



**REPORT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR DR MOMAR DIOP
FACILITATOR OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON TERRORISM
TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AT ITS EIGHTY-SIXTH SESSION**

Mr Chairperson, Director-General, distinguished colleagues,

1. It is my pleasure and privilege to present to the Eighty-Sixth Session of the Executive Council a short oral report on the third meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T) for the year 2017.
2. In his opening remarks, the Director-General underlined that chemical security was closely linked to the prevention of chemical terrorism and several key articles of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”). The Director-General said that continued and strengthened coordination between international organisations and stakeholders was crucial to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons. Referring to a recent Expert Workshop on International Chemical Security Coordination hosted by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”), the Director-General noted that the workshop outcomes suggested a strengthened coordination role for the OPCW in chemical security matters.
3. The OEWG-T was then briefed on the expert workshop in further detail by Ms Veronika Stromsíková, Director of the Office of Strategy and Policy. The Director established that the Organisation’s background in chemical security coordination builds upon States Parties recommendations and concerns about chemical terrorism and is guided by the OPCW’s Medium-Term Plan and the vision paper. Ms Stromsíková discussed how the OPCW was looking at the issue of chemical security anew by examining how various provisions of the Convention support States Parties’ efforts to strengthen chemical security and provide a mandate to the Secretariat to support those efforts. Ms Stromsíková discussed the aims and outcomes of the workshop, noting that the workshop recommended greater chemical security coordination as well as more targeted capacity building, and suggested that the OPCW would be the obvious candidate to fulfil this role.
4. I presented the key points of the submission to the Open-Ended Working Group on Future Priorities, which was drafted by me and by Ambassador Infante, the Facilitator of the Sub-Working Group (SWG) on non-State actors. The working paper considered work done by both groups under the broad headings of the legal accountability of non-State actors, prevention measures, and response measures. Additionally, the working paper considered other relevant issues, such as the need to adapt capacity building to the particular needs of States Parties, the contribution of strong laboratory capabilities to countering chemical terrorism, and the need for the OPCW to work ever



more closely with other international organisations with mandates touching upon countering terrorism. The delegations that took the floor noted their satisfaction with the working paper. Ambassador Infante and I remain open to receiving further suggestions on improving the text; we plan to submit the final version to the Co-Chairs of the Open-Ended Working Group on Future Priorities before 6 November.

5. The OEWG-T was also briefed by Ambassador Infante, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Chile to the OPCW, on the SWG's intersessional work since the previous OEWG-T meeting in July, based on a working paper issued last week (EC-86/WP.1, dated 2 October 2017). Ambassador Infante described a meeting that took place in September on the subject of cooperation, assistance, and capacity building in Africa. As a result of the connections established at this meeting, the Secretariat has begun to work productively with the National Security Secretariat in Ghana. Ambassador Infante noted that the regional focus of the meeting emphasised the principle that differentiated approaches are needed to implement common objectives.
6. Finally, I would like to express my thanks to delegates for their participation in both the Open-Ended Working Group and the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors. Ambassador Infante and I depend on your contributions as we develop the work of both groups. The next meeting of the OEWG-T is scheduled for 12 March 2018, the day before the Eighty-Seventh Session of the Executive Council.
7. Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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