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NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**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 and the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter "the Conference") at its Eighteenth Session (EC-74/DG.6 C-18/DG.8, dated 20 August 2013), affirmed the intention of the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") to continue with the implementation of the OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter "the Africa Programme"), in a third phase, commencing on 1 January 2014 and ending on 31 December 2016, in light of the positive results realised under the second phase of the programme.
2. The Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention "[c]alled upon the Secretariat to continue implementing the OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention ... as well as to provide feedback on a regular basis on the activities and progress made in this regard". It further emphasised the importance of regular budgetary funding for the programme and encouraged States Parties to make further voluntary contributions to it (subparagraph 9.131(n) of RC-3/3*, dated 19 April 2013).
3. The Director-General has regularly apprised the Conference at all its sessions of the new initiatives, activities, and events, and the progress made by the Secretariat since the commencement of the Africa Programme. The second phase of the Africa Programme ended on 31 December 2013, and as part of his report on the delivery of the programme during this phase the Director-General submitted a "Report on the Assessment of the Efficacy of the Second Phase of the OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention", to the Council at its Seventy-Fourth Session and the Conference at its Eighteenth Session (Annex to EC-74/DG.6 C-18/DG.8). The report also addressed the delivery of the Africa Programme in 2013.
4. In March 2014 the Director-General presented a Note on "The Third Phase of the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention" to the Council at its Seventy-Fifth Session (EC-75/DG.5, dated



17 February 2014). The Note provided details of the specific components of the third phase of the Africa Programme and the matters it seeks to address. It also outlined the objectives of the third phase based on the comprehensive review and in-depth assessment undertaken of the second phase. The original objectives of the programme have been realigned to provide the third phase with more relevance, focus, and scope. The Council considered and noted the Note by the Director-General on the third phase of the Africa Programme (paragraph 7.31 of EC-75/2, dated 7 March 2014).

5. The Note setting up the Africa Programme charged the Secretariat with establishing a mechanism to assess the efficacy of the initiatives, activities, and events held under its auspices (EC-50/DG.17, dated 26 September 2007). For this reason, the Secretariat undertakes regular assessment of the activities conducted under the auspices of the Africa Programme.
6. In accordance with the aims set for the third phase of the Africa Programme and based on the feedback received during the first two phases, the Secretariat, during the period under review, has undertaken a substantial number of activities, interventions, events, and new initiatives, with the support of all the stakeholders and partners involved. As a result, significant progress has been made in the delivery of the programme in 2014, which has further advanced the implementation of the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) in the region.
7. This report addresses the delivery of the Africa Programme in 2014 and is hereby forwarded to the Council for its consideration. It will thereafter be submitted to the Conference at its Nineteenth Session in line with previous practice.

DELIVERY OF THE AFRICA PROGRAMME IN 2014

8. Since the submission of the Director-General’s Note on the Africa Programme to the Council at its Seventy-Fourth Session (EC-74/DG.6 C-18/DG.8), additional progress continues to be recorded in the delivery of the Africa Programme.
9. During the period under review the Secretariat continued to organise activities in accordance with the mandate and in the spirit of the programme. Tailor-made, focused support was provided to meet the needs of States Parties in Africa to enable them to enhance their national capacities and effectively implement the provisions of the Convention.
10. In 2014 the Africa Programme comprised a total of 30 events, activities, workshops and training courses that have benefitted 361 participants from African States Parties. These focused and tailor-made responses to the requirements of African States Parties have contributed positively and substantively to their capacity to further their implementation of the Convention.

International cooperation and assistance

11. An increased number of participants from African States Parties have taken part in the activities organised by the International Cooperation and Assistance (ICA) Division of the Secretariat under the auspices of the Africa Programme in 2014. Concurrently,

efforts have also been made by the Secretariat to increase the number of participants from African States Parties taking part in the ICA's regular programmes. All activities have been implemented in line with recommendations, feedback, suggestions, comments, and other positive input received from participants and stakeholders. It should be noted that the details of activities undertaken after 15 August 2014 are estimates and based on projections contained in relevant policy and project documents.

12. The following are the international cooperation and assistance activities of the Secretariat under the Africa Programme in 2014:
 - (a) a regional meeting for National Authorities from States Parties in Africa;
 - (b) two training courses for customs officers on the transfers provisions of the Convention;
 - (c) two exchanges of visits under the National Authority mentorship and partnership programme;
 - (d) joint activities with National Authorities and regional and subregional institutions to increase awareness about the Convention in Africa and promote education and outreach to industry, civil society, the media, and academic institutions;
 - (e) a capacity-building project on emergency response and delivery of assistance tailor-made for the francophone Central African subregion, aimed at upgrading emergency-response capabilities and fostering regional cooperation in assistance and protection. The final stage of this project will consist of an exercise that will be held in Cameroon, also with the assistance of Switzerland, which will engage participants who successfully completed the capacity-building project for States Parties in the francophone West African subregion during the second phase of the Africa Programme;
 - (f) in the field of international cooperation, activities have included support for integrated chemicals management through the Associate Programme. This flagship programme has continued to equip scientists and engineers from Africa with integrated experience in modern safety, production, and management practices in the chemical industry;
 - (g) in the area of chemical analysis, the annual analytical chemistry course for African States Parties was held in South Africa. African participants have also been supported through internships and conferences, many of which have been hosted in Africa; and
 - (h) in the area of chemical safety and security, activities have been organised towards providing and sharing best practices to promote their adoption in the African region.

Implementation support

13. In 2014 a total of 165 participants from African States Parties took part in nine activities organised by the Secretariat to support national implementation. An additional three participants from two States not Party in the region also took part in these events. Four States Parties also informed the Secretariat that they had adopted national implementing legislation.
14. Among the activities held in this regard were two subregional training courses for customs authorities. The first was for States Parties in West, Central, and North Africa and was held in Dakar, Senegal from 25 to 28 March 2014. A total of 47 participants from 23 States Parties took part in this course. A second course, this time for the States Parties in East and Southern Africa, was held in Centurion, South Africa from 15 to 18 July 2014. A total of 38 participants from 18 States Parties and two States not Party in the region participated in the event.
15. Two representatives from Uganda participated in the Secretariat's legal internship programme for legal drafters and representatives of National Authorities, held at the OPCW Headquarters from 12 to 16 May 2014. The legal internship programme, which facilitates the adoption of necessary legislation based on a results-oriented incremental approach, provides support to States Parties that are yet to start drafting national implementing legislation by equipping their legal drafters with the requisite skills and technical capacities to enable them to compile draft national implementing legislation and also to pursue its adoption.
16. Another initiative recently introduced by the Secretariat in which African States Parties have shown a high degree of interest is the National Authority mentorship and partnership programme. This programme facilitates the exchange of visits between National Authority representatives and is designed to enhance the functioning of these institutions. It promotes peer learning, management and skills enhancement, and interaction at the level of National Authority focal points, with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of the mentored National Authority. Since the Secretariat invited States Parties to express their interest in taking part in the programme, a significant number of African States Parties have communicated their interest in taking part.
17. In 2014, two of the six mentorships conducted by the Secretariat under the National Authority mentorship and partnership programme were allocated to States Parties from Africa. The exchanges of visits were between the National Authorities of Brazil and Sao Tome and Principe, and the National Authorities of Algeria and Burkina Faso.
18. The Secretariat held two basic courses for personnel of National Authorities at the OPCW Headquarters in The Hague, from 24 to 28 February 2014 and 15 to 19 September 2014, and a combined total of 26 participants from an equal number of African States Parties took part in them. This course continues to be an important element in the Secretariat's efforts to ensure that personnel from National Authorities have a sound understanding of the Convention, ensuing rights and obligations, and the role that National Authorities are required to play for the full and successful implementation of the Convention.

19. The twelfth regional meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Africa was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 4 to 6 June 2014. The meeting was organised in collaboration with the Government of Kenya and the African Union Commission and its Regional Economic Communities (RECs).
20. A total of 47 participants from 33 States Parties in the region participated in the meeting, as well as the Convention focal points in four RECs/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolutions (RMs), namely the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), Southern African Development Community (SADC), and North Africa Regional Capability (NARC). Also in attendance was a representative from Angola, currently a State not Party to the Convention. The structure of the annual regional meeting was different this year as all four core sessions were undertaken simultaneously and in parallel to enable participants to focus on the areas of the Convention which are most relevant for their National Authorities.
21. There was generally positive feedback from the participants regarding the change to the format of the meeting. In addition to the four core sessions, there was also time allocated for bilateral consultations and over 44 such consultations were held, both among States Parties representatives and between States Parties representatives and the focal points of the participating RECs/RMs.

Education and outreach

22. Education and outreach is an important focus of the Africa Programme in the third phase. This is in order to encourage all States Parties in the region either to take positive action towards the adoption and completion of their legislative requirements and other obligations under the Convention or to make significant progress in this regard. It also seeks to enhance awareness-raising of the Convention at the national level.
23. As part of the Secretariat's education and outreach efforts in 2014, four African States Parties—Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Senegal—were selected to take part in pilot national education and outreach projects.
24. Two African States Parties were also selected to take part in the Secretariat's pilot influential visitors programme (IVP). The IVP is a new multi-faceted activity which involves bringing influential visitors from States Parties, and also States not Party, to the OPCW Headquarters for briefings, orientation and structured interaction with the Director-General, senior management, and representatives of relevant institutions in the Netherlands. It combines awareness creation, sensitisation, and education and outreach with a systematic follow-up on the initial visits through regular high-level contacts, demarches, and possible return visits by the Secretariat. The IVP is being supported with funding from the European Union.

Assistance and protection

25. In the area of assistance and protection, a number of activities to strengthen capabilities in African States Parties and subregions have been organised. During the

reporting period, a total of 78 participants from 23 African States Parties took part in the nine activities organised by the Secretariat in the area of assistance and protection.

26. In June 2014, back-to-back training courses, both basic and advanced, were conducted in Brazzaville, Congo, with the cooperation and generous support of the Government of Switzerland. This training allowed francophone States Parties from Central Africa to send several first responders each for intensive training designed to significantly enhance their capacity to respond to a chemical incident and operate in a contaminated environment.
27. The training in Brazzaville will be followed up by an exercise to be held in Cameroon in December 2014, designed to ensure that the participants are sufficiently confident in their skills and have the opportunity to employ them in a practical exercise environment. In addition to the participants from the Central Africa project, participants who completed the training for francophone States Parties in West Africa during the second phase of the Africa Programme will also be invited to return to refresh their skills during this exercise.
28. The annual assistance-and-protection course for African States Parties held in Tshwane, South Africa, since 2005 was held once again. The course provides advanced 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.
29. Four instructors from emergency-response agencies of African States Parties participated in the third OPCW assistance-and-protection training course for instructors, which was organised by the Secretariat in The Hague from 27 August to 3 September 2014.

International cooperation

30. In the area of international cooperation, a total of 118 participants from African States Parties took part in activities from the four programme focus areas organised and supported by the Secretariat. The Secretariat has, through the implementation of Article XI and its associated programmes, assisted the scientific communities in African States Parties in building their national scientific and technical capacity in chemistry, chemical engineering, and allied disciplines.
31. In 2014, the flagship Associate Programme provided 13 places to personnel from Africa and continues to be a programme that attracts great interest and numerous applicants from African States Parties.
32. In the area of chemical analysis, the Secretariat has embarked on an integrated approach towards assisting States Parties in the development of their technical capabilities. The analytical-skills-development training courses supported by Finland and South Africa are particularly popular with the African States Parties because of their singular focus on specific and specialised chemical analytical techniques related to scheduled chemicals, their precursors, and their degradation products. The sixth annual analytical chemistry course, a regional course for Africa, was held at Protechnik Laboratories in Pretoria, South Africa from 12 to 23 May 2014 and

accommodated 18 participants. The two courses focusing on the use of gas chromatography-mass spectrometry scheduled to be held in Finland in 2014 had and will have participants from the African region. The first course was held at the Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN), in May and June 2014. Out of the 20 participants, 11 were from the African region. The second course will take place in November 2014 with 20 participants, of whom approximately 30% to 50% will be from the African region. Three courses on the enhancement of laboratory skills are being held at VERIFIN in 2014, namely, a course on the use of nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometry to analyse chemicals related to the Convention, a course on laboratory quality management, and a course on quantitative mass spectrometry. The first two will have four participants each and the third will have eight. Out of these, a total of four participants are from the African region.

33. The Internship-Support Programme, which facilitates the sharing of scientific and technical information and also furthers professional growth, continues to be very popular. A total of eight internships have been implemented or are in progress during 2014, with four of the interns being from African States Parties. Four new internships are expected to start in the period from September to December 2014, with all of the interns coming from Africa. In 2014, four laboratories in Botswana (2), Lesotho, and South Africa have already hosted or will host internships.
34. The Programme for Support of Research Projects has seen an increased number of research proposals submitted by African scientists for direct funding by the Secretariat. In 2014, five projects were approved for direct funding by the OPCW, with two of them taking place in the African region. Research projects have been supported in various areas of the peaceful application of chemistry, such as environmental monitoring of industrial waste water and development of new anti-malarial drugs based on locally occurring natural substances. Of the 21 research projects sponsored jointly by the OPCW and the International Foundation for Science (IFS), 10 were carried out in African Member States.
35. Four conferences supported by the Secretariat were held in Africa, and a total of 11 participants from African States Parties were supported in attending international conferences. This included support to the Pan Africa Chemistry Network to host a chemical analysis workshop at the University of Nairobi, also supported by the Royal Society of Chemistry. A special information booth was set up for the 5th IUPAC¹ International Conference on Green Chemistry, in Durban, South Africa. A further five conferences and 25 participants from the African region are expected to be sponsored during the second half of 2014, whilst resource persons will be funded to attend future conferences held in Africa.

Voluntary support to the Africa Programme in 2014

36. Assistance, especially financial, received from States Parties and institutions to support activities held under the auspices of the Africa Programme has contributed significantly to the delivery of the Africa Programme in 2014. These contributions

¹ IUPAC = International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry.

have enhanced the capacity of the Secretariat to deliver additional activities to African States Parties. African States Parties have also supported these activities through the provision of in-kind contributions.

37. A substantial number of the activities conducted in 2014 were supported with funding from the 2012 European Union Council decision which provides funds to support specific areas of international cooperation and assistance work in the region. Some of the areas supported under the decision are bilateral technical-assistance visits, training for customs officials, an analytical-skills-development course, industry outreach in accordance with the Convention, and chemical-process safety. Other activities supported with funding from the European Union under the decision are in the area of outreach to States not Party to the Convention.
38. The Government of Norway provided complementary funding for three activities held in Africa in the area of implementation support in 2014. This enabled the Secretariat to sponsor additional participants from the region to attend the events.
39. The Government of Norway provided funding also for the African participants attending the annual assistance-and-protection course for instructors held in South Africa. As a result, 16 African participants were able to attend this advanced training course and receive training on how to provide chemical response training in their home countries.
40. The Government of Switzerland provided financial, technical, and equipment support with respect to the francophone Central African project that assisted the Secretariat in holding a full training cycle of basic and advanced assistance and protection training in Congo.
41. The industry-outreach initiative to support safety in chemicals management, which seeks to bring together chemical industry and safety experts from African States Parties, has provided a forum for participants to gain awareness in chemical-safety management. A seminar on the Convention and chemical-safety-and-security management was held from 18 to 20 March, in Durban, South Africa and accommodated 35 participants and experts. The event was supported under a 2012 European Union Council decision.
42. Through a contribution from the Government of Germany, a course on chemical-safety management for Member States from Africa will be held at the Bergische Universität of Wuppertal in Germany from 3 to 7 November 2014 and will accommodate eight participants.
43. The Government of Norway will also support an African nanoscience and nanotechnology initiative in 2014. This initiative follows from the Article XI workshop held from 19 to 21 November 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya.
44. Two internships were supported by China at the Beijing Institute of Chemical Technology.
45. The Secretariat would like to acknowledge all contributions received in support of the programme this year. This support, coupled with the interest and commitment that all

donors to the Africa Programme continue to show, has contributed in no small measure to the positive impact made in the delivery of the Africa Programme in 2014.

46. The Annex to this report indicates activities financed with funding from donor States Parties in 2014.
47. The Secretariat plans to continue to organise activities in 2015 under the auspices of the Africa Programme, in order to offer more focused, tailor-made initiatives to States Parties in Africa with a view to enhancing their national capacities to enable them to effectively realise their obligations under the Convention. This will be done, as usual, in line with inputs received from all the key identified stakeholders.

Annex: International Cooperation and Assistance Activities Financed by Donors Under the Africa Programme in 2014

Annex

**INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES
FINANCED BY DONORS UNDER THE AFRICA PROGRAMME IN 2014**

	Programme/Project	Date and Venue	Donor	Contributions	
				Financial (EUR)	In Kind
Implementation Support					
1.	Subregional training course for customs authorities of States Parties in Central, North and West Africa on technical aspects of the transfers regime	25 – 28 March Dakar, Senegal	Norway	15,000	
			Senegal		Various
2.	12th regional meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Africa	4 – 6 June Nairobi, Kenya	Norway	20,000	
3.	Subregional training course for customs authorities of States Parties in East and Southern Africa on technical aspects of the transfers regime	15 – 18 July Centurion, South Africa	Norway	15,000	
Assistance and Protection					
4.	Basic and advanced courses in assistance and protection for francophone States Parties of Central Africa	2 – 13 June Brazzaville, Congo	Switzerland		Training, instructors, equipment, and shipping
5.	Regional course on assistance and protection for African Member States	1 – 12 September Tshwane, South Africa	Norway	61,000	
			South Africa		Training, instructors, training equipment
6.	Exercise in assistance and protection for francophone States Parties in Africa	15 – 19 December Yaoundé, Cameroon	European Union	53,000	
			Switzerland		Training, instructors, equipment
International Cooperation					
7.	Internship-Support Programme	September 2013– January 2014	China		Air ticket, daily subsistence allowance, training
8.	Industry-Outreach Programme	18 – 20 March	European Union	58,000	

	Programme/Project	Date and Venue	Donor	Contributions	
				Financial (EUR)	In Kind
9.	Analytical chemistry course	12 – 23 May Protechnik Laboratories, Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa		Venue, laboratory facilities, staff
			Finland		Staff
10.	Industry-Outreach Programme – Bergische Universität Wuppertal	3 – 7 November	Germany	70,000	
11.	African nanoscience and nanotechnology initiative 2014	12 – 14 November	Norway	60,000	
12.	Analytical chemistry courses	15 – 29 November VERIFIN, Helsinki, Finland	European Union	55,000	Venue, laboratory facilities, staff