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

1. In his Note to the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) at its Seventy-Fifth Session (EC-75/DG.5, dated 17 February 2014), the Director-General stated that, in light of the positive experience to date of the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) with respect to the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Africa Programme”), the Secretariat intended to continue to implement the Africa Programme in a third phase for another three-year period, beginning on 1 January 2014 and ending on 31 December 2016.
2. Since the commencement of the Africa Programme, the Director-General has reported to all the sessions of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter the “Conference”) on the new initiatives, activities, events, and progress made by the Secretariat in the delivery of the Programme. As part of the assessment of the first and second phases of the Africa Programme, the Director-General submitted Notes to the Conference at its Fifteenth (C-15/DG.12, dated 10 November 2010) and Eighteenth Sessions (EC-74/DG.6 C-18/DG.8, dated 20 August 2013), which contained reports on the in-depth assessments conducted by the Secretariat of the activities undertaken under the auspices of the Programme since its inception. The Notes also included reports on the delivery of the Africa Programme in 2010 and 2013, respectively. The Conference noted with appreciation the Notes by the Director-General at its Fifteenth (C-15/5, dated 3 December 2010) and Eighteenth Sessions (C-18/5, dated 5 December 2013).
3. In March 2014, the Director-General presented a Note to the Council at its Seventy-Fifth Session on “The Third Phase of the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention” (EC-75/DG.5). The Director-General reported on the progress of the delivery of the third phase of the Programme to the Council at its Seventy-Seventh (EC-77/DG.21 C-19/DG.13, dated 23 September 2014) and Eightieth Sessions (EC-80/DG.5 C-20/DG.6, dated 25 August 2015). The Director-General has also regularly apprised the Conference of the progress made under the auspices of the Africa Programme, with the aforementioned reports being submitted by the Council to the Conference at its Nineteenth and Twentieth Sessions.
4. 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, and other appropriate programmes, as well as to provide feedback on a regular basis on the activities and progress made in this regard and, while emphasising the importance of regular budgetary funding for these programmes, encouraged States Parties to make further voluntary contributions to support them” (subparagraph 9.131(n) of RC-3/3*, dated 19 April 2013).

5. The Note setting up the Africa Programme (EC-50/DG.17, dated 26 September 2007) allocated a three-year period for its delivery and requested the Secretariat to establish a mechanism to assess the efficacy of the initiatives, activities, and events held under its auspices at the end of this period. The Secretariat has undertaken regular evaluations of the activities conducted under the auspices of the Africa Programme and, with the third phase due to end this year, has conducted another assessment of the Programme in order to determine its efficacy.
6. This assessment report, which also addresses the delivery of the Africa Programme in 2016, is hereby forwarded to the Council as the Annex to this Note. It will thereafter be submitted to the Conference at its Twenty-First Session, in line with previous practice. In light of its experience with the third phase, the Secretariat intends to continue with the implementation of the Africa Programme and will evaluate the needs for its implementation and improvement in the next phase.

Annex:

Report on the Assessment of the Efficacy of the Third Phase of the OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention

Annex

**REPORT ON THE ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFICACY OF THE THIRD PHASE OF
THE OPCW PROGRAMME TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION WITH AFRICA
ON THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

1. In his opening statement to the Council at its Forty-Eighth Session, the Director-General expressed his readiness “to explore ways in which a programme might be developed by the Secretariat ... to respond to the particular needs of Africa” (EC-48/DG.15, dated 13 March 2007), pending a decision by States Parties on the establishment of an OPCW Office in Africa and in view of the need for prompt action to accelerate and strengthen efforts both to achieve universality and to ensure the full implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) in Africa. He tasked the Director of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division (ICA) with preparing a proposal in this regard and, in cooperation with the other divisions in the Secretariat, the OPCW Africa Programme was developed.
2. The objectives of the third phase of the Africa Programme, as listed in the Note by the Director-General submitted to the Council at its Seventy-Fifth Session (EC-75/DG.5), are:
 - (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) increased participation by African States Parties in relevant programmes and activities; and
 - (d) the universality of the Convention in Africa.
3. The key aspects 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 multipronged, 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) increased collaboration with relevant institutions in Africa.
4. The Africa Programme consists primarily of a number of activities developed and undertaken by the Secretariat to respond to the most urgent needs of African States Parties in implementing the Convention and to promote the universality of the Convention in the region. In addition to creating awareness among government institutions in African States Parties, the Note on the establishment of the Africa Programme (EC-50/DG.17) also mandates outreach to civil society, non-governmental organisations, the media, and academic institutions to raise

awareness of the Convention and its contribution to international peace and security in Africa.

5. Activities under the Africa Programme also take place with a view to accelerating and strengthening the national implementation efforts of States Parties. The Africa Programme has evolved to become the framework for the Secretariat's strategic direction, policy, and engagement with African States Parties as regards implementation of the Convention.
6. In line with the purpose of the Africa Programme, the Secretariat undertook a significant number of activities, interventions, events, and new initiatives during the period under review, with the support of all the partners involved. In summary, a total of 844 African participants from 48 African States Parties took part in 34 different events organised by the Secretariat under the Africa Programme. These initiatives, set under the auspices of the third phase of the Africa Programme, have further advanced the implementation of the provisions of the Convention in the region.
7. The Secretariat has received a significant amount of voluntary funding for activities held during the third phase of the Africa Programme, and donors have funded activities in all areas of the ICA programme objectives. African States Parties have also provided voluntary and invaluable in-kind contributions. The total amount of funds allocated to activities under the third phase of the Africa Programme is EUR 992,000 from the regular budget and EUR 586,000 in voluntary contributions from States Parties.

PROGRAMME DELIVERY REPORT FOR 2016

8. Since the submission of the Director-General's Note on the Africa Programme to the Conference at its Twentieth Session (EC-80/DG.5 C-20/DG.6), 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 spirit of the Africa Programme. Tailor-made, focused support was provided to meet the most urgent needs of States Parties in Africa, thus enabling them to enhance their national capacities to effectively implement the provisions of the Convention. This was done in line with feedback, suggestions, comments, and input received from the principal stakeholders. It should be noted that any details of activities planned for the period after 31 August 2016 are estimates based on projections contained in the relevant project documents.
10. During the reporting period, the following initiatives and activities were realised under the Africa Programme:
 - (a) joint activities with regional institutions and international organisations to increase awareness of the Convention in Africa. Other activities in this area include outreach to civil society and educational institutions;
 - (b) in the area of implementation support, assistance with national implementing legislation, capacity-building of National Authorities, and customs training;

- (c) capacity-building projects on chemical emergency response and delivery of assistance for States Parties from North and Central Africa and Member States of the East African Community (EAC) and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);
- (d) in the field of international cooperation, tailor-made integrated chemicals management programmes in the areas of chemical safety and security management; and
- (e) in the area of chemical analysis, the development of technical expertise.

Implementation support

11. Since the beginning of the third phase of the Africa Programme, a total of 473 participants from 48 States Parties have taken part in the 32 activities organised by the Secretariat to support national implementation. In addition to these activities, 183 representatives of African States Parties participated in global programmes offered to States Parties from all OPCW regions, including basic courses for personnel of National Authorities (61), courses related to Article VI of the Convention (22), training of trainers for customs training institutions (6), and annual meeting of National Authorities (94).
12. In 2016, the primary focus of the Secretariat's efforts regarding Article VII implementation has been and will remain on assistance in the development and adoption of national implementing legislation. This assistance is provided through the Internship Programme for Legal Drafters and National Authorities' Representatives, capacity-building for National Authorities, as well as training of customs officers on the transfers regime for scheduled chemicals.
13. As at 10 August 2016, 23 (44%) States Parties in Africa had legislation covering all initial measures. Nine (17%) States Parties had legislation covering some initial measures, while 20 (39%) States Parties had no legislation.
14. Regional training courses for customs officials were held in Ethiopia (in March 2016) and Côte d'Ivoire (in May 2016), the latter with European Union (EU) funding. Both events provided participants with in-depth knowledge on the identification of chemicals, the transfer provisions of the Convention, as well as good practices for the reporting of imports and exports of scheduled chemicals.
15. In late 2016 the Secretariat will also organise a workshop for legal drafters in the Portuguese-speaking countries of Africa that do not yet have implementing legislation. This will be the first OPCW event tailored to the needs of the Portuguese-speaking States Parties in the region. This approach will allow for national implementing legislation to be drafted in Portuguese and for the establishment of regional and cross-regional partnerships, in which States Parties that have successfully adopted implementing legislation can share their experiences and assist States Parties that are still in the process of developing legislation.
16. States Parties that are in the process of adopting legislation experience different types of challenges. To address these, the Secretariat plans to organise a stakeholders'

forum to assist States Parties that have no legislation to advance progress towards adoption. The forum will bring together various stakeholders and National Authorities who can provide support and facilitate the adoption process. This is a pilot initiative that will be implemented with a financial contribution from the EU.

17. Another initiative to assist States Parties with the adoption of legislation is the Influential Visitors Programme. After being successfully piloted with Uganda in 2015, there are plans to implement the Programme with another African country in 2016.
18. By participating in the mentorship/partnership programme with Switzerland, the National Authority of Namibia has had an opportunity to raise awareness on legislative issues among its key stakeholders and to strengthen its capacity for Convention implementation. Similar opportunities have been offered to Angola, which partnered with Brazil, and Malawi, which partnered with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Assistance and protection

19. With regard to capacity-building activities in the area of assistance and protection under Article X of the Convention, progress was made in the design and implementation of activities aimed at establishing and increasing protective capabilities and emergency response preparedness in African States Parties. The Secretariat strengthened its focus on the training of individuals, preferably instructors, with an appropriate background in emergency first response activities (chiefly personnel from the army, police, fire and rescue services, and emergency medical and civil-defence units).
20. Since the beginning of the third phase of the Africa Programme, a total of 249 participants from 47 States Parties have taken part in the 13 activities organised by the Secretariat in the context of the Africa Programme to support the implementation of Article X. In addition, 179 representatives of African States Parties have participated in other international assistance and protection capacity-building programmes, including courses related to Article X implementation (23), basic and advanced courses on assistance and protection (112), training of trainers courses for instructors (18), basic and advanced laboratory courses (12), training in sampling and analysis of substances in highly contaminated areas (13), and a police first responders course (1).
21. In continuation of a pilot project launched in 2015, particular focus was given to capacity-building in States Parties that are also members of the EAC and ECOWAS. The project assisted members of the targeted subregional groups in developing national protection programmes and action plans for chemical response, supplemented with confirmatory table-top exercises and practical training in chemical response for first responders.
22. With the support of the Government of Switzerland, a basic assistance and protection course for 28 first responders from French-speaking African States Parties was held in the city of Stans from 22 to 26 February 2016.

23. A full training cycle that includes the States Parties of North Africa began in 2015 with a basic emergency response course in Algeria. This cycle was finalised in 2016 with an advanced course in Oman and a confirmatory exercise in Jordan. A team of 28 first responders completed the training cycle.
24. With the support of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, the Secretariat continued to provide assistance to Uganda, Kenya, and Rwanda in 2016 in the areas of chemical threats and risk assessment. This support resulted in the development of draft national protection programmes which include action plans to strengthen these countries' ability to respond to incidents involving toxic chemicals.
25. A regional follow-up meeting of the EAC project was held in Kigali, Rwanda from 28 to 29 April 2016 and was attended by EAC Partner States. It reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the project and devised an amended regional action plan for the period 2017–2020. The EAC Secretariat informed the meeting of its decision to procure assistance and protection training in the first half of 2017.
26. In conjunction with the Secretariat, the Government of Uganda has offered to conduct assistance and protection training at the Ugandan Rapid Deployment Capability Centre (URDCC). The first operational training under the EAC project is scheduled for November 2016 at the URDCC, a facility that the Secretariat will add to its list of partners for future regional and subregional OPCW training activities in the Africa region.
27. The fifth assistance and protection training course for instructors from African States Parties was jointly organised and conducted by the Secretariat and the Government of South Africa from 15 to 26 August 2016 at the Ditholo training facility of the South African Defence Force. This two-week intensive training course was attended by 27 experts from 17 States Parties in the region. The course is specifically tailored to the African context and prepared the participants to provide chemical emergency response training to first responders in their countries of origin.
28. As an opening activity for the ECOWAS project, a workshop to assess national protective capabilities and emergency response preparedness in ECOWAS Member States was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire from 25 to 26 July 2016, with the attendance of 20 experts. A similar workshop for Nigeria will take place from 31 October to 4 November 2016.

International cooperation

29. The Africa Programme aims at assisting African States Parties and relevant stakeholders in building their scientific and technical capacity in chemistry and allied disciplines. The Secretariat has organised a number of specific activities in this regard, including analytical skills development courses and chemical safety and security management programmes. The main expected outcomes of international cooperation activities are to enhance skills in the analysis of chemicals related to the Convention and to promote the adoption of a safety culture by the chemical industries in safety management processes. The Africa Programme also aims at fostering the

ability of African States Parties to independently conduct training at the national level. In addition, the Programme aims to help laboratories adopt good laboratory practices in chemical analysis.

30. Since the beginning of the third phase of the Africa Programme, a total of 149 participants from 36 African States Parties have taken part in 10 capacity-building activities organised by the Secretariat. In addition, 271 representatives of African States Parties participated in other international cooperation programmes, including the Associate Programme (40), an Article XI workshop (6), analytical skills development courses (91), the Fellowship Programme (13), the Laboratory Assistance Programme (4), the Programme for Support of Research Projects (29), chemical safety and security management programmes (12), a trade management Programme (4), and the women in chemistry initiative (15). In promotion of the peaceful uses of chemistry, the Secretariat provided support to 57 African participants to attend international scientific and technical conferences around the globe, including six conferences held in the Africa region, under the Secretariat's Conference Support Programme. In addition, the Secretariat successfully transferred 46 used, but still functional, laptops to African States Parties in support of their relevant activities in the promotion of peaceful chemistry.
31. The Secretariat and Protechnik Laboratories of the Armaments Corporation of South Africa (Armscor) co-organised an analytical chemistry course for African Member States in Pretoria, South Africa in May 2016. The aims of the course were to enable qualified personnel (analytical chemists from Africa) to gain a sound working knowledge of the principles, procedures, and applications of gas chromatography and gas chromatography-mass spectrometry for the analysis of chemicals related to the Convention.
32. With the voluntary contribution from the EU, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN), plans to organise an analytical skills development course for the African Region in Helsinki, Finland in November 2016. The Secretariat will sponsor approximately 20 participants from the African region to attend this course.
33. The Secretariat and the Bergische University of Wuppertal jointly organised, with the voluntary contribution of the Government of Germany, courses on promoting chemical safety management for Member States in the Africa Region in Wuppertal, Germany in April 2016.
34. In collaboration with the University of the Western Cape in South Africa, the Secretariat plans to organise a pan-African chemical science workshop as part of the All African Nanoscience-Nanotechnology Initiative (AANNI) in Cape Town, South Africa in September 2016.
35. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the National Authority of Kenya, will organise a chemical safety and security management course for African Member States in Nairobi, Kenya in September 2016, with the voluntary contribution from the EU. The

programme aims to promote chemical safety and security best practices and Responsible Care® in the African region.

Voluntary support to the Africa Programme in the period 2014 – 2016

36. Assistance from States Parties and institutions to support activities in African States Parties under the auspices of the Africa Programme has contributed significantly to Programme delivery. African States Parties have also provided financial support and in-kind contributions.
37. Contributions, both financial and in-kind, have enhanced the capacity of the Secretariat to deliver additional activities to African States Parties during the third phase of the Africa Programme.
38. Voluntary contributions were provided by Czechia, Finland, Germany, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and the EU to support activities undertaken within the Africa Programme for the implementation of Articles VII, X, and XI of the Convention.
39. The Secretariat greatly appreciates the support, interest, and commitment that all donors to the Africa Programme continue to show, and would like to acknowledge their contributions, which have had a positive impact on the progress made in the delivery of the Africa Programme.

ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFICACY OF THE THIRD PHASE OF THE AFRICA PROGRAMME

40. The Secretariat has undertaken regular evaluations of the activities conducted under the auspices of the third phase of the Africa Programme in order to demonstrate how it fulfils the objectives and contributes to the achievement of expected results. With the third phase due to end this year, it has conducted a final assessment of the Africa Programme in order to determine its efficacy.
41. From the outset of the third phase of the Africa Programme, significant efforts were made by the ICA to put in place a mechanism to assess its efficacy. To this end, inter-branch collaboration within ICA was enhanced and existing monitoring and evaluation systems were reviewed and improved.

Assessment methodology

42. For the assessment of its activities, the ICA used evaluation mechanisms and tools such as feedback forms and questionnaires. The information collected from this process was analysed to assess the efficacy and relevance of ICA activities, their impacts on various stakeholders, and the efficiency of resources used to achieve the programme objectives.

ASSESSMENT OF THE DELIVERY OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE DIVISION ACTIVITIES UNDER THE AFRICA PROGRAMME

43. The following outcomes were realised during the third phase of the delivery of the Africa Programme:
- (a) increased awareness about the relevance and importance of the Convention, including rights, obligations, and benefits;
 - (b) increased capacity of African States Parties to fully implement the provisions of Articles VII, X, and XI of the Convention;
 - (c) fostering of regional cooperation and networking; and
 - (d) facilitation of the delivery of equipment.

Article VII-related activities: Implementation Support Branch

44. Continued legislative support helped to increase the number of African States Parties that successfully prepared and adopted draft national implementing legislation. Two States Parties adopted legislation covering all initial measures during the reporting period.
45. Implementation of various capacity-building activities also resulted in the increased effectiveness and efficiency of the National Authorities and relevant stakeholders. It also served to promote professional networking and cooperation between the participating States Parties.
46. Customs training courses provided an opportunity to raise the awareness of customs officials about the Convention's transfers regime regarding scheduled chemicals, which will help them to better enforce this regime in their respective States Parties. Representatives of ministries of defence, together with National Authorities, developed action plans for the implementation of the Convention at the national level.

Article X-related activities: Assistance and Protection Branch

47. As a result of the implementation of the third phase of the Africa Programme, the following results were obtained:
- (a) first responders across all subregions acquired the skills necessary to conduct their work in a contaminated environment during a chemical emergency;
 - (b) skilled first responders developed the knowledge and capacity to train others in chemical emergency response at the national and regional level;
 - (c) networks were created among first responders and national training institutions with a view to enhancing emergency response preparedness as well as regional and subregional coordination for response to chemical incidents; and

(d) awareness was increased with regard to the assistance and protection provisions of the Convention, particularly in respect of the obligations and rights of all States Parties.

48. The aforementioned partnerships with regional economic communities to conduct traditional assistance and protection capacity-building programmes gave increased visibility and support to the chemical security component of these organisations.

Article XI-related activities: International Cooperation Branch

49. The support provided by the international cooperation programme helped African States Parties to achieve the main objectives of developing their scientific and technical skills capabilities in chemistry and allied disciplines.

50. Based on the capacity-building initiatives in the area of chemical analysis, a greater number of participants in Africa Programme activities gained knowledge about the technical aspects of the identification of Convention-related chemicals as well as experience in good laboratories practices.

51. The programme on chemical safety and security management helped to increase awareness of African States Parties on the modern approaches to safety and security culture to promote safety practices in the management and handling of chemicals in the region.

THE WAY FORWARD

52. Considering the socioeconomic development needs of the Africa region, its current security context, and the status of adoption of national Convention implementing legislation, Africa will continue to remain one of the priority regions for OPCW capacity-building programmes.

53. Based on the achievements of the Africa Programme and the continued interest of States Parties, the Secretariat intends to continue in the next cycle with a fourth phase of the Africa Programme, for a three-year period from 2017 to 2019.

54. The Secretariat is in the process of developing a general framework using a results-based management approach for the delivery of all ICA programmes. The fourth phase of the Africa Programme will be an integral part of this framework and, as such, its preparation will provide baselines with comprehensive targets, required resources, indicators, and programme timelines. The States Parties will be involved in all stages of planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

55. To initiate the fourth phase of the Africa Programme, the Secretariat will engage with States Parties to conduct a needs assessment, which will serve as the basis for the decisions on prioritising and tailoring assistance to African States Parties at the national, subregional, and regional level.

56. While continuing to provide assistance to African States Parties, the Secretariat plans to continue its engagement with subregional cooperation mechanisms to enhance the effectiveness of its capacity-building efforts.

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57. As with the previous three phases of the Africa Programme, the Secretariat welcomes voluntary contributions to support the upcoming fourth phase.

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