secretariat will organise basic and advanced courses on the development of analytical skills for qualified candidates from that region, with the cooperation of experts from institutions in industrialised States Parties.

### Equipment-Exchange Programme

35. Under this programme, research institutions, university departments, and laboratories in developing countries are provided with support in the form of laboratory equipment donated by institutions in industrialised States Parties, along with training for the technicians who will be using it. Under the third phase of the Africa Programme, States Parties will be encouraged to make voluntary contributions that would allow the Secretariat to purchase equipment and thus help strengthen the capacities of laboratories in African States Parties. The Secretariat will also, as it has done in the past, request institutions and advanced laboratories to donate equipment that could be transferred to needy and deserving laboratories in Africa.
36. Many institutions in the region have equipment that is non-functioning. Assistance in the form of technical support and training will be extended, to make that equipment functional. Training will also be provided for users and for troubleshooting purposes.

### **Industry outreach**

37. The industry-outreach initiative to support chemical-safety management, which seeks to bring together chemical-industry and safety experts from African Member States, provides a forum for participants to gain awareness and receive technical training in chemical-safety management. In addition, initiatives such as a regional chemical safety and security centre in Kenya will be supported. Additional workshops and courses will be organised with the help of voluntary contributions to promote chemical-safety security management within the region and outside, as is the case at the Bergische University Wuppertal, in Germany.

### **Integrated chemicals management**

#### Associate Programme

38. The Associate Programme supports capacity building in areas relevant to the chemical industry and the national implementation of the Convention. Under the third phase of the Africa Programme, support for participants from African States Parties will be continued, which will facilitate industry-related national implementation of the Convention.
39. It is expected that with this focus under the third phase of the Africa Programme, the stakeholders in the field of promotion of peaceful uses of chemistry will be linked with the Secretariat and will be able to work in partnership to achieve the objectives of Article XI of the Convention.

### **Implementation-support activities**

#### Advocacy and outreach

40. One of the bottlenecks that National Authorities in the region face is the lack of, or limited, access to decision- and policy-makers whose interest and support are essential for States Parties to realise their obligations under the Convention. To ensure ongoing awareness creation amongst senior decision- and policy-makers and key stakeholder

institutions in States Parties in Africa, it is important to strengthen the capacity of National Authorities to undertake advocacy, outreach and awareness-raising.

41. The third phase of the Africa Programme will promote ongoing engagement with stakeholders, targeting dignitaries and senior decision- and policy-makers, including those in States not Party and parliamentarians. The Secretariat will work with some National Authorities in the region on a pilot basis, to draw up national advocacy plans and provide materials to support this initiative. This will enable National Authorities to take a more structured approach to raising the level of awareness of the Convention locally.
42. Opportunities to sensitise and create awareness among key stakeholder groups will be identified and efforts made to use these fora to draw attention to issues relating to the implementation of the Convention in the region. Contacts established with senior decision- and policy-makers during the earlier phases of the Africa Programme that have proven constructive will also be further pursued during the third phase. Regular contacts will be maintained with Permanent Representations to the OPCW of African States Parties. These efforts will be incorporated, to the extent possible, into the activities that will be held under the auspices of the third phase of the Africa Programme. The Secretariat will also work with National Authorities in Africa to identify opportunities for key stakeholders to participate in relevant activities organised by the Secretariat.
43. With many States Parties in Africa currently in the process of finalising their national implementation legislation, the Secretariat will continue its efforts to raise awareness among senior policy-makers on the need for the early enactment of national implementing legislation.

Cooperation with the African Union Commission and other regional and subregional institutions in Africa

44. In line with a memorandum of understanding (MOU) entered into between the Secretariat and the African Union (AU) Commission (MOU/AU-OPCW/P&S/04-2004), during the third phase of the Africa Programme the Secretariat will continue to design and implement joint activities to promote universality and further implementation of the Convention in Africa. This will build on the work done during the first and second phases of the Africa Programme.
45. Under this initiative, the Secretariat will, as appropriate:
  - (a) continue its consultations and collaboration with the AU Commission to implement the provisions of the aforementioned MOU;
  - (b) encourage bilateral, subregional, and inter-regional assistance;
  - (c) work with the AU Commission on outreach activities, such as information sessions for high-level representatives of AU Member States attending AU summit meetings and Permanent Representatives of Member States to the AU based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;



- (d) support the AU in organising a conference on disarmament, implementation of the Convention and its contribution to peace and security in Africa; and
- (e) collaborate with subregional and regional institutions in Africa dealing with international peace and security, such as the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre; the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa; the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism; and the Southern African Development Community Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre, with a view to creating awareness of the Convention, its obligations, and relevance to the continent.

#### Training and capacity-building

- 46. During the third phase of the Africa Programme, the Secretariat will develop appropriate tailor-made interventions to respond to the diverse needs of the different African States Parties. Contemporary technological developments, including e-learning modules and other relevant technology available within the Secretariat, will be utilised to assist and support training courses organised by the Secretariat. When it is deemed necessary, the number of participants from Africa who attend training and capacity-building interventions organised by the Secretariat will be increased.
- 47. States Parties in the region would be encouraged to submit relevant nominations for participants to attend the basic courses organised regularly for new National Authority personnel by the Secretariat. This will allow for National Authorities in the region to train at least one new staff member each year.
- 48. African States Parties which are yet to draft their national implementing legislation will be provided with the technical assistance to do so through participation in the Secretariat's Internship Programme for Legal Drafters and National Authority representatives.
- 49. The Secretariat will also organise subregional training courses for stakeholder institutions that support National Authorities in implementing the Convention, such as customs, port, and licensing authorities. It will also encourage National Authorities in the region to engage with institutions that are not currently represented on the National Authority but which may contribute to awareness-raising and the national implementation of the Convention, including ministries of education and relevant non-governmental as well as civil-society institutions. The Secretariat will also continue to collaborate with the World Customs Organization and Green Customs Initiative partners where relevant, in this context.
- 50. To further enhance the functioning and effectiveness of National Authorities in Africa, States Parties in the region will be offered two mentorships annually under the auspices of the third phase of the Africa Programme. The Secretariat's National Authority Mentorship Programme encourages peer learning, management and skills enhancement, and interaction at the level of the National Authority focal points. It allows mentoring National Authorities to disseminate their established good practices and to share information and experiences, with a view to increasing productivity and improving policy-making and planning processes.

51. Thematic activities on an implementation-related subject devoted exclusively to Africa and embracing key stakeholder institutions will also be held during the third phase of the Africa Programme.

#### E-learning

52. Under the third phase of the Africa Programme, the Secretariat will make sustained efforts to promote the use of the OPCW's e-learning modules in the region. The OPCW e-learning project, which has been partly funded through a generous contribution by the European Union, has been successfully deployed and now has six modules available on the OPCW website. National Authorities will be supported to enable them make full use of all the e-learning modules. They will be encouraged to disseminate information about them and also request relevant stakeholders to complete them. On its part, the Secretariat will request all participants attending its activities to complete relevant modules in advance. To allow for access where internet connections are unreliable, DVDs of some of the modules will be produced for distribution to National Authorities in the region.
53. Once all the e-learning modules have been translated into French, the Secretariat will embark on an initiative, in collaboration with the relevant National Authorities, to promote them in French-speaking African States Parties.

#### **MECHANISM TO ASSESS THE EFFICACY OF THE THIRD PHASE OF THE AFRICA PROGRAMME**

54. The Director-General stated in his aforementioned Note submitted to the Council at its Seventy-Fourth Session of the Council and the Conference at its Eighteenth Session (EC-74/DG.6 C-18/DG.8) that at the end of the third phase, the Secretariat will evaluate the necessity of further implementing the Africa Programme.
55. To ensure that the objectives set for the third phase of the Africa Programme are met, the Secretariat will continue to implement a rolling monitoring and evaluation mechanism to ascertain the effectiveness of each intervention undertaken under the auspices of the programme. To maximise the impact of training courses, an impact assessment will be conducted after each intervention and findings from these will be used to review and improve future events. Additionally, regular reviews will be carried out to provide ongoing guidance and ensure that interventions are beneficial and most effective.

Annex (English only):

List of Interventions Planned by the International Cooperation and Assistance Division during the Third Phase of the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention

**Annex**

**LIST OF INTERVENTIONS PLANNED BY THE INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE DIVISION DURING THE THIRD PHASE OF  
THE OPCW PROGRAMME TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION WITH AFRICA  
ON THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

**TABLE 1: ASSISTANCE-AND-PROTECTION ACTIVITIES**

<b>Overview</b>
Increased assistance-and-protection activities will be planned for African States Parties, enabling them to enhance the development of national and regional capabilities against the use or threat of use of chemical weapons, in part by drawing on expertise provided directly or indirectly by the Secretariat. This part of the Africa Programme will also include facilitating the training of first responders and donation or transfer of protective equipment.
<b>Activities for 2014</b>
Increase the number of participants in regular activities on assistance and protection organised by Member States.
Seventh annual assistance-and-protection course for States Parties in Africa.
Continuation and/or follow-up activities under the subregional capacity-building project for West African States Parties to develop regional capabilities and emergency-response systems to protect against chemical weapons.
New initiatives/activities for States Parties in Africa, including the Central, Southern, and West African subregions, to help them to build or develop national and regional capabilities against chemical weapons and to train first responders.
Facilitation of the donation or transfer of protective equipment.
Increased participation in assistance-and-protection courses.
<b>Activities for 2015</b>
Eighth annual assistance-and-protection course for States Parties in Africa.
Continuation and/or follow-up activities of capacity-building projects for countries in all subregions, including Central and Southern Africa.
Subregional exercises in parallel with capacity-building projects.
Regional workshop on Article X issues.
Increased participation in assistance-and-protection courses.
<b>Activities for 2016</b>
Ninth annual assistance-and-protection course for States Parties in Africa.
Continuation and/or follow-up activities of capacity-building projects for countries in all subregions, including Central, Southern, and West Africa.
Subregional exercises in parallel with capacity-building projects.
Increased participation in assistance-and-protection courses.

**TABLE 2: INTERNATIONAL-COOPERATION ACTIVITIES**

<b>Overview</b>
The programmes for international cooperation that the Secretariat carries out are aimed at enhancing the capacities of institutions in States Parties with developing economies, with a view to promoting the use of chemistry for peaceful purposes. Under the third phase of the Africa Programme, these activities will be enhanced or supplemented to further benefit African States Parties.
<b>Activities for 2014</b>
Provide support to African scientists, especially those from States Parties that have not benefited from the Conference-Support Programme, to attend international conferences focusing on areas such as food safety, water, the environment, ethics in science, sustainable agriculture, waste management, and natural products.
Increase the level of sponsorship of regional conferences and other scientific events in Africa in the above-mentioned areas.
Under the Conference-Support Programme, organise a workshop to promote networking and synergy among African chemical scientists during the IUPAC <sup>1</sup> Conference.
Support participants from African States Parties who are sponsored under the Associate Programme.
Under the Programme for Support of Research Projects, provide support for research projects by scientists from African States Parties in such areas as food safety, water, the environment, ethics in science, sustainable agriculture, waste management, and natural products.
Under the Laboratory-Assistance Programme, provide assistance to at least two laboratories in African States Parties, and provide support for the training of six scientists in the context of regional capacity-building activities.
Under the Internship-Support Programme, provide support for internships at advanced research laboratories.
Provide support for two basic courses (one in English and one in French) in Africa on the development of analytical skills for qualified candidates from that region, with the cooperation of experts from institutions in industrialised States Parties.
Support participation in analytical-skills development courses held at VERIFIN <sup>2</sup> , Helsinki, Finland.
Under the Equipment-Exchange Programme, support the exchange of donated equipment to help strengthen the capacity of laboratories in African Member States.
Under the Industry-Outreach Programme, hold at least one dedicated course that brings together chemical industry and safety experts from African Member States and provides a forum for participants to gain awareness and receive technical training in chemical-safety management.
Extend support for African scientists, especially those from States Parties that have not benefited from the Conference-Support Programme, to attend international conferences focusing on areas such as food safety, water, the environment, ethics in science, sustainable agriculture, waste management, and natural products.

<sup>1</sup> IUPAC = International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry

<sup>2</sup> VERIFIN = Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention

<b>Activities for 2015</b>
Increase the level of support for African scientists, especially those from States Parties that have not yet benefited from the Conference-Support Programme, so that they can attend conferences in industrialised countries, focusing on areas such as food safety, water, the environment, ethics in science, sustainable agriculture, waste management, and natural products.
Increase the level of sponsorship of regional conferences and other scientific events in Africa in the above-mentioned areas.
Extend support to participants from African States Parties who are sponsored under the Associate Programme.
Develop proposals that meet the formal and technical requirements of the Secretariat; and hold one regional workshop on the writing of research proposals.
Under the Laboratory-Assistance Programme, provide assistance to two African laboratories; provide support for the training of six scientists at leading African scientific institutions; and support a workshop for beneficiaries of the Laboratory-Assistance Programme.
Develop a network of centres of excellence to support regional institutions.
Build synergy with existing African scientific networks such as the E-SALAMA, the African Network of Analytical Chemists, and the PACN.
Under the Internship-Support Programme, provide increased support for internships at advanced research laboratories.
Provide support for two basic courses (one in English and one in French) in Africa on the development of analytical skills for qualified candidates from that region, with the cooperation of experts from institutions in industrialised States Parties.
Under the Equipment-Exchange Programme, provide training and assistance in the use of existing equipment to help strengthen the capacity of laboratories.
<b>Activities for 2016</b>
Under the Programme for Support of Research Projects, increase support for research projects by scientists from African States Parties in such areas as food safety, water, the environment, ethics in science, sustainable agriculture, waste management, and natural products.
Extend sponsorship of regional conferences and other scientific events in Africa in the above-mentioned areas.
Support participants from African States Parties who are sponsored under the Associate Programme.
Sponsor visits of technical experts for gap analysis of laboratories to support their accreditation.
Under the Laboratory-Assistance Programme, provide assistance for two African laboratories to gain accreditation.
Provide support for the training of four scientists at leading African scientific institutions.
Under the Internship-Support Programme, provide an increased level of support for internships at advanced research laboratories.
Provide support for two basic courses (one in English and one in French) in Africa on the development of analytical skills for qualified candidates from that region, with the cooperation of experts from institutions in industrialised States Parties.
Under the Equipment-Exchange Programme, support equipment exchange and training to help strengthen the capacity of laboratories.

**TABLE 3: IMPLEMENTATION-SUPPORT ACTIVITIES**

<b>Overview</b>
Additional assistance to States Parties in Africa to enable them to develop national capacities for the full and effective implementation of the Convention, including the fulfilment of all Article VII obligations.
<b>Activities for 2014</b>
Subregional training courses for customs officials and other related stakeholders, to train them on the requirements of the Convention.
A joint activity involving the AU Commission and/or its Regional Economic Communities (RECs)/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RMs) to promote the implementation of the Convention, universality, and/or peace and security in Africa.
Collaboration and cooperation with relevant regional and subregional institutions, as necessary and appropriate, to assess the capacities of African States Parties with regard to their implementation of the Convention and support their needs in this regard.
Pilot project to assist selected National Authorities in Africa develop Advocacy Plans.
Two National Authority mentorships.
Promote the use of e-learning.
<b>Activities for 2015</b>
Subregional training courses for customs officials and other related stakeholders to train them on the requirements of the Convention.
Regional/subregional workshop for relevant stakeholders, including senior policy- and decision-makers, organised jointly with relevant institutions.
A joint activity involving the AU Commission and/or its RECS/RMs to promote the implementation of the Convention, universality, and/or peace and security in Africa.
A regional thematic course.
Assistance to National Authorities to develop and implement Advocacy Plans.
Two National Authority mentorships.
Promote the use of e-learning.
<b>Activities for 2016</b>
Subregional training courses for customs officials and other related stakeholders to train them on the requirements of the Convention.
Regional/subregional workshop for relevant stakeholders, including senior policy- and decision-makers, organised jointly with relevant institutions.
A joint activity involving the AU Commission and/or its RECs/RMs to promote the implementation of the Convention, universality, and/or peace and security in Africa.
Assistance to National Authorities to develop and implement Advocacy Plans.
A regional thematic course.
Two National Authority mentorships.
Promote the use of e-learning.