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The industry cluster met twice during this period, once on 25 November 2014, on the margins of the Meeting of National Authorities and again yesterday, on 16 March. Informal consultations addressed a wide range of topics. I defer discussion of one such topic, the Secure Information Exchange Project – or “SIX” – to Aladdin AlHmedawi, the facilitator for that issue. The industry cluster serves as a useful forum for the Technical Secretariat to inform States Parties of initiatives that relate to industry implementation. These initiatives enhance the Technical Secretariat's own verification efforts, assist States Parties, and take account of the views of the chemical industry.

Highlights of the industry cluster discussions in November included the following:

- (a) The Technical Secretariat presented a briefing that included its revisions to OCPF inspection report templates, which were aimed at streamlining and enhancing consistency of reports. The Technical Secretariat received feedback from delegations and announced that inspection teams would begin using the revised formats in April of this year.
- (b) In addition, the Technical Secretariat Head of International Cooperation and Assistance updated delegations on the Technical Secretariat's initiative to engage chemical industry associations, designed to strengthen the partnership between the OPCW and chemical industry, promote the Chemical Weapons Convention and prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons.
- (c) Also in November, the Technical Secretariat informed delegations of its efforts to strengthen the Technical Secretariat's training capabilities at the OPCW Laboratory in Rijswijk, to include a discussion of a new dedicated training facility for OPCW laboratory staff and analytical chemist inspectors at the lab.

I would also like to highlight some of the useful discussions that came out of the industry cluster convened yesterday, 16 March:

- (a) The Technical Secretariat provided a detailed briefing on its progress in preparations to conduct sampling and analysis at Schedule 3 and other chemical production facility (OCPF) sites. Delegations took the opportunity to provide views and ask questions of the Technical Secretariat, in what proved to be a useful exchange of views and technical planning considerations.



- (b) Also during yesterday's consultation, the Technical Secretariat provided its third annual briefing on the performance of the OCPF site selection methodology agreed to by the Council in 2011. The briefing showed how the methodology is achieving its intended goal of better focusing inspections on sites of higher relevance.
- (c) The Technical Secretariat provided a briefing to States Parties yesterday on the results of industry inspections in 2013 and 2014, summaries of issues requiring further attention, "uncertainties," and additional data analysis. I would expect this to serve as the basis of future discussions in the industry cluster after delegations have had the opportunity to closely review the information.
- (d) Finally, the Technical Secretariat, during yesterday's consultation, briefed States Parties on so-called "E-Learning Modules" it is developing to help familiarise external audiences with verification-related requirements. Such programmes can improve State Party capacity to complete key requirements related to declarations and inspections. We look forward to hearing more about the Technical Secretariat's roll-out of these modules.

In closing I would like to thank the representatives of the Technical Secretariat for their commitment to providing information to delegations on such a wide array of relevant topics.

I would also like to request that this report be considered as an official document of the Seventy-Eighth Session of the Executive Council.

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