

**NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL****STATUS OF THE OPCW'S CONTRIBUTION  
TO GLOBAL ANTI-TERRORISM EFFORTS****INTRODUCTION**

1. As decided by the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) in paragraph 12.4 of EC-60/3 (dated 22 April 2010) and consistent with its request contained in paragraph 16 of its recently adopted decision entitled “Addressing the Threat Posed by the Use of Chemical Weapons by Non-State Actors,” (EC-86/DEC.9, dated 13 October 2017), the Director-General hereby submits for the Council’s consideration at its Eighty-Seventh Session an annual Note to keep the Council informed about the OPCW’s contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts, as well as its efforts in implementing the aforementioned decision.
2. The activities of the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) summarised in this Note, covering the period from 9 February 2017 to the date of its issuance, have continued to be based on the approach outlined in the decision by the Council at its Twenty-Seventh Session entitled “The OPCW’s Contribution to Global Anti-Terrorist Efforts”, namely, that “the full and effective implementation of all provisions of the Convention is in itself a contribution to global anti-terrorist efforts” (paragraph 1 of EC-XXVII/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2001).
3. The outcome document of the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, held in April 2013 (RC-3/3\*, dated 19 April 2013), also continued to provide reference for, and guide, the activities of the Secretariat.
4. Furthermore, paragraph 1 of Council decision EC-86/DEC.9 “[u]nderscores the role of the Organisation within its mandate with respect to preventing and responding to the threat posed by the use of chemical weapons by non-State actors to the object and purpose of the Convention” and, in doing so, provides additional impetus on specific matters to guide the Secretariat’s activities.
5. Notably, decision EC-86/DEC.9 also fully recognises the important role of assistance and cooperation in support of capacity-building to achieve full and effective national implementation, and in assisting States Parties in investigating and prosecuting non-State actors for crimes related to the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), or in countering terrorism as it relates to chemical weapons



(paragraphs 9 and 11 of EC-86/DEC.9). The Secretariat will continue to examine the types of cooperation and assistance it can provide to States Parties in this regard.

6. The OPCW-The Hague Award, as awarded in 2017 to the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) and to the “International Master Courses in Protection against CBRNe<sup>1</sup> Events” at the University of Rome, “Tor Vergata”, signals a recognition that important challenges lie ahead for the Organisation and the international community in addressing the threat of non-State actors.

### **THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL’S OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON TERRORISM**

7. In 2017, the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T) and its Sub-Working Group (SWG) on Non-State Actors remained the primary platforms for the States Parties to interact with international experts and to exchange their views on challenges posed by terrorism, as well as on ways the OPCW could further address this subject through the full and effective implementation of the Convention. In this regard, the Secretariat continued to support the Chairperson of the OEWG-T, H.E. Dr Momar Diop, Permanent Representative of Senegal to the OPCW, through three OEWG meetings, and the Chairperson of the SWG, H.E. Mrs María Teresa Infante, Permanent Representative of Chile to the OPCW, through three SWG meetings. Ambassadors Diop and Infante provided their views on the key priority areas to the Council’s Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities of the OPCW (OEWG-FP) as a means of avoiding duplication of effort between the OEWG-T and its SWG, and the OEWG-FP.
8. The Fourth Special Session to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, to be held from 21 to 30 November 2018, will provide States Parties with the opportunity to consider the Organisation’s future priorities. The Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, which was established in 2017 by the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) at its Twenty-Second Session (paragraph 25.2 of C-22/5\*, dated 1 December 2017), will provide a platform for States Parties to review the operation of the Convention and to articulate priorities in relation to the Organisation’s further contribution to global counter-terrorism efforts.

### **ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**

#### **Criminalisation of activities prohibited by the Chemical Weapons Convention**

9. The criminalisation of the activities prohibited by the Convention, such as stockpiling, developing, and acquiring a chemical weapon, continued to be recognised as a key element in preventing the use of a chemical weapon by a non-State actor in the first instance. Furthermore, penal legislation concerning such activities needs to be in place, and effective, in all 192 States Parties, as the terrorist threat is transnational in nature.
10. The importance of the aspect of criminalisation and of States Parties’ adoption of effective national legislation in this regard, as required by Article VII of the

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<sup>1</sup> CBRNe = chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives.

Convention, has been highlighted by the OEWG-T and SWG discussions, and also prominently reflected in paragraphs 5 and 6 of decision EC-86/DEC.9.

11. Currently, as Belize, Cameroon, Jordan, and Mali adopted national implementing legislation covering all initial measures in 2017, 122 of 192 States Parties have now enacted legislation covering all of the initial measures.<sup>2</sup> However, a sizeable global legal gap still remains, as 70 States Parties either have only partially satisfied all measures required under paragraph 1 of Article VII of the Convention (31 States Parties) or have not yet adopted any such legislation (39 States Parties).

#### Support to the policy-making process

12. The OEWG and its SWG continued to focus attention on the topic of legal accountability. At the 10 July 2017 meeting of the OEWG-T, Mr Ferry van Veghel, National Prosecutor for Counter-Terrorism of the Public Prosecution Service of the Netherlands, briefed the OEWG-T on the Dutch experience with prosecuting returning foreign terrorist fighters. Furthermore, Mr David Mugisa, National Coordinator for Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, Uganda, provided Uganda's experience in adopting national legislation in 2015.
13. At the 5 September 2017 meeting of the SWG, Mr Gbevlo-Lartey, Director of the ACSRT, noted the importance of understanding the threats, so as to enable the drafting of effective legislation, and emphasised that any assistance provided in the development of draft legislation should include steps that would also help its adoption.
14. On 16 November 2017, the Secretariat hosted a conference entitled "The Chemical Weapons Convention in 2017: What are the Boundaries to Its Future Evolution?" The conference, which focused on the evolution of the Convention over the last 20 years and on its future challenges, was attended by over 100 academics, legal practitioners, and State Party representatives.<sup>3</sup>

#### Support to States Parties<sup>4</sup>

15. The Secretariat continued to support those States Parties that have yet to adopt national implementing legislation covering all initial measures. Assistance to States Parties was provided in a regional format through, inter alia, a legal workshop for representatives of relevant national institutions, which continued to be an effective way to produce initial draft legislation and indicative "roadmaps" for adoption. Nine

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<sup>2</sup> Annual reports on the status of implementation of Article VII of the Convention in 2017 (EC-86/DG.8 C-22/DG.8, EC-86/DG.9 C-22/DG.9, and EC-86/DG.10 C-21/DG.10, all dated 24 August 2017).

<sup>3</sup> Note by the Secretariat "Conference on 'The Chemical Weapons Convention in 2017: What Are the Boundaries to Its Future Evolution?'" (S/1562/2017, dated 15 December 2017).

<sup>4</sup> Throughout this document, activities organised by the Secretariat in the area of international cooperation and assistance have generally been summarised from reports already issued throughout the year, specifically from the following Notes by the Secretariat: S/1504/2017 (dated 16 June 2017), covering January to April 2017; S/1533/2017 (dated 4 October 2017), covering May to August 2017; and S/1584/2018 (dated 15 February 2018), covering September to December 2017. Should additional details of an activity be sought, the Annex provides a list of activities underlying this report.

States Parties were assisted in such a workshop held for States Parties in the Caribbean and Central America.

16. Furthermore, “stakeholders’ fora” continued to be an effective modality for States Parties that have already adopted legislation to share their experiences with those that have yet to do so. The Director-General, in his opening remarks at the fora for States Parties from Africa and the GRULAC,<sup>5</sup> emphasised the importance of adopting national implementing legislation. The Secretariat held a third forum for States Parties from Asia. Representatives from a number of international and regional organisations also attended one or more fora, such as from the United Nations 1540 Committee, and from the Caribbean Community.
17. The Secretariat also provided assistance to individual States Parties, for example, the internship programme for legal drafters and National Authority representatives continued to be an effective way to assist participants in drafting legislation and their indicative “roadmap” for adoption. Five States Parties from the Africa and GRULAC regions were assisted in 2017 through two sessions of this programme, held in The Hague. In addition, the Influential Visitors Programme was conducted in The Hague for Namibia and Nigeria. The Secretariat also held a workshop in Namibia for senior Namibian policy makers as a follow up to their participation in the Influential Visitors Programme.
18. A legal workshop held for Georgia, organised by its National Authority, served as a means for the Secretariat to assist Georgia in addressing gaps in its legislative framework on matters of the Convention. The Secretariat reviewed, and provided comments on, the draft implementing legislation of nine States Parties at their request.
19. Mentorship and partnership between National Authorities continued to be a useful way for a State Party that has successfully adopted legislation to share its practices and approaches with another State Party that has yet to do so. In 2017, the Secretariat arranged partnerships between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Nigeria, Argentina and Guatemala, and Cuba and Bolivia.
20. To raise awareness of the importance of adopting national legislation among National Authorities and relevant stakeholders, the Secretariat included this topic at regional meetings of the National Authorities. The Secretariat acknowledges the efforts of H.E. Mrs María Teresa Infante, Permanent Representative of Chile to the OPCW, to address the National Authorities in 2017 in this regard at the GRULAC regional meeting in her capacity as Chairperson of the SWG. Regional meetings of the National Authorities were also held for States Parties in the Eastern Europe, Asia, and Africa regions.
21. Noting that decision EC-86/DEC.9 “[e]ncourages States Parties to examine their national laws to ensure that there are appropriate offences which could be used to prosecute indirect perpetrators of Convention-related crimes at the domestic level”, and also requests them “to consider whether additional mutual legal assistance arrangements would be useful in ensuring the accountability on non-State actors”

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<sup>5</sup> GRULAC = Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

(paragraphs 7 and 8), the Secretariat continued to stand ready to provide assistance or advice in this regard.

22. Noting also that the same decision “[e]ncourages States Parties to share, according to their national laws and as appropriate, information related to cases” of activities prohibited by the Convention (paragraph 14), the Secretariat acknowledges that a wealth of experience and knowledge exists in the 122 States Parties that already have adopted national legislation covering all initial measures. The Secretariat therefore stands ready to facilitate the sharing of such information for the benefit of all States Parties.

#### **Measures to prevent the hostile use of toxic chemicals by non-State actors**

23. The enhancement of global chemical security in all stages of the chemical life cycle, for instance, throughout the stages of research and development, manufacture, transport in the supply chain, storage, and disposal of toxic chemical waste, continued to serve as a useful framework for considering the OPCW’s further contribution to global efforts to prevent chemical terrorism. It is noteworthy that toxic industrial chemicals are perhaps easier to acquire than “traditional” chemical warfare agents, and that chemical facilities or carriage of chemicals in the supply chain could become a target for an attack designed to release toxic material to nearby populations.
24. Furthermore, decision EC-86/DEC.9, which “[u]nderscores the obligation of each State Party under paragraph 2 of Article VI of the Convention to ‘adopt the necessary measures to ensure that toxic chemicals and their precursors are only developed, produced, otherwise acquired, retained, transferred, or used’ for purposes not prohibited under the Convention” (paragraph 4), is not limited to the physical aspects of security throughout the chemical life cycle, but includes the overall management of this life cycle. This management may exist in a national chemical security programme and include measures such as regulations, policy, and national risk assessments, as deemed necessary by each State Party.

#### Support to the policy-making process

25. The OEWG and its SWG continued to focus attention on the topic of “prevention”. At the 6 March 2017 meeting of the OEWG-T, Mr Gonçalo Simões, Coordinator of Europol’s CBRN and Explosives Team, outlined Europol’s operations in combating terrorist networks in Europe and the associated challenges.
26. The 7 June 2017 meeting of the SWG focused on customs agencies’ important role in preventing terrorism and on States Parties’ challenges to detect illicit trade amid the large volume of international trade that continues to grow each year. Ms May Ong, Director at the Ministry of Home Affairs of Singapore, Mr Danny Ng and Mr Mohd Ansary from the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority of Singapore, and H.E. Mr Willys Delvalle, Permanent Representative of Panama to the OPCW, provided their national experience within the area of customs security. The Secretariat also provided an outline of its current activities in this important area.
27. On 10 and 11 April 2017, an international conference on chemical disarmament and security, entitled “The OPCW’s Contributions to Global Peace and Security”, was held in Doha, Qatar. Conference participants, who included senior government policy

makers, as well as representatives of industry associations and international organisations, discussed current approaches to chemical security, and emerging challenges—in particular the terrorist threat—to be addressed by the Organisation and the international community. H.E. Mrs María Teresa Infante, Permanent Representative of Chile to the OPCW, addressed the conference in her capacity as Chairperson of the SWG.

28. On 28 and 29 September 2017, the OPCW convened an experts' workshop on chemical security<sup>6</sup> to discuss the state of international coordination of chemical security matters and to consider possible means of strengthening cooperation. This workshop, sponsored by the Government of New Zealand, was attended by 24 experts representing, inter alia, the chemical industry, international organisations, and academia. The Secretariat also provided an overview of this workshop at the 9 October 2017 meeting of the OEWG-T.

#### Support to States Parties

29. The Secretariat continued to support individual States Parties, on a case-by-case basis and upon their request. Notably, following the removal of the declared stockpiles of Category 2 chemical weapons from Libya in 2016, the Secretariat verified, in 2017, that the destruction of such weapons at GEKA<sup>7</sup> mbH in Munster, Germany, was complete, leaving no doubt that those weapons are excluded for terrorist purposes.
30. On 16 October 2017, the OPCW hosted a high level delegation from Iraq as part of the activities of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to strengthen national capacities in order to address the threat of the dual use of chemical materials for terrorism purposes. The Director-General of the National Counter Terrorism Committee in the Iraqi National Security Advisory, and representatives from, inter alia, the Ministries of Industry, Environment, and Customs, discussed with the Director-General and other officials of the Secretariat ways in which national implementation of the Convention can help them respond to the threat of non-State actors, and what kind of support the Secretariat can provide in this regard.
31. Following the 2017 decision by the Council of the European Union to support projects of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) aimed at reducing the threat posed by the illicit trade of controlled and toxic chemicals in Ukraine, the OSCE requested that the OPCW support its projects. The projects include improving the national regulatory system on chemical safety and security, establishing a Ukrainian national reference centre, and strengthening controls over cross-boundary movement of toxic chemicals. In December 2017, the Secretariat and the OSCE began discussing the OPCW's contribution to these projects.
32. The Secretariat continued its tailor-made capacity-building programmes, conducted on a regional basis, under the OPCW's chemical safety and security management

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<sup>6</sup> [https://www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/Protection-Against-CW/OPCW\\_Chemical\\_Security\\_Workshop\\_-\\_Informal\\_Summary\\_-\\_October\\_2017\\_-\\_for\\_release.pdf](https://www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/Protection-Against-CW/OPCW_Chemical_Security_Workshop_-_Informal_Summary_-_October_2017_-_for_release.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Gesellschaft zur Entsorgung von chemischen Kampfstoffen und Rüstungsaltslasten.

programme. In 2017, 13 workshops and seminars were hosted by 12 States Parties, benefiting 367 participants.

33. Noting paragraph 10 of decision EC-86/DEC.9, which “[r]equests the Secretariat to enhance its capacity-building programmes that facilitate the sharing of chemical safety and security best practices among States Parties”, the Secretariat events organised under the aforementioned chemical safety and security programme, as well as the Secretariat’s report on best practices in chemical safety and security,<sup>8</sup> have until now been the primary means of facilitating the sharing of chemical safety and security best practices. The Secretariat will be looking to enhance its modalities for sharing best practices.
34. In collaboration with the Doha Regional Centre for CBRN<sup>9</sup> Training, paired representatives of the national chemical industries and National Authorities from all regions met in Doha, Qatar, from 17 to 19 October 2017. At this fourth annual meeting, participants discussed the vulnerabilities in the chemical life cycle, including the threat of acts of chemical terrorism, and the options to mitigate such vulnerabilities.
35. In order to assist States Parties in monitoring chemical trade and to prevent illicit transfers, the Secretariat continued its partnership with the World Customs Organization (WCO) by continuing to hold its train-the-trainer course on the technical aspects of the transfers regime with representatives of customs training institutions and National Authorities. The aim is to enhance customs officials’ knowledge of the Convention’s transfers regime and the tools to identify scheduled chemicals. This course, organised together with the WCO, was held in The Hague.
36. Additionally, with a view to participating in the WCO’s “Operation COSMO 2” event, to be held in 2018, the Secretariat participated in the Operation COSMO 2 Global Planning Seminar that was held from 9 to 11 January 2018 at WCO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, and which was hosted by the WCO’s Strategic Trade Control Enforcement Programme. A review took place of the progress made by the customs community to establish capacity to address the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) materials since the WCO’s first Operation Cosmo in 2014, and further customs activities to counter illicit trafficking of such materials were planned.
37. The Secretariat and the 1540 Committee Group of Experts continued to collaborate in strengthening States Parties’ awareness of their relevant obligations, and to offer practical assistance in the areas in which the Convention and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) are mutually reinforcing; namely, national legislation, chemical security, and customs and border control. The Director-General addressed the Seventeenth Regular Session of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism held on 6 and 7 April 2017 at the Headquarters of the Organization of

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<sup>8</sup> Secretariat report, “Needs and Best Practices on Chemical Safety and Security Management,” dated 25 November 2016;  
[https://www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/ICA/ICB/OPCW\\_Report\\_on\\_Needs\\_and\\_Best\\_Practices\\_on\\_Chemical\\_Safety\\_and\\_Security\\_ManagementV3-2\\_1.2.pdf](https://www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/ICA/ICB/OPCW_Report_on_Needs_and_Best_Practices_on_Chemical_Safety_and_Security_ManagementV3-2_1.2.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> CBRN = chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear.

American States in Washington D.C. on “Actions Taken by International and Regional Organisations to Implement UNSCR-1540” and the Deputy Director-General participated in the United Nations Security Council’s open debate on protecting critical infrastructure against terrorist attacks, held on 13 February 2017.

### **Ensuring an effective response to the hostile use of toxic chemicals**

38. Enhancing the global capacity to respond to the hostile use of a toxic chemical has continued to be a priority area for the OPCW. The Secretariat’s efforts were aimed at supporting national and regional response capacities, enhancing the OPCW’s own capacity to respond and provide assistance, and improving the collective response of the United Nations and other international organisations.
39. The OPCW’s ongoing efforts to gather facts surrounding the allegations of toxic chemical use in the Syrian Arab Republic underscored the OPCW’s important role in the area of response.
40. In addition, paragraph 12 of decision EC-86/DEC.9, which “[r]eaffirms that Article X of the Convention provides each State Party the right to request and receive assistance and protection against the use or threat of use of chemical weapons, including the use or threat of use of chemical weapons by non-State actors”, is consistent with the OPCW’s technical assistance visits to Iraq, which confirmed the use of sulfur mustard by a non-State actor.

### Activities to enhance the Technical Secretariat’s capacity and readiness to respond

41. In acknowledging decision EC-86/DEC.9, which notes in its final preambular paragraph “the need to continue to enhance the Secretariat’s capacity and readiness, in response to alleged incidents of chemical weapons use, to provide technical assistance, to deploy emergency measures of assistance under Article X of the Convention at the request of a State Party, and to enhance the Secretariat’s readiness to conduct investigations of alleged use under Article IX and Article X of the Convention and Part XI of the Verification Annex to the Convention”, the activities below are highlighted.
42. Since the establishment of the OPCW Rapid Response and Assistance Mission (RRAM) in 2016, the Secretariat has continued to improve its capacity and readiness to deploy the RRAM through the following:
  - (a) Three field exercises were held using hypothetical scenarios involving chemical attacks by terrorists and simulated requests for assistance from fictional States Parties: from 24 to 28 July 2017, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland hosted a rapid deployment exercise in parallel with a training course on command and control; from 11 to 14 December 2017, an exercise was held in Romania that included all elements of the RRAM operation and was attended by observers from the World Health Organization and INTERPOL; and from 5 to 9 February 2018, Serbia hosted an exercise similar in scope to the exercise hosted by Romania, but without external observers and the aspect of OPCW Headquarters support. The exercises in Romania and Serbia were funded by the Government of Canada.



- (b) The OPCW continued to co-chair, with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Working Group on Preventing and Responding to WMD Terrorist Attacks within the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (UNCTITF) framework. A table-top exercise to enhance inter-agency interoperability and communications in the event of a chemical or biological attack was held on 19 and 20 January 2017 at OPCW Headquarters involving the OPCW RRAM and 14 other international organisations, and was funded by the Government of Canada.
43. OPCW inspectors continued to receive mandatory refresher courses in a number of areas, including courses focusing on technological and verification policy developments, the use of protective equipment, the OPCW confidentiality regime, and the latest practices in forensic and evidence preservation. Training courses were also conducted for newly promoted inspectors, including team leader induction courses with enhanced content to address the needs in relation to leading OPCW teams.
44. Instructors from the Inspectorate's Capacity-Building and Contingency-Planning Cell were directly involved in the Secretariat's capacity-building programmes for States Parties, such as the assistance and protection instructors' course, and the regional and national assistance and protection courses.

#### Support to the policy-making process

45. At the 14 February 2017 meeting of the SWG of the OEWG-T, representatives of the Secretariat and INTERPOL outlined their experiences with standing arrangements in the context of their mandate and inter-agency cooperation.
46. At the 6 March 2017 meeting of the OEWG-T, the Secretariat reported on the results of the UNCTITF table-top exercise, and key issues related to responding to a chemical and/or biological weapons attack. For instance, there is no "lead" agency mandated to coordinate a response, as is the case with the IAEA in the event of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency.
47. At the 5 September 2017 meeting of the SWG, the Secretariat outlined its efforts to assist African States Parties with their national protection programmes, noting the continuous refinement of the Secretariat's approach to provide capacity building and assistance through greater engagement of the African Regional Economic Communities and key national stakeholders, bearing in mind the idea that OPCW States Parties have common objectives that may be best achieved through differentiated approaches.

#### Support to States Parties

48. Noting paragraph 13 of decision EC-86/DEC.9, which "[r]equests the Director-General to provide technical assistance within the Director-General's mandate, in accordance with the Convention, in connection with the use of chemical weapons by a non-State actor", the Secretariat continued to support Iraq with technical assistance visits held from 18 to 22 June 2017, and from 11 to 15 September 2017. The team of Secretariat experts was invited to contribute to the ongoing national investigation into the alleged attacks by non-State actors using toxic chemicals in Iraq (S/1559/2017, dated 6 December 2017).

49. Through the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Africa Programme”), the Secretariat continued to refine its regional and subregional approaches. Assistance provided included specific advice to Burkina Faso and Ghana regarding the development of their national protection programmes; the conduct by the Secretariat of a table-top exercise and emergency response training course for first responders in Uganda and for members of the East African Community; and an inaugural coordination meeting of a new regional capacity-building project for States Parties from the Southern African Development Community was also held.
50. The Secretariat continued to assist States Parties and regions with building a sustainable response capacity by using a train-the-trainer programme that focuses on developing the skills of their instructors. In this regard, the Secretariat continued to expand its Instructor Development and Exchange Programme, which involves the international exchange of expertise and fostering of best practices that will enhance States Parties’ response capacity, both individually and regionally. Furthermore, the sixth international training course for instructors provided advanced training to a new international team of instructors. In addition, the Secretariat held four train-the-trainer courses for States Parties in various regions. Such courses were held in the Czech Republic, the Russian Federation, South Africa, and Spain.
51. The Secretariat continued to help build a global capacity for the medical treatment of victims of chemical weapons, and to ensure that this important knowledge is retained and shared. In this context, the Secretariat held its first international medical course on pre-hospital care for victims of chemical weapons in Madrid, Spain, and held a course on medical aspects of assistance and protection in Xi’an, China. Furthermore, in the context of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons, and in accordance with decision C-16/DEC.13 (dated 2 December 2011) of the Conference, the Practical Guide for Medical Management of Chemical Weapons Casualties was translated into Arabic and made available in Turkish.
52. The Secretariat upheld its provision of expert advice and assist States Parties in identifying suitable ways for the development and improvement of protective capability against chemical weapons. For instance, the Secretariat continued to provide tailored training for the first responders to an incident involving the use of chemical weapons or other release of toxic chemicals. Annual cycles of basic and advanced courses, and confirmatory exercises, were conducted in the Asia and GRULAC regions. The Secretariat also continued to provide courses that were open to any region, including courses for responders speaking Arabic and Russian; specialised courses, such as those for advanced laboratory skills, focused on field professionals and on emergency response; and courses on conducting sampling and analysis in a highly contaminated environment. Table-top exercises continued to be an effective way to help States Parties test their organisational processes and consider the modalities of regional and international support in a scenario involving a major chemical incident. Table-top exercises were conducted in Indonesia and Mexico.
53. The “Seventeenth Annual Workshop to Coordinate Assistance and Protection under Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention” was held at OPCW Headquarters from 28 to 30 June 2017. States Parties shared their experiences with Article X implementation and their views on new approaches and trends in this regard.

### **Enhancing laboratory capacity at the OPCW and in States Parties**

54. The capability to safely analyse a wide range of chemicals and types of samples, both within the Secretariat itself and within each State Party, is of fundamental importance to the full and effective implementation of the Convention. Such capability can take a number of practical forms, ranging from the detection of chemicals in the field with handheld equipment, such as by customs agencies, to the analysis of samples in a laboratory to identify chemicals used in an attack or to determine the likely provenance of a chemical weapons agent. Forward-looking research and development is also key to making practical advancements, such as in medical countermeasures. Addressing the need to develop, nurture, and enhance this capability in a sustainable way has always been a priority for the Organisation, and continues to be important in the context of the non-State actor threat.

#### Support to the policy-making process

55. At the 5 September 2017 meeting of the SWG, the Secretariat provided an overview of an approach to strengthen laboratory capacity in Africa, as an integral part of the Africa Programme. This approach, while designed with Africa in mind, can be applied more generically in other regions as a way of improving laboratory capacity in a structured and systematic manner.
56. At the 7 June 2017 meeting of the SWG, with a focus on the important role of customs services in the security context, Ms Ong, Director at the Ministry of Home Affairs of Singapore, presented that State Party's experience of having a capable analytical network of laboratories to support the detection of CBRNe materials. Furthermore, in response to a request from an interested State Party, the Secretariat noted that it will be reviewing the possibility of relaunching its laboratory training for customs personnel.

#### Support to States Parties

57. The Secretariat continued to support States Parties in the building of their laboratory capacity across a wide range of capacities (from "basic" up to and including the capacity to undertake proficiency testing with the aim of receiving designation).
58. With regard to the OPCW Laboratory's multipurpose training facility in Rijswijk, approximately 124 person-days of training were delivered to participants from States Parties, and approximately 77 person-days to Secretariat staff. Two courses to assist the development of the analytical skills necessary to analyse Convention-related chemicals were held for six participants from Algeria from 6 to 10 November, and for six participants from Morocco from 4 to 8 December. From 14 to 16 November, representatives from Italy, at their request, received training focused on sampling, handling samples, and strategies for analysis. Finally, from 11 to 15 December, the OPCW Laboratory hosted its first course on the development of analytical skills for qualified analytical chemists from laboratories supporting customs services. This course aims to assist such chemists in acquiring further experience and practical knowledge of the analysis of scheduled chemicals and to facilitate the adoption of good laboratory practices for the implementation of the Convention.

59. Additionally, training and capacity-building initiatives for States Parties included seven other analytical chemistry courses held in five States Parties totalling approximately 960 person-days of training. Three of the seven courses took place on the premises of the Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN) in Finland, and included topics to enhance laboratory skills in nuclear magnetic resonance and in quantitative mass spectrometry.
60. The OPCW Laboratory Twinning Initiative is aimed at assisting laboratories in States Parties with economies that are either developing or in transition to improve their performance in the OPCW proficiency tests, which must be successfully completed in order to become an OPCW designated laboratory. In 2017, the Secretariat worked towards two twinning projects between laboratories in the Netherlands and South Africa, and laboratories in Finland and Serbia. Since the launch of this initiative in 2016, the Secretariat has received 12 other expressions of interest from nine laboratories from nine States Parties seeking assistance, but from only one laboratory offering assistance.
61. As part of the OPCW Equipment Exchange Programme, two Bruker portable Fourier transform-infrared spectrometers and two Captair Toxicap 1016 fume hoods were donated to the Gambia and Senegal, at the request of their National Authorities.

#### The OPCW and the network of designated laboratories

62. The Secretariat issued a concept paper in July 2017, informing States Parties of the details of the proposed project to upgrade the OPCW Laboratory in order to keep pace with current threats and scientific and technological developments, as well as to support capacity building in States Parties. In this regard, training and research will be important areas of focus. A needs statement for this project containing more details was circulated to States Parties at the end of 2017.<sup>10</sup>
63. The OPCW network of partner laboratories that were available for off-site analysis of samples remained strong in 2017; 20 laboratories from 16 States Parties met the requisite criteria to become or to retain their status as OPCW designated laboratories for environmental analysis.
64. From February to June 2017, the Secretariat concluded the Second Biomedical Proficiency Test. The OPCW now has a network of 17 laboratories from 13 States Parties available for the off-site analysis of biomedical samples.
65. Starting in December 2017, the OPCW Laboratory conducted the second in a series of exercises on the analysis of biologically derived toxins. These exercises further enhance the OPCW partner laboratories' capabilities in this area and help arrive at commonly accepted reporting criteria.

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Notes by the Secretariat: "Upgrading the OPCW Chemical Laboratory to a Centre for Chemistry and Technology" (S/1512/2017, dated 10 July 2017); "Request from the Director-General to States Parties for Voluntary Contributions to a New Trust Fund for Upgrading the OPCW Chemical Laboratory to a Centre for Chemistry and Technology" (S/1561/2017, dated 8 December 2017); and "Needs Statement for Upgrading the OPCW Chemical Laboratory to a Centre for Chemistry and Technology" (S/1564/2017, dated 22 December 2017 and Corr.1, dated 3 January 2018).

66. The OPCW Laboratory continued to monitor scientific progress and developments in the field of chemical forensics and is actively pursuing the transfer of methods amongst the network of laboratories for in-depth evaluation. Such methods will enlarge the toolkit available to the OPCW Laboratory and the designated laboratories for the analysis of samples and the determination of chemical signatures.

Annex: List of Key International Cooperation and Assistance Activities

**Annex****LIST OF KEY INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION  
AND ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES**

This list is drawn from the Notes by the Secretariat providing updates on events organised by the Secretariat in the area of international cooperation and assistance: S/1504/2017, covering January to April 2017; S/1533/2017, covering May to August 2017; and S/1584/2018, covering September to December 2017. The events are listed in accordance with the subjects covered by this annual Note, and in the order in which they are discussed.

**Criminalisation of activities prohibited by the Chemical Weapons Convention**

<b>2017</b>	<b>Activity</b>
21 – 24 Mar	Workshop for legal drafters and National Authority representatives from States Parties in the Caribbean and Central America, Bridgetown, Barbados
12 – 14 Sept	Stakeholders' forum for States Parties in Africa on the adoption of national implementing legislation related to the Convention, Yaoundé, Cameroon
26 – 28 Sept	Stakeholders' forum for States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean on the adoption of national implementing legislation related to the Convention, Santiago, Chile
13 – 15 Nov	Stakeholders' forum for States Parties in Asia on the adoption of national implementing legislation related to the Convention, The Hague, the Netherlands
7 – 11 Aug	Seventeenth session of the internship programme for legal drafters and National Authority representatives, The Hague, the Netherlands
6 – 10 Nov	Eighteenth session of the internship programme for legal drafters and National Authority representatives, The Hague, the Netherlands
19 – 21 Apr; 6 Dec	Influential Visitors Programme for Namibia, The Hague, the Netherlands; and national workshop on the Convention for Namibia, Windhoek, Namibia
18 – 20 Oct	Influential Visitors Programme for Nigeria, The Hague, the Netherlands
1 & 2 May	National legal workshop for Georgia on the implementation of the Convention, Tbilisi, Georgia
19 – 23 Jun	Mentorship/Partnership Programme between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Nigeria
31 Jul – 4 Aug; 9 – 13 Oct	Mentorship/Partnership Programme between Argentina and Guatemala
13 – 17 Oct	Mentorship/Partnership Programme between Cuba and Bolivia
13 – 15 Jun	Eighteenth regional meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in the GRULAC region (preceded by a high-level panel discussion), Montego Bay, Jamaica
3 – 5 May	Sixteenth regional meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Eastern Europe, Tbilisi, Georgia
16 – 18 May	Fifteenth regional meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Asia, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
18 – 20 Jul	Fifteenth regional meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Africa, Banjul, the Gambia

**Measures to prevent the hostile use of toxic chemicals by non-State actors**

<b>2017</b>	<b>Activity</b>
10 & 11 Apr	International conference on chemical disarmament and security: The OPCW's contributions to global peace and security, Doha, Qatar
27 Feb – 1 Mar	Workshop on needs assessment and best practices on chemical safety and security management for the Africa region, Yaoundé, Cameroon
21 – 23 Feb	Seminar on the Convention and chemical safety and security management for Member States of the OPCW in the Asia region, Doha, Qatar
20 – 22 Mar	Workshop on needs assessment and best practices on integrated chemical management, Jakarta, Indonesia
27 – 29 Mar	Seminar on chemical safety and security management for Member States of the OPCW in Africa, Kampala, Uganda
3 – 7 Apr	Two parallel annual courses on loss prevention and safety promotion in the chemical process industries for Member States in Africa and Member States in the Asia and GRULAC regions, Wuppertal, Germany
24 – 28 Apr	Course for Member States in the GRULAC region on chemical safety and security management in laboratories, Buenos Aires, Argentina
15 – 17 May	Seminar on the Convention and chemical safety and security management for Member States of the OPCW in the Africa region, Algiers, Algeria
17 – 19 Jul	Seminar on the Convention and chemical safety and security management for Member States of the OPCW in the GRULAC region, Mexico City, Mexico
29 Aug – 1 Sept	Executive programme on integrated chemicals management, Shanghai, China
18 – 20 Sept	Forum on the peaceful uses of chemistry: “Developing a Chemical Cradle-To-Grave Responsibility Culture”, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
18 & 19 Oct	Seminar on advanced chemical safety and security management for Member States of the OPCW, Dhaka, Bangladesh
1 – 3 Nov	Workshop on the peaceful development and use of chemistry for Member States of the OPCW in the Asia region, Seoul, Korea
17 – 19 Oct	Fourth annual meeting of chemical industry representatives and National Authorities of States Parties to the Convention, Doha, Qatar
20 – 23 Jun	Second training-of-trainers course for representatives of customs training institutions on technical aspects of the transfers regime, The Hague, Netherlands

**Ensuring an effective response to the hostile use of toxic chemicals**

<b>2017</b>	<b>Activity</b>
10 – 13 Apr	Assistance and protection project for Member States of the Economic Community of West African States: national workshop on the development of national protection programmes, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
18 – 20 Sept	Assistance and protection project for States Parties of the Economic Community of West African States: Ghana national workshop, Accra, Ghana
18 – 25 Oct	Subregional training for first responders from the East African Community Member States, Jinja, Uganda

2017	Activity
8 – 12 May	Planning and coordination meeting for Member States of the Southern African Development Community, Lusaka, Zambia
6 – 13 Sept	Sixth OPCW assistance and protection training course for instructors, OPCW Headquarters
17 – 25 May	Train-the-trainers course, Lázně Bohdaneč, Czech Republic
5 – 9 Jun	Train-the-trainers course for Russian-speaking instructors, Svetlaya Roshcha, Belarus
14 – 25 Aug	Sixth OPCW assistance and protection training course for instructors, Tshwane, South Africa
25 Sept – 4 Oct	Assistance and protection course for instructors from GRULAC States Parties, Madrid, Spain
20 – 23 Jun	First international medical course on pre-hospital care for victims of chemical weapons, Madrid, Spain
18 – 22 Sept	International course on medical aspects of assistance and protection against chemical weapons, Xi'an, China
6 – 10 Feb	Regional basic course on emergency response to chemical incidents, Colombo, Sri Lanka
3 – 7 Apr	First regional advanced assistance and protection course for police first responders from States Parties from the GRULAC region, Bogotá, Colombia
8 – 12 May	Basic regional course for specialists in response to chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals, Montevideo, Uruguay
15 – 19 May	Sixth advanced training course on chemical emergency response, Buenos Aires, Argentina
28 Jun – 2 Jul	Sixth regional basic course on assistance and protection against chemical weapons for Asian States Parties, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
3 – 7 Jul	Advanced subregional assistance and protection course, Beijing, China
28 Aug – 1 Sept	Exercise on assistance and protection for Latin America and the Caribbean (EXBRALC II 2017), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
25 – 29 Sept	Advanced assistance and protection course for police first responders from Asian States Parties, Seoul, Republic of Korea
16 – 20 Oct	Training for police first responders from Asian States Parties, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
18 – 22 Dec	Regional assistance and protection field exercise for police first responders from Asian States Parties, Singapore
5 – 9 Jun	Basic course on assistance and protection against chemical weapons, Kruševac, Serbia
3 – 7 Jul	Swiss basic course, Spiez, Switzerland
20 – 24 Feb	Fifth Swiss advanced course on assistance and protection against chemical weapons, Stans, Switzerland
13 – 17 Nov	International advanced assistance and protection course, Islamabad, Pakistan
15 – 25 May	Joint basic and advanced training course for Russian-speaking first responders to incidents of chemical contamination, Svetlaya Roshcha, Belarus



<b>2017</b>	<b>Activity</b>
14 – 18 May	Basic course on assistance and protection against chemical weapons for Arabic-speaking States Parties, Casablanca, Morocco
4 – 8 Dec	Advanced assistance and protection course for Arabic-speaking States Parties, and the third meeting of the assistance and protection training centres, Doha, Qatar
6 – 16 Nov	OPCW advanced laboratory skills course, Zemianske Kostol'any, Slovakia
27 Nov – 1 Dec	Swiss laboratory course, Spiez, Switzerland
29 May – 2 Jun	Fifth training course on conducting sampling and analysis in a highly contaminated environment, Częstochowa, Poland
23 – 25 May	Regional table-top exercise on response to chemical emergencies, Denpasar, Indonesia
6 – 10 Nov	Regional table-top exercise in chemical emergency response for States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, Mexico City, Mexico
28 – 30 Jun	Seventeenth annual workshop to coordinate assistance and protection under Article X of the Convention, The Hague, Netherlands

#### **Enhancing laboratory capacity at the OPCW and in States Parties**

<b>2017</b>	<b>Activity</b>
6 – 10 Nov; 4 – 8 Dec	Analytical skills development for the analysis of Convention-related chemicals, Rijswijk, the Netherlands
11 – 15 Dec	Course on the development of analytical skills for analytical chemists from laboratories supporting customs services, Rijswijk, the Netherlands
21 – 31 Mar	Course for Member States in the Africa region on analytical skills development, VERIFIN, Helsinki, Finland
8 – 19 May	Course on the enhancement of laboratory skills in the use of nuclear magnetic resonance, VERIFIN, Helsinki, Finland
11 – 22 Sept	Course on the enhancement of laboratory skills in quantitative mass spectrometry to analyse chemicals related to the Convention, VERIFIN, Helsinki, Finland
22 May – 2 Jun	Analytical chemistry skills course for African Member States under the Africa Programme, Pretoria, South Africa
5 – 16 Jun	Course on the analysis of chemicals related to the Convention in the framework of OPCW proficiency testing for the GRULAC region, Madrid, Spain
21 Aug – 1 Sept	Course on analytical skills development at the Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI), Umeå, Sweden
4 – 15 Dec	Course on analytical skills development at the Defence Science Technology Group, Department of Defence, Melbourne, Australia