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

1. The Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Africa Programme”) was instituted by the Director-General in 2007 to give strategic direction to the engagement of the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) with African States Parties as regards implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) (EC-50/DG.17, dated 26 September 2007).
2. The Africa Programme was initially intended to last three years, from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2010. Since then, the Programme has been extended three times, each time for a three-year period: from 2011 to 2013 (EC-64/DG.5, dated 6 April 2011), from 2014 to 2016 (EC-75/DG.5, dated 17 February 2014) and from 2017 to 2019 (EC-84/DG.18, dated 17 February 2017).
3. Since the establishment of the Africa Programme, the Director-General has regularly apprised the Conference of the States Parties at all of its annual sessions of the progress of programme implementation and of the results achieved.
4. This Note reports on the progress of implementation of the Africa Programme in 2017 within the framework of its fourth phase, which began in January 2017 (EC-84/DG.18). The Secretariat undertakes a broad range of activities that are beneficial to African States Parties.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

5. In 2017, the Secretariat initiated specific activities (listed in the Annex to this document) for the implementation of the seven objectives of the Africa Programme, covering the following areas of the Convention: national implementation (Article VII), assistance and protection (Article X), and the peaceful use of chemistry (Article XI).



**Objective 1: “Ensure that a greater number of African States Parties have comprehensive national Convention implementing legislation”**

6. Regarding objective 1, the following activities were organised: the Internship Programme for Legal Drafters and National Authority Representatives from African States Parties, the Influential Visitors Programme for Namibia, and a Stakeholders Forum on legislation for French-speaking African States Parties.
7. As a result of programmatic support in 2017:
  - (a) Benin, Djibouti and Ghana developed drafts of national implementing legislation, decreasing the overall number of African States without such draft legislation from 14 to 11;
  - (b) Benin, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Mali, Namibia, and Togo sensitised their stakeholders to the need to adopt national implementing legislation with all initial measures, which increased the number of sensitised African States Parties without comprehensive legislation from 10 to 17; and
  - (c) Cameroon and Mali joined the African States Parties which have comprehensive Convention legislation, increasing the total number of such African countries from 23 to 25.

**Objective 2: “Strengthen national capacity for control of transfers of scheduled chemicals in order to prevent non-State actors from accessing such chemicals”**

8. Regarding objective 2, the Secretariat organised a train-the-trainers course for customs training institutions in June 2017. Two African States Parties (Malawi and Nigeria) were invited to participate in this course.
9. As a result of programmatic support in 2017:
  - (a) the Secretariat enhanced the capacity of Malawi and Nigerian customs authorities to conduct national Convention-related training courses for customs personnel, which increased the overall number of African States Parties involved into this initiative from two to four;
  - (b) two customs trainers representing Malawi and Nigeria, together with the representatives of the management of their respective customs institutions, developed their understanding on how Convention-related matters should be taught to customs officers and also, in cooperation with National Authorities, designed plans of action for the introduction of Convention modules into the training process of their respective institutions; and
  - (c) both countries gained practical experience in the use of Convention customs e-learning modules developed by the OPCW in cooperation with the World Customs Organization and committed themselves to further promotion of the use of those modules for the purposes of training of their national customs officers.

**Objective 3: “Support African States Parties in the development of protective measures against chemical attacks and threats”**

10. With respect to objective 3, the Secretariat provided expert advice to Burkina Faso and planned to provide similar support to Ghana and Senegal by the end of 2017. The Secretariat has received a request from Namibia to support it in the development of its national protection programme.
11. As a result of programmatic support in 2017, Burkina Faso and the Secretariat have now:
  - (a) conducted an initial needs assessment to define the chemical threats present in this country;
  - (b) identified the relevant national agencies that should work together to foster the development of the national protection programme commensurate to the identified threats; and
  - (c) assessed training institutions in the country that might be appropriate venues for future regional training related to emergency response following a chemical attack or incidents.

**Objective 4: “Foster national and regional capacity to respond to chemical attacks”**

12. With respect to objective 4, the Secretariat organised a planning and coordination meeting for the Member States of the South African Development Community (SADC). A total of 11 out of the 15 Member States of the SADC were in attendance, together with two representatives from the SADC Secretariat.
13. In 2017, the Secretariat will organise, with the support of the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the second edition of operational training for the East African Community (EAC) partner States. This activity is comprised of a table-top exercise and practical training on chemical emergency response, planning and management.
14. As a result of programmatic support in 2017:
  - (a) the SADC’s Member States identified four needs specific to their region: basic chemical response equipment, chemical emergency planning, skills training (including joint stakeholders training for emergency responders) and national chemical risk assessment;
  - (b) the SADC Council of Ministers, at the initiative of the Government of Zambia, noted during its 15 August meeting the specific needs identified for their region and has approved that this matter be added to the agenda of the Ministerial Committee of the SADC’s Organ on Politics, Defence and Security at its next meeting;

- (c) the Secretariat is now cooperating with three regional economic communities in Africa (the EAC, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the SADC) for the development of regional response capacity including the identification of a regional training centre; and
- (d) the first pool of 10 instructors for the EAC has now completed their training. The curriculum was comprised of initial training held in Uganda in 2016 and a train-the-trainers course held in South Africa in 2017. Starting from 2018, these trained instructors will be in charge of the initial training in Uganda, which now takes place annually.

**Objective 5: “Support African States Parties to strengthen integrated chemicals management, including chemical safety, security and sustainability”**

- 15. In furtherance of objective 5, the Secretariat organised two events on chemical safety and security management for African Member States in Kampala, Uganda and Algiers, Algeria. The Secretariat also organised one event on needs assessment and best practices on chemical safety and security management at Yaoundé, Cameroon. In addition, the Secretariat supported African participants during the event on women in chemistry at The Hague, the Netherlands.
- 16. As a result of programmatic support in 2017:
  - (a) professionals in the African region enhanced their competency and capacities in integrated chemicals management including chemical safety and security management;
  - (b) a step-by-step guide to setting up and managing an effective safety and security framework in a chemical plant was presented in a workshop for small and medium-sized enterprises in the African States Parties;
  - (c) a comprehensive inventory of African Member States’ needs, tools, guidance and best practices related to chemical safety and security management was developed; and
  - (d) 10 participants from 10 African Member States attended the symposium to promote the empowerment of women in chemistry and contribute to peaceful uses of chemistry.

**Objective 6: “Support the enhancement of laboratory capabilities”**

- 17. With respect to objective 6, the Secretariat organised one regional course for Africa which was held in Pretoria, South Africa. In addition, analytical chemists from Africa participated in other analytical chemistry courses organised by the Secretariat.
- 18. As a result of programmatic support in 2017:

- (a) 42 participants from Africa improved their skills in analytical chemistry and learned about the advanced techniques used for the analysis of chemical weapons related chemicals; and
- (b) three laboratories from Africa submitted requests to cooperate under the Twinning Initiative aimed at enhancing their performance in the OPCW proficiency tests.

#### **Objective 7: “Contribute to the enhancement of peaceful uses of chemistry”**

- 19. Regarding objective 7, the Secretariat is running the Fellowship Programme, the Programme for Support of Research Projects, and the Conference Support Programme. In addition, it is organising a policy and diplomacy workshop in Italy in September 2017.
- 20. As a result of programmatic support in 2017:
  - (a) eight fellowships were undertaken by African scientists to conduct research in other countries;
  - (b) 12 scientists from Africa were supported under the Conference Support Programme in attending international conferences in the field of the peaceful applications of chemistry; and
  - (c) young African PhD scientists will attend the policy and diplomacy workshop in Italy.

#### **ENGAGEMENT WITH PARTNERS**

- 21. In order to deepen the working relationship with the Africa Union Commission and thus build synergies in the implementation of the Africa Programme, the Secretariat intends to organise a workshop on strengthening international and regional partnership for effective implementation of the Convention in Africa. The workshop, which is being organised in cooperation with the Peace and Security Department of the Africa Union Commission, will take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 13 to 14 November 2017.
- 22. The Africa Programme provides for the establishment of a Steering Committee, in order to measure progress made in implementing the planned objectives and providing guidance. In this regard, the Secretariat invited the African Group and several donors’ representatives to be part of this committee.

#### **THE WAY FORWARD**

- 23. In line with the principle of results-based management, the lessons learned (including best practices and challenges) from the implementation of the Africa Programme this year will inform the planning and conduct of future activities.

Annex

THE FOURTH PHASE OF THE AFRICA PROGRAMME: ACTIVITIES IN 2017

Activity	Date and Location	Result	Status
<b>Objective 1: Ensure that a greater number of African States Parties have comprehensive national Convention implementing legislation</b>			
Influential Visitors Programme	19 – 20 April 2017 The Hague, Netherlands	Top-level official from Namibia sensitised to Convention issues.	Completed
Internship for Legal Drafters and National Authority Representatives	7 – 11 August 2017 The Hague, Netherlands	Benin, Djibouti and Ghana prepared drafts of comprehensive Convention legislation.	Completed
Stakeholders Forum on legislation for French-speaking States Parties in Africa	12 – 14 September 2017 Yaoundé, Cameroon	Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Togo aim to sensitise their national stakeholders to the need to adopt comprehensive Convention legislation.	Planned
<b>Objective 2: Strengthen national capacity for control of transfers of scheduled chemicals in order to prevent non-State actors from accessing such chemicals</b>			
Train-the-trainers course for customs training institutions	20 – 23 June 2017 The Hague, Netherlands	Customs training institutions of Malawi and Nigeria have knowledge and capacity to implement Convention-related training for their national customs officers.	Completed
<b>Objective 3: Support African States Parties in the development of protective measures against chemical attacks and threats</b>			
Workshop on the development of a national protection programme	10 – 13 April 2017 Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	(a) development of a draft national action plan; (b) identification of relevant agencies; (c) working groups on chemical data collection, risk analysis and cartography, chemical security in industries, equipment and training; and (d) the ENSAP (École Nationale des Sapeurs Pompiers) located in Bobo-dioulasso is ready to welcome future training in chemical emergency response for the ECOWAS Member States.	Completed

Activity	Date and Location	Result	Status
Workshop on the development of a national protection programme	18 – 22 September 2017 Accra, Ghana	Outcomes similar to the workshop in Burkina Faso are expected.	Planned
Workshop on the development of a national protection programme	2 – 6 October 2017 Dakar, Senegal	Outcomes similar to the workshop in Burkina Faso are expected.	Planned
<b>Objective 4: Foster national and regional capacity to respond to chemical attacks</b>			
Planning and coordination meeting for SADC Member States	8 – 12 May 2017 Lusaka, Zambia	Four regional needs specific to the SADC region were identified: basic chemical response equipment, chemical emergency planning, skills training (including joint stakeholders training for emergency responders), and national chemical risk assessment.	Completed
Assistance and protection training for instructors from African States Parties	14 – 25 August 2017 Tshwane, South Africa	The first pool of instructors from the EAC (in East Africa) has now completed its training curriculum.	Completed
Operational training (table-top exercise and practical emergency response training) for the EAC partner States	18 – 25 October 2017 Kampala and Jinja, Uganda	<p>The objectives for the States Parties in the region are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) understand the complexity and impact of an attack or incident, and identify the challenges that must be overcome at the strategic level;</li> <li>(b) develop an understanding of current national and regional protective capacity against chemical weapons, and of the necessity to develop such capacity against current and anticipated chemical threats and risks; and</li> <li>(c) build up a regional pool of first responders capable of providing an effective emergency response in case of chemical attack or incident.</li> </ul>	Planned

Activity	Date and Location	Result	Status
<b>Objective 5: Support African States Parties to strengthen integrated chemicals management, including chemical safety, security</b> Associate Programme	28 July – 29 September 2017 The Hague, Netherlands and elsewhere	The programme aims to address the objectives set out in Article XI of the Convention in terms of capacity building and facilitating trade in areas relating to chemistry for peaceful purposes, in particularly in developing countries and countries with economic transition.	Ongoing
Need assessments and best practices in chemical safety and security management	27 February – 1 March 2017 Yaoundé, Cameroon	Comprehensive inventory of Member States' needs, tools, guidance and best practices, related to chemical safety and security management.	Completed
Chemical safety and security management	27 – 29 March 2017 Kampala, Uganda	Enhanced competency and capacities on chemical safety and security management for professionals in Africa.	Completed
Loss prevention and safety promotion in the chemical process industries	3 – 7 April 2017, University of Wuppertal, Germany	The participants gained the necessary skills to implement modern technical-safety practices and to fulfil their responsibilities to develop sustainable safety management related to the chemical industry. They were encouraged to contribute to the development of a culture of safety as well as to the relevant practices and procedures in their working environments.	Completed
Chemical safety and security management	15 – 17 May 2017 Algiers, Algeria	Provided step-by-step guide to setting up and managing an effective safety and security framework in a chemical plant for small and medium-sized enterprises in African Member States.	Completed
Symposium on Women in Chemistry	2 May 2017 The Hague, Netherlands	Raised awareness of the importance of women chemists in promoting women's role in the peaceful uses of chemistry and supporting the importance of gender-balanced participation in the OPCW capacity building programmes.	Completed



Activity	Date and Location	Result	Status
Forum on the Peaceful Uses of Chemistry: Developing a Chemical Cradle-To-Grave Responsibility Culture	18 – 20 September 2017 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	The overall objective of the forum is to create a platform for sharing lessons learned and best practices in connection with chemical management and policies adopted by the Member States in order to foster international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities.  The forum also aims to raise awareness on integrated chemicals management in the chemical trade.	Planned
<b>Objective 6: Support the enhancement of laboratory capabilities</b>			
Analytical skills development	22 May – 2 June 2017 Pretoria, South Africa	Built capacities in Convention-related chemical analysis by using gas-chromatography and mass spectrometry.	Completed
<b>Objective 7: Contribute to the enhancement of peaceful uses of chemistry</b>			
Activity	Number of Participants/ Date and Location	Result	Status
Conferences, seminars, and workshops sponsored under the Conference Support Programme	12	Facilitates the exchange of scientific and technical information.	Ongoing
Fellowship Programme	8	Strengthening of participants' knowledge about and skills in the peaceful application of chemistry, contributing to the transfer of scientific knowledge and skills.	Ongoing
Policy and diplomacy for scientists workshop	12 – 15 September 2017 Trieste, Italy	The objective of the workshop is to raise awareness among young scientists on the policy and diplomacy aspects of the use of chemicals in various scientific disciplines.	Planned

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