



104th Session
10 – 13 October 2023

EC-104/DG.13
C-28/DG.10
13 September 2023
Original: ENGLISH

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

THE 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 (EC-50/DG.17, dated 26 September 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”).
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 five times, each 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), from 2017 to 2019 (EC-84/DG.18, dated 17 February 2017), from 2020 to 2022 (EC-93/DG.9, dated 18 February 2020), and from 2023 to 2025 (EC-102/DG.11, dated 16 February 2023).
3. Since the establishment of the Africa Programme, the Director-General has regularly apprised the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) at all its annual sessions of the progress of Programme implementation and of the results achieved.
4. This Note reports on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Africa Programme in 2023, which represents the first year of the sixth phase of the Programme, and provides an overview of the key developments, activities, and results achieved within its framework.
5. This document provides factual information regarding the key developments registered in the Programme in 2023 up to 31 August 2023, the cut-off date for this document. It also reflects planned activities for the remainder of the year. Annex 1 to this Note provides an overview of all activities conducted under the Programme in 2023 and planned for the remainder of the year.
6. In accordance with established practice, factual reporting on the planned activities for the period 1 September to 31 December 2023 will be provided as an annex to the next Note by the Director-General on the Africa Programme, due to be submitted to the Conference at its Twenty-Ninth Session in 2024. Similarly, Annex 2 to this Note reports on the key activities organised under the Programme in the period from 1 September to 31 December 2022.



7. This Note also includes an overview of key short-term results (outputs) of the fifth phase of the Programme, as 2022 was the final year of that phase. The list of key activities organised by the Secretariat during the fifth phase is included in Annex 3.
8. During the reporting period, the implementation of the Africa Programme was marked by three key milestones: the completion of the fifth phase, the finalisation of the planning of the sixth phase, and the initiation of the implementation of the sixth phase.

COMPLETION OF THE FIFTH PHASE OF THE AFRICA PROGRAMME (1 SEPTEMBER – 31 DECEMBER 2022)

9. During the period from 1 September to 31 December 2022, the Secretariat intensified the delivery of its capacity-building support activities under the Africa Programme in accordance with the plans for the fifth phase. This resulted in the delivery of 23 activities benefitting African States Parties. The comprehensive list of these activities, which can be found in Annex 2, includes targeted training courses, workshops, forums, exercises, technical consultations, and coaching sessions.
10. Overall, despite the exceptional circumstances that marked the period of the implementation of the fifth phase of the Africa Programme as a whole—notably the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing restrictions on travel and the organisation of in-person events for a substantial portion of the implementation period—the Secretariat did not spare any efforts to adapt to the challenging operational context and to deliver on the Programme.
11. As a result, a total of 154 capacity-building and technical assistance activities were successfully delivered by the Secretariat within the framework of the fifth phase, in line with the agreed objectives and planning. These activities, which included 84 events organised specifically for the Africa region, benefitted some 2,500 participants representing 47 African Member States.¹ The list of these activities is provided as Annex 3 to this report. Specific details of these activities are included in this Note and the previous Notes by the Director-General on the Africa Programme for 2020 (EC-95/DG.11 C-25/DG.9, dated 10 September 2020), for 2021 (EC-98/DG.14 C-26/DG.12, dated 9 September 2021), and for 2022 (EC-101/DG.12 C-27/DG.8, dated 7 September 2022, and Annex 2 to this Note).
12. Activity areas ranged from improving national implementation of the Convention, to enhancing the effectiveness of National Authorities, in addition to improving controls over cross-border transfers of scheduled chemicals, developing assistance and protection capabilities against chemical incidents and attacks, providing education on chemical safety and security management, and upgrading laboratory competencies across the continent.

¹

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

13. The share of the Africa region's participation in OPCW capacity-building activities increased from 15.8% in 2019, namely before the fifth phase, to nearly 27% throughout the fifth phase (2020–2022). Africa's share in OPCW capacity-building support has therefore become more proportionate to its share in the membership of the Organisation.
14. In addition to the provision of capacity-building activities, other forms of support provided to the Africa region under the fifth phase included the following:
 - (a) sponsorship of 288 African participants to take part in relevant international scientific events;
 - (b) sponsorship of 13 fellowships for African scientists at advanced scientific institutions;
 - (c) sponsorship of four African research projects and the co-funding of eight others together with the International Foundation for Science;
 - (d) inception of new Africa-specific capacity-building initiatives (the chemical emergency preparedness Online Self-Assessment Tool (OSAT), and specialised training on the maintenance of laboratory equipment);
 - (e) design of and resource mobilisation for seven special projects for extrabudgetary funding under the Africa Programme, focusing on promoting national implementation of the Convention, as well as training for customs officials, chemical emergency responders, and analytical chemists;
 - (f) transfer of 11 items of chemical laboratory equipment to three African States Parties;
 - (g) provision of technical assistance to four interested laboratories from Algeria, Kenya, Morocco, and Nigeria, with a view to achieving OPCW designation status (technical advice, training, coaching, and twinning with advanced laboratories);
 - (h) set-up of an active Africa Programme Steering Committee to provide continuous support, advice, and guidance to the Programme; and
 - (i) set-up and development of a thriving OPCW Africa Network comprising more than 1,000 active members among African chemistry professionals and stakeholders in the Convention.
15. The Africa Programme continued to be funded essentially through the OPCW's regular budget throughout the fifth phase. The Secretariat also continued to seek additional resources through voluntary contributions with a view to further expanding the Programme's depth, reach, and impact. In this context, in-kind and financial support was received from Canada, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and the European Union. In-kind support was also provided by Member States co-organising activities under the Programme.

16. In terms of partnerships, the Secretariat continued its cooperation with a variety of stakeholders to organise activities under the fifth phase of the Africa Programme and to explore new synergies and initiatives. The list of partners includes international, regional, and national organisations.

FINALISATION OF THE PLANNING OF THE SIXTH PHASE OF THE AFRICA PROGRAMME

17. In parallel with the continued implementation of the fifth phase of the Programme (1 September to 31 December 2022) the Secretariat continued the preparations it initiated in early 2022 for the design of the sixth phase, which covers the period from 2023 to 2025.
18. From March to May 2022, the Secretariat conducted a needs assessment survey among African States Parties to update their list of needs and priorities within the context of the Convention. The feedback received from the survey was analysed and thoroughly discussed with African States Parties in June at the Twentieth Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Africa. Discussions, which addressed identified needs, led to a consensual agreement on the objectives to be assigned to the sixth phase of the Africa Programme.
19. A subsequent series of consultations, held by the Secretariat with the Permanent Representations of African States Parties from September to November 2022, determined the approach and planning to be followed in order to achieve the objectives of the sixth phase. The agreed concept was the result of these wide and inclusive consultations, and was endorsed by African States Parties at the Twenty-Fourth Annual Meeting of National Authorities, held in The Hague in November 2022. Throughout the process, the Programme's Steering Committee has been kept apprised of the details and progress of the consultations.
20. In line with established practice, a Note by the Director-General on the sixth phase of the Africa Programme (EC-102/DG.11), reflecting the concept and planning agreed with African States Parties, was subsequently submitted by the Secretariat to the Executive Council (hereinafter "the Council") at its 102nd Session (14 – 17 March 2023). The Council noted the Note, thereby formalising and launching the sixth phase of the Programme.
21. The design of the new phase is based on a robust results-based approach and has the following seven objectives:
 - (a) advance national implementation of the Convention in Africa;
 - (b) strengthen controls over cross-border transfers of toxic chemicals in order to prevent access to such chemicals, including by non-State actors, for purposes prohibited under the Convention;
 - (c) enhance protection and response capabilities against chemical incidents and attacks;
 - (d) advance chemical safety and security culture, standards, and practices in Africa;
 - (e) strengthen the capabilities of chemical laboratories in Africa;
 - (f) promote knowledge of peaceful chemistry and its exchange in Africa; and
 - (g) foster Programme visibility, stakeholder engagement, and partnerships.

INITIATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SIXTH PHASE OF THE AFRICA PROGRAMME

22. The sixth phase was successfully launched, and measures have been taken by the Secretariat to ensure concurrent delivery of the objectives listed above. Since January 2023, capacity-building events and targets set out in the Programme for 2023 have been embedded in the yearly work plan of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the Secretariat. Contacts have been initiated to identify partners and host countries in Africa, coordinate planned events, and ensure that targets are met in accordance with the Programme guidelines. Invitation notes and calls for nominations have been regularly issued for events and meetings planned for 2023, and the implementation of the sixth phase started with the actual conduct of capacity-building events. A total of 54 capacity-building and technical assistance activities are set to benefit African States Parties in 2023, including 19 activities designed specifically for the Africa region. Annex 1 to this Note includes the activities conducted under the Africa Programme in 2023 as at the cut-off date of this report (31 August 2023), as well as those planned for the remainder of the year.

Objective 1: Advance national implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in Africa

23. In the area of advancing national implementation of the Convention in Africa, key activities conducted by the Secretariat in 2023 included the initiation of the review of draft national implementing legislation for Cabo Verde and Sao Tome and Principe, as well as the organisation on 31 May 2023 of a national legislative review forum for Djibouti. It is noteworthy that on 28 February 2023, Togo reported the adoption of comprehensive national implementing legislation.
24. Further, the Secretariat facilitated the establishment of two new National Authority Mentorship/Partnership Programmes between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zambia, and between Brazil and Mozambique. Within the framework of these programmes, a technical visit was conducted by a delegation from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Zambia in the spring of 2023, and a similar visit was conducted by a Brazilian delegation to Mozambique in August 2023. In the same vein, a Moroccan delegation visited Nouakchott, Mauritania from 16 to 20 January 2023 within the framework of the second phase of the Mentorship/Partnership Programme concluded between the two countries.
25. From 25 to 27 July 2023, the Secretariat also organised, in collaboration with the Government of Zimbabwe, the Twenty-First Regional Meeting of African National Authorities. Conducted in Harare and attended by 40 African States Parties, the meeting offered participants a forum to discuss needs, priorities, actions taken, and best practices in relation to the implementation of the Convention at the national, subregional, and regional levels in Africa. The meeting also reviewed the progress in the implementation of the Africa Programme and facilitated the exchange of updates and views related to the National Implementation Framework, which the Secretariat has been promoting as an effective tool providing States Parties with a comprehensive, step-by-step guide to effective national implementation of the Convention.

26. With regard to the universality of the Convention in Africa, a delegation from South Sudan attended the Fifth Review Conference² and delivered a statement during the general debate. The delegation, led by the Director-General for Multilateral Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of South Sudan, had fruitful consultations with the Deputy Director-General of the OPCW Secretariat and held meetings with various members of the Secretariat, including the Coordinator of the Africa Programme. H.E. Ambassador Francis Kotia of Ghana, Coordinator of the African Group, also engaged with South Sudan on this occasion.
27. Furthermore, as part of the Secretariat's sustained efforts to promote a continuous dialogue with and among stakeholders of the Convention in Africa, African States Parties will be participating in relevant upcoming events during the remainder of the year, notably the global meeting between National Authorities and the chemical industry, scheduled to take place in Doha, Qatar, from 24 to 26 October 2023, and the Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting of National Authorities, which is scheduled to take place in The Hague, the Netherlands, from 22 to 24 November 2023.

Objective 2: Strengthen controls over cross-border transfers of toxic chemicals in order to prevent access to such chemicals, including by non-State actors, for purposes prohibited under the Convention

28. The Secretariat organised a regional conference in Brazzaville, the Congo, from 23 to 25 May 2023, on enforcing effective customs control over the trade of toxic chemicals on the African continent. Funded through a voluntary contribution made by the United States of America within the framework of the Africa Programme, and conducted in partnership with the World Customs Organization (WCO), the conference gathered 53 participants from 27 African States Parties and facilitated the sharing of good practices among participating African customs administrations and National Authorities in the enforcement of effective control of the chemical trade. It also helped identify opportunities to improve prevailing practices and enhance transnational cooperation in the field.
29. From 10 to 12 October 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya, the Secretariat will organise a peer-to-peer training course for African customs training institutions on the transfer regime for scheduled chemicals under the Convention. Funded through a voluntary contribution made by Canada within the framework of the Africa Programme, the course aims to establish a sustainable capacity for delivering training relevant to the Convention for national customs officials in African States Parties, and to improve cooperation and engagement at the national the regional levels between National Authorities and customs administrations on the continent.
30. Under the same objective, from 22 to 26 May 2023 in Warsaw, Poland, the Secretariat delivered a course for analytical chemists from laboratories supporting customs services in collaboration with the Polish Institute of Industrial Organic Chemistry. The course assisted participants—including four qualified analytical chemists from Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania—in acquiring further experience in and practical knowledge of the analysis of chemicals related to the Convention. The course

²

Review Conference = Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

also facilitated the adoption of good laboratory practices for the implementation of the Convention. A similar course is scheduled to be held at the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology (hereinafter “the ChemTech Centre”), from 14 to 17 November 2023, with the expected participation of other African States Parties.

Objective 3: Enhance protection and response capabilities against chemical incidents and attacks

31. In 2023, the Secretariat initiated a training cycle on assistance and protection for English-speaking African States Parties. The cycle included a foundation course (delivered online from 30 March to 30 April 2023), a basic course (delivered in Lusaka, Zambia, from 10 to 14 July 2023), a specialised course for incident commanders (delivered in Tshwane, South Africa, from 21 August to 1 September 2023), and it will culminate in an integrated advanced course and exercise scheduled to take place in Windhoek, Namibia, from 15 to 22 November 2023. Separately, the Secretariat continued the training cycle initiated in 2022 in Angola for Portuguese-speaking States Parties in Africa through the organisation of an integrated advanced course and exercise on chemical emergency response, which is scheduled to take place in Lisbon, Portugal, from 23 to 28 October 2023.
32. The Secretariat also continued to follow a subregional approach to delivering training in areas of assistance and protection in Africa. Within this framework, a basic course for States Parties in North Africa and the Sahel was delivered in Rabat, Morocco, from 27 February to 3 March 2023, in cooperation with the Moroccan National Authority, and a refresher course for instructors from the East African Community (EAC) was delivered online from the ChemTech Centre from 26 to 27 April 2023.
33. Further, preparations continued in 2023 for CHEMEX Africa: the first pan-African chemical emergency response capacity-building training and exercise. Funded by the Government of Canada within the framework of the Africa Programme, the exercise will be jointly organised by the OPCW and the Government of Algeria, and will take place in Algiers, Algeria, from 23 September to 5 October 2023.
34. The objective of CHEMEX Africa is to enhance the capacities of African countries to respond to chemical attacks and emergencies, including incidents and attacks perpetrated by non-State actors. As part of the event, first responder teams from the Economic Community of West African States, the Economic Community of Central African States, and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) will receive training from instructors from the EAC, who will be supported by technical teams from North Africa and the Sahel, as well as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. External experts, notably from Canada, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, will take part in the exercise in different capacities (supervisors, observers, and evaluators).
35. As part of preparations for the event, in February and July 2023 the Secretariat undertook two planning visits to Algiers to coordinate organisational and logistical aspects with the Algerian authorities. A successful promotional event for CHEMEX Africa was also organised in The Hague on 15 May 2023 by the Algerian authorities on the sidelines of the Fifth Review Conference.

36. In addition to capacity-building activities organised specifically for the Africa region, the Secretariat also continued to facilitate the participation of African chemical emergency response professionals in diverse training courses designed for global audiences. A list of these activities is included in Annex 1.
37. Separately, within the framework of the plan under the sixth phase of the Africa Programme to enhance the capabilities of African States Parties to investigate incidents involving toxic chemicals, the Secretariat secured the participation of nine African experts in a specialised course entitled “Investigation of incidents involving toxic chemicals”. These participants represented Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Madagascar, Mauritania, and Morocco. The course officially commenced on 1 August 2023 in a virtual format and will be followed by an in-person session, which is scheduled to take place from 11 to 22 September 2023 in the Netherlands.
38. As part of the course, the participants will become familiar with the principles of investigative methodologies (pertaining to incidents or crime scenes) and the utilisation of the most up-to-date techniques for the identification, collection, analysis, and organisation of technical data. This encompasses forensic evidence, both prior to and following incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals.
39. Moreover, the Secretariat continued to provide support to the States Parties in the SADC in connection with the use of the OSAT. Devised as a pilot project with the technical and financial support of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the OSAT aims to help Member States assess the chemical safety and security risks posed by hazardous chemicals, audit existing response capacities, and identify necessary improvement measures, including those that the OPCW and other stakeholders could help implement. Following the completion of the design phase in 2022, the implementation of the OSAT project was launched with the financial support of France, Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the European Union. Fifteen States Parties from the SADC have engaged in self-assessments using the OSAT and have been able to identify gaps in their national chemical emergency preparedness and response capabilities. Based on the findings and with the assistance of experts from the Secretariat, 12 of these States Parties have already designed a set of necessary improvement measures to upgrade their national programmes for protective purposes. A regional protection plan has been outlined, and its implementation can commence once national action plans are launched.

Objective 4: Advance chemical safety and security culture, standards, and practices in Africa

40. In 2023, the Secretariat continued to provide relevant awareness-raising and training activities on this topic to representatives of African States Parties. These activities focused on chemical safety and security management during various stages of the chemical lifecycle (production, storage, transportation, treatment, and disposal), and within different contexts, including chemical process industries and laboratories. In addition to accommodating African participants in relevant global workshops and training courses on the subject, the Secretariat scheduled two capacity-building events specifically for the Africa region in 2023, namely: an advanced seminar on the Convention and chemical safety and security management, to be delivered online on 11 October 2023 from the ChemTech

Centre, and a workshop on best practices in developing legislative and regulatory frameworks on chemical security, to be held in South Africa from 31 October to 2 November 2023.

Objective 5: Strengthen the capabilities of chemical laboratories in Africa

41. The Secretariat continued to provide training to African chemists within the framework of its global analytical skills development courses. The Secretariat also delivered an analytical skills development course specific to the Africa region in Pretoria, South Africa, from 29 May to 9 June 2023, in partnership with Protechnik Laboratories.
42. Within the framework of the OPCW Laboratory Twinning and Assistance Initiative, two twinning projects benefitting African laboratories have been ongoing during the reporting period between the following laboratories:
 - (a) The Bundeswehr Research Institute for Protective Technologies and CBRN³ Protection in Germany, and the National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology of the National Gendarmerie in Algeria: The memoranda of understanding between the Secretariat and the two laboratories were formally concluded on 16 May 2023. Within this preparatory period, a series of online evaluation meetings and on-site training activities for the staff of the Algerian laboratory have been organised with advanced funding from the German counterpart.
 - (b) The Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO) and Protechnik Laboratories in South Africa: This project is resuming with a series of training and mentorship visits to Protechnik Laboratories after activities were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
43. The fourth phase of the project “Assessing and Enhancing Capacity of Analytical Laboratories from African and GRULAC Member States: Towards OPCW Designation” (2022–2023), funded by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, continued to support participating laboratories aspiring to achieve OPCW designation, including two laboratories from Kenya and Nigeria. Within this context, the two African laboratories benefitted from a proficiency test training course organised for the Africa region in Helsinki, Finland, from 13 to 17 February 2023, with the support of the Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN). They also received technical evaluation visits by experts from Finland and the Secretariat from 13 to 17 March 2023, with the aim of assessing the progress made by each laboratory since 2019, re-evaluating their infrastructure and instruments capacities, and updating their tailor-made assistance plans. The two African laboratories also took part in the online workshop organised on 30 March 2023 to mark the closing of the fourth phase of the project.

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CBRN = chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear.

44. Separately, preparatory activities started in May 2023 for a new project aimed at enhancing the capacity of analytical laboratories from African States Parties. Funded by a voluntary contribution from Germany, the project has a duration of 28 months and features a threefold objective: to provide training on chemical weapons-related analysis to customs laboratories from Africa; to increase the capacity of African laboratories in equipment maintenance; and to assist one African laboratory seeking OPCW designation through tailored actions, including a twinning scheme with an OPCW designated laboratory. Selected project activities will take place at the ChemTech Centre.
45. Further, under the OPCW Equipment Exchange Programme, in March 2023 the Secretariat facilitated the transfer of a set of laboratory equipment from Germany to the United Republic of Tanzania. The Secretariat also secured training for 10 Tanzanian experts in the donated equipment. In addition, in July 2023 the Secretariat facilitated another transfer of laboratory equipment donated by Germany to Kenya (two devices, with operational spare parts).

Objective 6: Promote knowledge of peaceful chemistry and its exchange in Africa

46. The Secretariat dedicated the 2023 edition of the “Symposium on Women in Chemistry” to African women chemists. The forum, which was the first in person capacity-building activity hosted at the ChemTech Centre, was organised on 19 and 20 June 2023, in close cooperation with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), and supported by a voluntary contribution from France. The forum, which was held under the theme “Empowering women and promoting gender diversity in the peaceful uses of chemistry and chemical security”, was attended by 17 in-person and 16 online participants from nine African States Parties: Algeria, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Kenya, Libya, Mauritius, South Africa, Uganda, and Zimbabwe, with participants from other regions attending remotely on the first day.
47. The Secretariat also secured the online attendance of participants from Côte d’Ivoire, Kenya, Nigeria, and Zambia for the forum on peaceful chemistry organised in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 23 to 25 May 2023, in collaboration with the Malaysian National Authority. Five other participants from Algeria, Kenya, and Nigeria participated in the workshop on policy and diplomacy for scientists, which was organised by the Secretariat from 21 to 23 June 2023 and held at the ChemTech Centre.
48. During the reporting period, the Secretariat also sponsored six African fellowships at advanced institutions in Europe, as well as two African research projects. The Secretariat also sponsored the participation of 85 African scientists in two international scientific events: one held in Italy in July 2023, and another organised online from Mauritius in August 2023.

Objective 7: Foster Programme visibility, stakeholder engagement, and partnerships

49. The Secretariat continued to regularly engage with alumni of capacity-building activities organised under the Africa Programme, and encouraged them to follow up on their participation in these activities in line with post-training action plans. The Secretariat also continued to maintain and further develop the OPCW Africa Network and prepare the next edition of the OPCW Africa Bulletin, which is due to be published in November 2023.

50. In terms of partnerships, the Secretariat continued to cooperate with a variety of stakeholders, including international, regional, and national organisations, as well as hosting States Parties, to organise activities under the Africa Programme and explore new initiatives.
51. Positive interaction with the African Union was prevalent over the reporting period. Following intensive outreach efforts by the Secretariat, and with the support of the African Group of Permanent Representations to the OPCW—notably H.E. Ambassador Eniola Olaitan Ajayi of Nigeria—a visit to the OPCW Headquarters by H.E. Mr Bankole Adeoye, the African Union’s Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace, and Security, was organised on 13 April 2023.
52. Briefed by the Director-General on the implementation of the Convention, Commissioner Adeoye commended the OPCW’s work and achievements. He underscored the importance of accountability in maintaining and reinforcing the global norm against chemical weapons and highlighted the threat posed by non-State actors in Africa.
53. Commissioner Adeoye welcomed the special attention given by the OPCW to the Africa region and commended the Africa Programme. He underscored the importance of related activities in promoting chemical security, trade, and development in Africa, in alignment with the relevant agendas of the continent.
54. The Director-General and Commissioner Adeoye agreed to strengthen the collaboration between the OPCW and the African Union Commission with a view to further promoting the universality and domestication of the Convention in Africa, and reviving the memorandum of understanding signed by the two organisations in 2006.
55. Following the meeting, a revised list of proposed action items was submitted by the Secretariat to the African Union Commission within the framework of revitalising bilateral cooperation. An invitation was also addressed to the Commissioner to attend the VIP Day of CHEMEX Africa. Contact is under way with the African Union Commission’s Political Affairs, Peace, and Security Department on the aforementioned topics.
56. On a separate issue, the Steering Committee of the Africa Programme held its seventh meeting on 26 June 2023, in hybrid mode, with the administrative support of the Secretariat. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Madeleine Liguemoh Ondoua, Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the OPCW and Chairperson of the Committee for 2023, and was attended by some 40 participants, including Committee members, observers, and Secretariat staff led by the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General.
57. Designated by the African Group, the Steering Committee members for 2023 are: Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Chad, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, and the Sudan. The Committee observers (Programme donors) are: Canada, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and the European Union.
58. Based on the briefing delivered by the Secretariat, the Committee reviewed the activities carried out towards the implementation of the Programme since its previous meeting on 15 November 2022.

59. Noting the progress made, the Steering Committee members and observers welcomed the results of the fifth phase and the effective design and launch of the sixth phase of the Programme. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the work done by the Secretariat, as well as its gratitude to Programme donors and partners for their support for Africa within the Programme's framework. The next meeting of the Committee is tentatively scheduled for 14 November 2023.

Annexes (English only):

- Annex 1: Overview of Key Activities Conducted in and Planned for the Remainder of 2023 Within the Framework of the Sixth Phase of the Africa Programme (as at 31 August 2023)
- Annex 2: Overview of Key Activities Conducted Within the Framework of the Fifth Phase of the Africa Programme (1 September to 31 December 2022)
- Annex 3: List of Key Activities Conducted Within the Framework of the Fifth Phase of the Africa Programme (2020 – 2022)

Annex 1

**OVERVIEW OF KEY ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN AND PLANNED FOR THE
REMAINDER OF 2023 WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SIXTH PHASE
OF THE AFRICA PROGRAMME (AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023)**

**OBJECTIVE 1: ADVANCE NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION IN AFRICA**

**Training course on fulfilling declarations and inspections obligations under
Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention, online, 27 March – 13 April 2023**

1. The course provided participants with an opportunity to refresh and enhance their awareness, knowledge, and skills relating to the implementation of Article VI obligations. These obligations include the submission by National Authorities of accurate and timely annual declarations required under Article VI (“Activities Not Prohibited Under This Convention”), and receiving and escorting OPCW inspections. The course also provided updates on recent developments related to Article VI and offered participants an opportunity to share experiences, ask questions, and clarify and discuss related issues.
2. The training course was attended by representatives of National Authorities and relevant national stakeholders (including from the chemical industry and trade associations) who are involved in compiling data, preparing national declarations, and facilitating inspection processes under Article VI of the Convention. Africa was represented by 24 participants from the following States Parties: Botswana, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Kenya, Mauritania, the Niger, Nigeria, the Sudan, Uganda, and Zambia.

National Legislative Review Forum for Djibouti, online, 31 May 2023

3. The forum was conducted to assist Djibouti with drafting and enacting national implementing legislation. It was attended by five representatives from Djibouti and offered a platform for the Secretariat to review, together with the State Party, various legislative and regulatory aspects required for the domestication of the Convention.

**Twenty-First Regional Meeting of National Authorities for States Parties in
Africa, Harare, Zimbabwe, 25 – 27 July 2023**

4. Organised in collaboration with the Government of Zimbabwe, the meeting served as a forum for participating African States Parties to discuss needs, priorities, actions taken, and best practices in relation to the implementation of the Convention at the national, subregional, and regional levels in Africa. In this regard, participants discussed the capacity-building support provided within the framework of the Africa Programme, with a focus on the plans set out in the recently launched sixth phase of the Programme (2023–2025).
5. In this connection, the meeting contributed to further raising participants’ awareness and understanding of best practices and potential follow-up actions.

6. The meeting also facilitated the exchange of updates and views related to the National Implementation Framework, which the Secretariat has been promoting as an effective tool providing States Parties with a comprehensive, step-by-step guide to effective national implementation of the Convention.
7. A total of 52 participants from the following 40 African States Parties took part in the meeting: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Global Meeting Between National Authorities and the Chemical Industry for the Effective Implementation of Obligations Under the Chemical Weapons Convention, Doha, Qatar, 24 – 26 October 2023

Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting of National Authorities, The Hague, the Netherlands, 22 – 24 November 2023

OBJECTIVE 2: STRENGTHEN CONTROLS OVER CROSS-BORDER TRANSFERS OF TOXIC CHEMICALS IN ORDER TO PREVENT ACCESS TO SUCH CHEMICALS, INCLUDING BY NON-STATE ACTORS, FOR PURPOSES PROHIBITED UNDER THE CONVENTION

Course for analytical chemists from laboratories supporting customs services, Warsaw, Poland, 22 – 26 May 2023

8. This course was held at the Institute of Industrial Organic Chemistry in Warsaw, Poland. It assisted qualified analytical chemists in acquiring further experience in and practical knowledge of the analysis of chemicals related to the Convention. In addition, the course facilitated the adoption of good laboratory practices for the implementation of the Convention.
9. The training course included a variety of lectures and laboratory work. The lectures covered general aspects of the OPCW, the Convention, and the Verification Annex to the Convention. It also covered the chemical structure and properties of scheduled chemicals, methods of separation and structure elucidation, and the detection and analysis of scheduled chemicals at various concentration levels. The role of customs service laboratories in promoting chemical safety was also discussed.
10. Practical laboratory work included: gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) and analyte identification using the automated mass spectral deconvolution and identification system and the OPCW Central Analytical Database; sampling and sample preparation methods for GC-MS analysis; hand-held Fourier transform infrared and Raman spectroscopy for rapid identification; and a visit to a customs laboratory.
11. The training benefitted 17 participants from laboratories that support, or plan to support, customs services or offices, including four participants from the following African Member States: Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Regional Conference on Enforcing Effective Customs Control of the Trade in Toxic Chemicals in Africa, Brazzaville, the Congo, 23 – 25 May 2023

12. The regional conference was one of the special projects for extrabudgetary funding developed within the framework of the Africa Programme. Funded by a financial voluntary contribution made by the United States of America, it was organised by the Secretariat in Brazzaville, jointly with the Government of the Congo and in cooperation with the WCO.
13. The conference facilitated the sharing of good practices between the participating African customs administrations and National Authorities on how to enforce effective control of the trade of chemicals. It also helped identify opportunities to improve prevailing practices and enhance transnational cooperation.
14. Participants included customs officials responsible for the control of transfers involving chemicals, as well as representatives of National Authorities who typically interact with customs administrations. A total of 53 participants hailed from the following 27 African States Parties: Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

Peer-to-peer training for African customs training institutions, Nairobi, Kenya, 10 – 12 October 2023

Course for analytical chemists from laboratories supporting customs services, ChemTech Centre, The Hague, the Netherlands, 14 – 17 November 2023

OBJECTIVE 3: ENHANCE PROTECTION AND RESPONSE CAPABILITIES AGAINST CHEMICAL INCIDENTS AND ATTACKS

Basic training course on protection against chemical weapons for States Parties in North Africa and the Sahel, Rabat, Morocco, 27 February – 3 March 2023

15. This course, built upon the online training components held in the French language in December 2021, was organised jointly by the Secretariat and the Moroccan National Authority.
16. The course provided participants with theoretical knowledge and hands-on sessions in the following areas: decontamination procedures for chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals, personnel protective equipment, and detection and monitoring procedures. The course also focused on fostering regional networking and facilitating the exchange of information regarding the implementation of Article X.
17. Thirty participants from seven States Parties took part in this course: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Morocco, the Sudan, and Togo. Ten instructors from various agencies were provided by the Moroccan Government.

Advanced course in assistance and protection, Spiez, Switzerland, 27 – 31 March 2023

18. The seventh Swiss advanced international course was jointly organised by the Secretariat and the Swiss Government at the Swiss Nuclear Biological and Chemical (NBC) Training Centre of the Swiss Armed Forces in Spiez, Switzerland. The aim of the course was not only to provide participants with training in the field of protection against chemical weapons using Swiss equipment, but also to be able to train others how to use it.
19. The objective of the course was met by providing participants with all the necessary tools and holistic feedback to refresh their knowledge of the use of personal protective equipment, detection, decontamination, and sampling techniques.
20. Participants prepared and delivered presentations on and demonstrations of the above subjects using the material provided during basic training, with an understanding of working knowledge of the teaching principles that should be applied.
21. Twenty-five participants from 17 OPCW States Parties took part in the course, including the six following African States Parties: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritania, and Zimbabwe.

Foundational course on assistance and protection against chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals for Anglophone States Parties in the Africa region, online, 30 March – 30 April 2023

22. This was the foundation, introductory training course for the 2023 regional cycle on assistance and protection for Africa under Article X of the Convention.
23. The course offered participants basic theoretical knowledge about the OPCW and the Convention, and discussed chemical warfare agents, toxic industrial chemicals, personal protective equipment, decontamination, as well as detection, identification, and monitoring equipment.
24. The course was attended by 46 participants hailing from 10 African States Parties: Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Eighth refresher course on assistance and protection for instructors from the East African Community, online, from the ChemTech Centre, 26 – 27 April 2023

25. The two-day online refresher course was conducted by the OPCW in collaboration with the Population Protection Institute of the Czech Republic's Fire Rescue Service. It was the first of its kind to be coordinated from the new ChemTech Centre. The classroom in this purpose-built facility enabled effective communication between instructors from the EAC and the Institute's experts.
26. The course enhanced participants' teaching skills in the field of emergency response. The topics studied included: the properties of and symptoms caused by chemical agents; protection of personnel during a chemical emergency; reconnaissance operations; hot zone management procedures, including detection, identification, monitoring, sampling procedures, and decontamination; and laboratory safety procedures and

analysis. Participants tested their presentation skills by providing lectures on the types and effects of chemical weapons, as well as protection, sampling, and decontamination methods. They also learned various teaching strategies.

27. The course was attended by 15 instructors from four African States Parties: Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Specialised course on basic incident command and control, Lázně Bohdaneč, Czech Republic, 17 – 25 May 2023

28. The course, which was organised jointly by the OPCW and the Government of the Czech Republic, enhanced the abilities and skills of participants to respond adequately to incidents involving the intentional or accidental release of chemical warfare agents or toxic industrial chemicals. It included individual and team procedures, tactics, and processes to deliver the required level of operational readiness and to understand the complexity of hot zone management during a chemical emergency.
29. Specific topics covered during the course included: protection of personnel in a chemical emergency; incident management; sampling and detection procedures; rescue and decontamination operations in contaminated areas; and appropriate responses and countermeasures in the event of a chemical emergency.
30. The course benefitted participants from diverse geographical regions, including six participants from the following six African States Parties: Algeria, Burundi, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Live chemical warfare agent training course, Zemianske Kostol'any, Slovakia, 22 May – 1 June 2023

31. The course, which was organised jointly by the OPCW and the Government of Slovakia, provided participants with authentic experience in handling chemical warfare agents in an operational training environment. While few emergency response professionals have the opportunity to train by handling real chemical warfare agents, this group of expert first responders tested their capabilities in a highly realistic scenario.
32. Attendees also deepened their knowledge of safe practices for handling toxic chemicals, medical countermeasures, protective equipment, and the physical and chemical properties of chemical warfare agents. Furthermore, the participating first responders learned about the challenges of collecting samples from a variety of surfaces in a field environment.
33. The training course benefitted 14 participants from all geographical regions, including two participants from Algeria and Nigeria.

Swiss basic course on assistance and protection against chemical weapons, Spiez, Switzerland, 3 – 8 July 2023

34. The Swiss basic course on assistance and protection has been offered annually since 2008 and is a core element of Switzerland's approach to upholding its obligations under Article X of the Convention. It was delivered by the Swiss NBC Defense School in Spiez.

35. During this training course, participants became familiar with Switzerland's specialised chemical incident response equipment, which—in line with Article X of the Convention—can be dispatched to a requesting OPCW Member State in the event of the use or threat of use of a chemical weapon within its territory.
36. Course participants also received an introduction to chemical warfare agents and became familiar with the fundamentals of individual protective measures, detection and decontamination equipment, and sampling devices.
37. The course was attended by 20 participants, including six participants from the following four African States Parties: Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone.

Basic course in assistance and protection for Anglophone States Parties in Africa, Lusaka, Zambia, 10 – 14 July 2023

38. This practical, hands-on basic training course was organised in Lusaka jointly with the Government of Zambia. It was the second step of the 2023 OPCW regional assistance and protection training cycle for Africa, which began with an online introductory course held from 30 March to 30 April 2023 to support participating Member States in building their capacity to manage a chemical emergency in their countries.
39. Delivered by OPCW experts and a team of instructors from Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania through the OPCW's Instructor Exchange and Development Programme, the course covered theoretical knowledge and provided hands-on training related to the use of protective equipment, in addition to addressing the effects and characteristics of chemical warfare agents. Experts also provided instruction on how to conduct detection, sampling, and analysis in contaminated areas, and how to establish an incident command and control system.
40. The course was attended in person by 34 representatives from 11 States Parties: Burundi, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Zambia. Seven representatives from Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania attended through the OPCW's Instructor Exchange and Development Programme and provided the training.
41. The course will be followed by the activities listed below as part of the aforementioned African training cycle:
 - (a) a course on the Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders (WISER), the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG), and incident command for States Parties in Africa, online, October 2023 (specific date to be confirmed); and
 - (b) a practical hands-on integrated advanced course and exercise for States Parties in Africa, Windhoek, Namibia, 15 – 21 November 2023.

Assistance and protection course for incident commanders from African States Parties, Tshwane, South Africa, 21 August – 1 September 2023

42. Jointly organised with the Government of South Africa, this course contributed to building the knowledge and skills of African incident commanders who are involved in coordinating the response to chemical emergency incidents.
43. The training course developed the capacities of participants in terms of planning and building a support team for civilian protection and defence, coordinating rescue and decontamination operations in contaminated areas, and providing appropriate responses and countermeasures in the event of incidents involving chemical warfare agents or toxic chemicals. It also covered individual and team procedures, tactics, and processes to deliver the required level of operational readiness and to understand the complexity of managing hot, warm, and cold zones during chemical incidents.
44. The course also provided an overview of the kinds of assistance that the OPCW, the host country, and other States Parties in Africa can provide in assistance and protection, and offered a forum for participating States Parties to discuss how they can cooperate and what further offers they might make to the OPCW under Article X.
45. The course also included a visit to Protechnik Laboratories and concluded with table-top and field emergency response exercises.
46. A total of 18 participants from the following 12 African States Parties attended the course: Algeria, Angola, Seychelles, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Basic course in assistance and protection, Ahrweiler, Germany, 11 – 15 September 2023

Investigation of incidents involving toxic industrial chemicals, The Hague and Vught, the Netherlands, 11 – 22 September 2023

CHEMEX Africa: Pan-African multi-component emergency response exercise and demonstration, Algiers, Algeria, 28 September – 5 October 2023

Training course on WISER and the ERG, online from the ChemTech Centre, 2 – 31 October 2023

International course on the medical aspects of assistance and protection against chemical weapons, Tehran, Iran, 15 – 19 October 2023

Integrated advanced course and exercise on chemical emergency response for Portuguese-speaking States Parties in Africa, Lisbon, Portugal, 23 – 28 October 2023

Swiss laboratory course on protection against chemical weapons, Spiez, Switzerland, 6 – 11 November 2023

Integrated advanced course and exercise on assistance and protection, Islamabad, Pakistan, 13 – 17 November 2023

Integrated advanced course and exercise in assistance and protection for English-speaking States Parties in the Africa region, Windhoek, Namibia, 15 – 22 November 2023

OBJECTIVE 4: ADVANCE CHEMICAL SAFETY AND SECURITY CULTURE, STANDARDS, AND PRACTICES IN AFRICA

Second workshop on developing indicative guidelines for transportation of hazardous chemicals by road under the Chemical Safety and Security Tools Development Programme, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 21 – 24 February 2023

47. Organised with the support of the National Authority of Malaysia, this workshop was part of the Chemical Safety and Security Tools Development Programme, which was launched by the Secretariat in 2019. The Programme is aimed at developing tools to support OPCW Member States in chemical safety and security management. The output of the first phase was the release of the Indicative Guidelines for Chemical Safety and Security in Small and Medium-sized Enterprises to Foster the Peaceful Uses of Chemistry. The Indicative Guidelines were issued in English in 2021 and in other languages in 2022.
48. The four-day workshop resulted in the development of a draft version of the Indicative Guidelines with a complete structure and key contents. The workshop presented best practices for the transportation of hazardous chemicals by road, mainly for the benefit of States Parties that do not have rigorous domestic legislation regulating the safe and secure transportation of hazardous chemicals. The Indicative Guidelines cover the entirety of the cycle of transportation, including packaging, loading, driving, delivery and unloading. This involves all stakeholders in the transportation process: senders, drivers, and receivers.
49. The workshop hosted 15 experts in chemical safety, security, and transportation from 10 Member States, including South Africa and Togo.

OPCW-IUPAC safety training programme, online, 17 April – 23 June 2023

50. The training was co-organised by the OPCW Secretariat and the Chemical Industries Association of Uruguay, with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, and joint financial support from the OPCW and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC).
51. The training programme was designed for representatives of chemical companies, research institutions, and specialised agencies from OPCW Member States working in the field of the environment, health, safety, and security related to the use of chemicals. It provided participants with an update on current standards, policies, and best practices in occupational safety and chemical hazards, as well as the handling, storage, and transport of chemicals, and chemical waste management. The training programme was implemented within the scope of the capacity-building programmes related to the peaceful applications of chemistry under Article XI of the Convention.

52. The programme gathered 59 participants, including 41 participants from the following African States Parties: Algeria, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Nigeria, the Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

Workshop on general aspects of chemical safety and security in laboratories, Milan, Italy, 9 – 11 May 2023

53. The workshop focused on best practices in and knowledge of hazardous chemicals and related risk assessments, personal protection equipment, emergency management, environmental impacts, and sustainability. Attendees participated in a table-top exercise using a scenario involving hazardous chemicals to test emergency response and risk assessment, visited forensic chemistry and toxicology laboratories at the University of Milan, and exchanged knowledge with scientists on safety and security protocols for forensic sample management.
54. The event benefitted 18 participants from diverse geographical regions, including seven participants from six African States Parties: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Morocco, the Niger, and Nigeria.

Associate Programme, the Netherlands and elsewhere, 21 July – 22 September 2023

55. The twenty-fourth edition of the Associate Programme began on 21 July 2023 in The Hague, the Netherlands, and is due to close on 22 September 2023. The Programme raises participants' awareness of the Convention, its history, and its implementation by Member States, with a particular focus on modern chemical industry operations. The training covers a wide range of topics, including chemical safety and security in industry, the audit of chemical plants, and emerging threats and trends. The Programme comprises three segments: induction/intermediate/final components in the Netherlands; a university segment in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and an industry segment in various locations. During the three-week intermittent segment at the University of Surrey in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, participants learn about the theory of mass balance, and practice at the University's model plant. Subsequently, participants are paired up for the industry segment and deployed to 16 identified chemical industry sites hosted by 14 Member States for hands-on exposure and training in various industrial operations. Upon completion of the Programme, all participants will present research projects on topics related to the Convention and an industry assignment.
56. Thirty-one participants from as many countries are taking part in this year's edition of the Associate Programme, including 11 from the following African States Parties: Djibouti, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
57. It is noteworthy that this edition features the organisation of the first-ever industry attachment in Africa under the Associate Programme, thanks to a partnership with Sasol, Secunda Operations, based in South Africa.

Wuppertal course on explosion protection and safety management in chemical process industries for Member States in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, online, 1 September – 6 October 2023

Advanced seminar on the Chemical Weapons Convention and chemical safety and security management for Member States of the OPCW in the Africa region, online from the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology, 11 October 2023

Workshop on legislative and regulatory issues on chemical security, South Africa, 31 October – 2 November 2023

OBJECTIVE 5: STRENGTHEN THE CAPABILITIES OF CHEMICAL LABORATORIES IN AFRICA

Proficiency test training for African laboratories, Helsinki, Finland, 13 – 17 February 2023

58. A proficiency test training workshop took place in Helsinki, Finland and was funded by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under the project “Assessing and Enhancing Capacity of Analytical Laboratories from African and GRULAC Member States: Towards OPCW Designation”. The training was supported by VERIFIN and conducted in partnership with an OPCW designated laboratory in Finland.
59. The workshop provided training in diverse topics concerning the analysis of Convention-related chemicals, including micro-synthesis, analytical techniques, quality systems, and various theoretical and practical aspects of OPCW proficiency testing. Eight chemistry professionals representing two analytical laboratories from Kenya (four participants) and Nigeria (four participants) attended the training.

Technical evaluation visits to African laboratories, Nairobi (Kenya) and Lagos (Nigeria), 13 – 17 March 2023

60. Two technical evaluation visits to analytical laboratories in Nairobi, Kenya, and Lagos, Nigeria, took place as part of the project “Assessing and Enhancing Capacity of Analytical Laboratories from African and GRULAC Member States: Towards OPCW Designation”, funded by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The visits made it possible to assess the progress made by each laboratory since 2020, re-evaluate their capacity in terms of infrastructure and instruments, and update their respective tailor-made assistance plans. These national visits were attended by 17 participants from Kenya and 15 participants from Nigeria.

Closing workshop of the project on assessing and enhancing the capacity of analytical laboratories from African and GRULAC Member States, online, 30 March 2023

61. An online workshop was held to mark the conclusion of the fourth phase of the project on “Assessing and Enhancing Capacity of Analytical Laboratories from African and GRULAC Member States: Towards OPCW Designation”, funded by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

62. The event was attended by 36 participants, representing six participating laboratories from Brazil, Chile, Kenya, and Nigeria, two institutions in Finland and Spain partnering with the Secretariat for the project, and by the donor (the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

Analytical skills development course for African Member States, Pretoria, South Africa, 29 May – 9 June 2023

63. This was the thirteenth edition of the analytical chemistry course under the Africa Programme, implemented in partnership with Protechnik Laboratories of South Africa.
64. The training course developed the analytical chemistry skills of participants and showcased the cooperation among African States Parties. The 19 participants hailed from the following 11 African States Parties: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Senegal, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as three local participants from South Africa.

Online basic analytical chemistry course, online from the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology, 26 June – 6 July 2023

65. Organised online from the ChemTech Centre, this course started with a one-week self-study component utilising online training materials. It was followed by live, interactive online sessions dedicated to discussions and question-and-answer sessions.
66. The training course included lectures covering topics such as the general aspects of the OPCW's work and the Convention, the chemical structure and properties of scheduled chemicals, and the use of the analytical techniques for the analysis of chemicals related to the Convention. Aspects of sample preparation and the applications of the OPCW Central Analytical Database in compound identification were also covered.
67. The course benefitted 31 participants representing 13 Member States, including the following 10 African States Parties: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

Basic analytical chemistry course for women, OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology, 11 – 13 July 2023

68. This course was organised at the OPCW Laboratory and assisted qualified female analytical chemists from Member States with economies that are either developing or in transition in acquiring further knowledge of and experience in the analysis of chemicals under the Convention.
69. The course, which is part of the OPCW's Women in Chemistry initiative, equipped female specialists with the basic knowledge and practical skills needed to use techniques related to the analysis of chemicals subject to control under the Convention.
70. The training course was attended by 10 female participants, including five chemists from the following African States Parties: Burundi, Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria, and Uganda.

Equipment Exchange Programme

71. The Equipment Exchange Programme aims to support the transfer of equipment that has been used but is still functional from institutions in one State Party to those in another.
72. In March 2023, the Secretariat facilitated the transfer of a set of laboratory equipment from Germany to the United Republic of Tanzania. The Secretariat also secured training for 10 Tanzanian experts on the donated equipment. In addition, in July 2023, the Secretariat facilitated another transfer of laboratory equipment donated by Germany to Kenya (two fully functional devices, with operational spare parts).

Analytical skills development course in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad, India, 4 – 15 September 2023

Two parallel courses on the enhancement of laboratory skills in collaboration with VERIFIN, Helsinki, Finland, 11 – 22 September 2023

Training course for laboratories on proficiency testing, online from the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology, the Netherlands, 25 September – 6 October 2023

OBJECTIVE 6: PROMOTE KNOWLEDGE OF PEACEFUL CHEMISTRY AND ITS EXCHANGE IN AFRICA

Forum on Peaceful Uses of Chemistry, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 23 – 25 May 2023

73. The forum was organised in cooperation with the Malaysian National Authority in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Targeting chemists, chemical engineers, and relevant professionals from governments, international organisations, industry, and academia, the forum elevated participants' awareness and deepened their understanding of chemical safety and security management towards building a culture of chemical safety and security. The forum also embraced the tenets of green and sustainable chemistry, highlighting its potential as a robust framework to mitigate risks associated with harmful by-products. It underscored the importance of ensuring safety and sustainability in chemical products and processes driven by the power of scientific innovation.
74. The forum was attended by 39 participants, including online participants, representing the following five African States Parties: Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, and Zambia.

Symposium on Women in Chemistry, OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology, 19 – 20 June 2023

75. The 2023 Symposium on Women in Chemistry, held from 19 to 20 June 2023, was the first in-person capacity-building activity hosted at the ChemTech Centre. It was organised by the Secretariat in close cooperation with UNICRI and UNIDIR, and supported by a voluntary contribution from France.

76. This edition of the symposium was dedicated to African women chemists, with participants from other regions attending the first day remotely.
77. Held under the theme “Empowering women and promoting gender diversity in the peaceful uses of chemistry and chemical security”, the symposium brought together experts, scientists, and researchers from across the globe to discuss and address the challenges faced by women in science, particularly in the field of chemistry. It also featured interactive panel discussions and presentations that focused on a wide range of topics, including women’s empowerment in scientific research, strategies to enhance women’s participation in chemistry-related professions, and the importance of mentorship and networking. Furthermore, the event emphasised the need to address unconscious biases and gender stereotypes that persist within the scientific community.
78. The event was attended by 17 in-person and 16 online participants from nine OPCW African States Parties: Algeria, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Kenya, Libya, Mauritius, South Africa, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

Workshop on policy and diplomacy for scientists, OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology, 21 – 23 June 2023

79. The workshop entitled “Policy and diplomacy for scientists: Introduction to responsible research practices in chemical and biochemical sciences” was held at the newly built ChemTech Centre from 21 to 23 June 2023. It raised awareness on the goals of the Convention, the role of science and scientists in disarmament, dual uses in science, the impact of developments in science and technology on international security, and the role and contribution of scientists and academia in reducing chemical risks, including through the promotion of ethics and education in responsible and sustainable research practices.
80. The workshop hosted 15 participants, including five participants from three African States Parties: Algeria, Kenya, and Nigeria.

Fellowship Programme

81. During the reporting period, six African fellowships have been ongoing: five fellows from Cameroon were hosted in France (1), Germany (2), Romania (1) and Spain (1), and one fellow from Kenya was hosted in Germany.

Programme for the Support of Research Projects

82. Under the Programme for the Support of Research Projects, two research projects directly funded by the OPCW were ongoing during the reporting period, supporting researchers from Kenya and South Africa.

Conference Support Programme

83. During the reporting period and under the Conference Support Programme, the Secretariat sponsored African scientists to take part in the following two international scientific events:

- (a) Green Chemistry Postgraduate Summer School 2023 (a hybrid event), in Venice, Italy, 2 – 7 July: The Secretariat sponsored the in-person participation of four African participants from Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, and Uganda. It also sponsored the online participation of 15 other African participants from Cameroon, Gabon, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.
- (b) Virtual Conference on Chemistry and its Applications: Chemistry and interdisciplinary research towards Sustainable Development Goals, from 7 to 11 August 2023. Some 70 African participants were sponsored by the Secretariat to participate in this conference.

OBJECTIVE 7: FOSTER PROGRAMME VISIBILITY, STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT, AND PARTNERSHIPS

Presentation on International Cooperation and Assistance Programmes, online, 4 May 2023

- 84. The Secretariat organised an online information briefing on 4 May 2023 to raise awareness among States Parties of its extensive range of services and capacity-building programmes, with a focus on the programmes under Article XI, which are aimed at fostering and promoting the full implementation of the Convention. The presentation covered many activities that are also conducted under the Africa Programme. In particular, the event addressed programme offerings, including training events designed to advance and strengthen chemical safety and security management, and develop analytical skills for the analysis of chemicals relevant to the Convention. The presentation also addressed the provision of specialised technical support to build upon and maintain the technical capabilities of analytical chemistry laboratories, as well as opportunities for research grants, fellowships, and technical services that support the exchange of information and foster the peaceful uses of chemistry. Attendees were also updated on the application process for international cooperation and assistance programmes and opportunities.
- 85. The presentation was attended by 147 participants, including from the following 21 African States Parties: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chad, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

Seventh Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Africa Programme, OPCW Headquarters (hybrid mode), 26 June 2023

- 86. The Steering Committee of the Africa Programme held its seventh meeting on 26 June 2023, in hybrid mode, with the administrative support of the Secretariat. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Madeleine Liguemoh Ondoua, Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the OPCW and Chairperson of the Committee for 2023. The meeting was attended by some 40 participants, including Committee members, observers, and Secretariat staff led by the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General.

87. Designated by the African Group, the Committee members for 2023 are: Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Chad, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, and the Sudan. The Committee observers (Programme donors) are: Canada, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and the European Union.
88. Based on the briefing delivered by the Secretariat, the Committee reviewed the activities carried out towards the implementation of the Programme since its previous meeting on 15 November 2022.
89. Noting the progress made, the Steering Committee members and observers welcomed the results of the fifth phase and the effective design and launch of the sixth phase of the Programme. Within this context, the Committee expressed its appreciation for the work done by the Secretariat, and its gratitude to Programme donors and partners for their support for Africa within the Programme's framework. The next meeting of the Committee is tentatively scheduled for 14 November 2023.

Eighth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Africa Programme, OPCW Headquarters (hybrid mode), 14 November 2023 (date to be confirmed)

OPCW Africa Network

90. During the reporting period, the Secretariat continued to maintain and develop the Africa Network through the facilitation of regular interaction, the exchange of knowledge and expertise, and professional networking. The outreach efforts undertaken by the Secretariat led to an increase in Network membership to 1,100 active members by the end of the reporting period.

OPCW Africa Bulletin

91. During the reporting period, the Secretariat worked on a new edition of the OPCW Africa Bulletin. Scheduled for publication in November 2023, the new edition will include an overview of the implementation of the Africa Programme, as well as articles authored by African States Parties. The Bulletin publicises national experiences on the implementation of the Convention and contributes to sharing knowledge and raising awareness among National Authorities and other Convention stakeholders. It also stimulates more cooperation among Member States.

Continued alumni engagement through post-participation action plans

92. During the reporting period, the Secretariat continued to regularly send post-training action plans to the alumni of capacity-building activities organised under the Africa Programme.

Partnerships

93. The Secretariat continued to cooperate with a variety of stakeholders to organise activities under the Africa Programme and explore new initiatives. The list of partners includes international, regional, and national organisations. Valuable support was also provided by several Member States co-organising events under the Programme.

94. Positive interaction with the African Union was noted over the reporting period. Following intensive outreach efforts by the Secretariat, and with the support of the African Group of Permanent Representations to the OPCW—notably H.E. Ambassador Eniola Olaitan Ajayi of Nigeria—a visit to the OPCW Headquarters by H.E. Mr Bankole Adeoye, the African Union’s Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace, and Security, was organised on 13 April 2023.
95. Briefed by the Director-General on the implementation of the Convention, Commissioner Adeoye commended the OPCW’s work and achievements. He underscored the importance of accountability in maintaining and reinforcing the global norm against chemical weapons and highlighted the threat posed by non-State actors in Africa.
96. Commissioner Adeoye saluted the special attention given by the OPCW to the Africa region and commended the Africa Programme. He underscored the importance of related activities promoting chemical security, trade, and development in Africa, in alignment with the relevant agendas of the continent.
97. The Director-General and Commissioner Adeoye agreed to strengthen the collaboration between the OPCW and the African Union Commission with a view to further promoting the universality and domestication of the Convention in Africa, and reviving the memorandum of understanding signed by the two organisations in 2006.
98. Following the meeting, a revised list of proposed action items was submitted by the Secretariat to the African Union Commission within the framework of revitalising bilateral cooperation. An invitation was also extended to the Commissioner to attend the VIP Day of CHEMEX Africa. Contact is under way with the African Union Commission for Political Affairs, Peace, and Security on the aforementioned topics.

Annex 2

OVERVIEW OF KEY ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FIFTH PHASE OF THE AFRICA PROGRAMME (1 SEPTEMBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2022)

**OBJECTIVE 1: ADVANCE NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION IN AFRICA; AND**

**OBJECTIVE 2: ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE AFRICAN
NATIONAL AUTHORITIES**

**Global Stakeholder Forum to advance the adoption of implementing legislation on the
Chemical Weapons Convention, The Hague, the Netherlands, 13 – 15 September 2022**

1. Held at the OPCW Headquarters, the Global Stakeholder Forum enhanced key national stakeholders' understanding of the importance of the swift enactment of comprehensive Convention implementing legislation and their respective roles in the legislation adoption process. Participants updated their national road maps for the adoption of national implementing legislation and committed to undertake specific actions to move the legislation adoption process forward. In support of the latter, participants developed key, country-specific messages on the importance of national implementation of the Convention to be conveyed to high-level decision makers. Thirty-one delegates from 10 Member States participated in the forum, including 16 participants from the following African States Parties: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Mauritania, and Zimbabwe.

**Ninth annual meeting of representatives of chemical industries and National
Authorities of States Parties to the Convention, Doha, Qatar, 18 – 20 October 2022**

2. During the meeting, participants shared information on the capacity-building needs and requirements of States Parties with small and medium-sized enterprises, best practices in sensitisation and awareness-raising about the Convention, and cooperation between the National Authority and the chemical industry in addressing transport security. At the end of the meeting, the participants agreed to continue to engage on Convention-related issues in order to facilitate the timely and comprehensive implementation of national obligations. Seventy participants from 26 States Parties, along with representatives of the International Council of Chemical Associations and the International Chemical Trade Association, attended the meeting. Fourteen participants hailed from the following African States Parties: Algeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, the Sudan, and Zimbabwe.

National Legislative Review Forum for Kenya, online, 20 October 2022

3. Together with the delegates nominated by Kenya, the Secretariat reviewed the scope of Kenya's draft implementing legislation on the Convention and provided country-specific advice to ensure that when enacted, its legislative and regulatory framework will satisfactorily comply with the obligations set out in the Convention. The four delegates representing Kenya's National Authority to the OPCW and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were provided with a range of online preparatory materials prior to a live session with the Secretariat.

Regional workshop for French-speaking African States Parties on the role of national implementing legislation in addressing threats from non-State actors, Dakar, Senegal, 16 – 18 November 2022

4. The workshop enhanced participants' understanding of the importance of national Convention implementing legislation for mitigating risks associated with the potential acquisition or use of chemical weapons by non-State actors and ensuring legal accountability in the event of the diversion of chemicals for hostile purposes. Delegates discussed challenges and shared good practices with respect to the enactment and implementation of Convention-related laws and regulations. In addition, participants gained insights into possible approaches to the development of chemical security measures and discussed how these measures, coupled with comprehensive Convention-related legislation, can strengthen national capacities to address contemporary Convention-related security threats. Fifty-one delegates from 14 States Parties attended the workshop (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Gabon, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Senegal, and Togo), along with one technical expert from France and four representatives from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and UNICRI. The workshop was partially funded through a voluntary contribution made by France.

Twenty-Fourth Annual Meeting of National Authorities, The Hague, the Netherlands, 22 – 25 November 2022

5. Held at the OPCW Headquarters, this meeting facilitated the sharing of experience, knowledge, and good practices among National Authorities on the implementation of the Convention and the enhancement of chemical security. Successful outcomes were reached on a range of topics, including increased awareness on science and policy-related developments, recommendations on operationalising the National Implementation Framework, an update on activities undertaken under Article VI of the verification regime, as well as capacity-building support offered by the Secretariat to States Parties. The meeting improved participants' awareness of approaches, challenges, and good practices in the chemical industry with respect to different industry sizes. A total of 137 participants from 102 Member States attended the meeting, including from Africa. During the African Group breakout session, the African National Authorities reviewed and cleared the design and planning of the sixth phase of the Africa Programme (2023–2025).

OBJECTIVE 3: STRENGTHEN CONTROLS OVER CROSS-BORDER TRANSFERS OF TOXIC CHEMICALS TO PREVENT ACCESS TO SUCH CHEMICALS, INCLUDING BY NON-STATE ACTORS, FOR PURPOSES PROHIBITED UNDER THE CONVENTION

Train-the-trainer course for representatives of customs training institutions and academies on the technical aspects of the transfers regime of the Convention, The Hague, the Netherlands, 6 – 9 September 2022

6. The course, organised in cooperation with the WCO, focused on technical aspects of the transfer regime under the Convention, and contributed to the ongoing capacity development of the staff of National Authorities and training institutions. The event

increased awareness of the roles of customs authorities in terms of generating timely and fit-for-purpose trade data on scheduled chemicals, as well as the role of National Authorities in aggregating and reporting this data in their annual declarations, as required under Article VI of the Convention. The course also imparted knowledge and skills on a range of tools used to effectively enforce the transfer regime of the Convention. Forty-nine participants from 18 States Parties took part in the course, including from the following African States Parties: Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, and Zimbabwe.

Specialised analytical chemistry course for laboratories supporting customs services in African States Parties, Warsaw, Poland, 10 – 14 October 2022

7. From 10 to 14 October 2022, the Secretariat organised a course on the development of skills for analytical chemists supporting customs services in African States Parties. The course, funded by a voluntary contribution from the United States of America, was held at the Institute of Industrial Organic Chemistry in Warsaw, Poland. The aim of the course was to assist qualified analytical chemists from laboratories that support or plan to support customs services or offices in acquiring further experience and practical knowledge of the analysis of chemicals related to the Convention. The training course benefitted 20 chemists representing 16 African States Parties: Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, the Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

OBJECTIVE 4: ENHANCE PROTECTION AND RESPONSE CAPABILITIES AGAINST CHEMICAL INCIDENTS AND ATTACKS

International basic course on chemical weapons assistance and protection, Ahrweiler, Germany, 12 – 16 September 2022

8. This course was co-organised with the German Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance, situated in the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community. It was held at the Office's Federal Academy of Civil Protection and Civil Defence in Ahrweiler, Germany.
9. Experts from the Federal Academy of Civil Protection and Civil Defence and the OPCW, supported by an instructor from the Population Protection Institute of the Czech Republic provided first responders with knowledge of the Convention, chemical weapons, the basic principles of sampling, detection, personal protection, and the psycho-social effects of exposure to chemical weapons and toxic industrial chemicals. The theoretical segment was followed by active learning and hands-on training on responding to a chemical attack or an incident involving toxic chemicals. The practical segment focused on the use of protective equipment and the fundamentals of chemical warfare agents. Participants also practiced conducting sampling and analysis in contaminated areas, chemical detection, decontamination, and establishing an incident command and control system.
10. The training course benefitted 14 representatives from seven States Parties, including Nigeria and the Sudan. It received financial support from Germany.

Swiss laboratory course, Spiez, Switzerland, 31 October – 5 November 2022

11. The yearly laboratory course was co-organised with the Swiss National Authority and the Swiss NBC school, and was delivered in English by a team of instructors from the Swiss NBC school. Held at the Swiss NBC Defence Establishment based in Spiez, the course provided training on sample analysis and the detection of chemical weapons. The course benefited nine participants from eight States Parties, including Côte d'Ivoire, and received financial support from the Government of Switzerland.

Workshop on chemical incident preparedness for hospitals for States Parties in the Africa region, Rabat, Morocco, 7 – 10 November 2022

12. The event was jointly organised by the Moroccan National Authority to the Convention in conjunction with the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces, the Royal School of Paramedic Personnel, and the OPCW Secretariat. The workshop centred on enhancing the capabilities of medical facilities to respond to incidents involving toxic chemicals or chemical warfare agents. In particular, the workshop delved into the principles of hospital care for patients injured by toxic chemicals, as well as practical knowledge about facilities for managing casualties of chemical exposure.
13. Participants also received lectures on key assistance and protection concepts such as: the provisions and obligations of the Convention with a focus on Article X, types of chemical agents, personal protection, contamination, detection, monitoring and incident command, and medical evacuation. The course also featured a field exercise in which participants tested their practical skills.
14. The 32 participants who took part in the event hailed from 11 African States Parties: Angola, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Rwanda, the Sudan, and Togo.

Basic course on response to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals for States Parties in the Africa region, Murcia, Spain, 7 – 11 November 2022

15. From 7 to 11 November 2022, the Secretariat, the Spanish National Authority, and the Murcia City Fire Brigade organised a basic course on responding to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals for States Parties in the Africa region. A team of instructors from the Murcia City Fire Brigade, the Murcia Region Fire Brigade, the Spanish National Police's bomb disposal unit (TEDAX), and the Spanish national designated Laboratory for the Verification of Chemical Weapons (LAVEMA). The course was held at the Murcia City Council Fire School facilities and delivered in Spanish with simultaneous English interpretation.
16. Supported by funds from the European Union, this course benefited 17 participants from 15 African States Parties: Angola, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, the Sudan, Togo, and Uganda.

Advanced international course and exercise on assistance and protection against chemical weapons, Islamabad, Pakistan, 7 – 11 November 2022

17. From 7 to 11 November 2022, in Islamabad, Pakistan, the Secretariat and the Defence Science and Technology Organization of Pakistan co-organised the last segment of the OPCW's international and subregional training cycle, which was preceded by the basic training courses held earlier in 2022 in Germany and Bangladesh. The training course was attended by 19 representatives from 11 States Parties including: Kenya, Nigeria, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. Financial support for the event was provided by Germany.

Fifth operational training on chemical emergency response, planning, and management for East African Community partner States, Jinja, Uganda, 5 – 14 December 2022

18. The fifth operational training on chemical emergency response, planning, and management was organised by the OPCW and the National Authority of Uganda, with financial support from the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Technical assistance was provided by the Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic. Participants received practical experience in five key areas: presentations, demonstrations, table-top exercises, on-site training, and field exercises. They performed various command roles to learn strategies that they can implement in their respective countries as future instructors.
19. The event was attended by 28 participants from four OPCW States Parties: Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Training course on conducting sampling and analysis in highly contaminated environments for African States Parties, Algiers, Algeria, 18 – 21 December 2022

20. This event was organised in partnership with the National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology of the National Gendarmerie, Ministry of National Defence, Algeria. Participants learned about procedures for the sampling and analysis of toxic chemicals, the collection of evidence, and chain-of-custody techniques. The training course was attended by 22 representatives from nine OPCW Member States in Africa: Algeria, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Nigeria, Senegal, the Sudan, and Uganda.

OBJECTIVE 5: ADVANCE CHEMICAL SAFETY AND SECURITY CULTURE, STANDARDS, AND PRACTICES IN AFRICA

Wuppertal course on explosion protection and safety management in the chemical process industries, 5 September – 7 October 2022

21. From 5 September to 7 October, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the University of Wuppertal, and with support from the Federal Government of Germany, organised an online Wuppertal Course on explosion protection and safety management in the chemical process industries. The course uses the "train-the-trainer" approach and is intended for participants with a background in chemistry, chemical engineering, or the chemical industry, who have experience working at a chemical or manufacturing

industrial facility, or who, because of their involvement in the implementation of the Convention, are called upon to interact with the chemical industry at various levels, such as in relation to formulating, analysing, or implementing chemical safety policies in their home countries. The course accommodated 24 participants from 23 States Parties, including the following from Africa: Algeria, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mauritius, Morocco, Senegal, the Sudan, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Workshop on general aspects of chemical safety and security in laboratories, Milan, Italy, 20 – 22 September 2022

22. From 20 to 22 September, the Secretariat organised a workshop on the general aspects of chemical safety and security in laboratories, in Milan, Italy. The workshop focused on best practices in and knowledge of hazardous chemicals and related risk assessments, personal protection equipment, emergency management, environmental impacts, and sustainability. Attendees participated in a table-top exercise using a scenario involving hazardous chemicals, received practical training at a chemical laboratory, and visited an industrial production plant. The workshop gathered 17 participants from governmental agencies, chemical industries, and academic, research, and policy-making institutions, including from the following African States Parties: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

Advanced course on chemical safety and security management for African Member States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 11 – 13 October 2022

23. From 11 to 13 October, the Secretariat, jointly with the Prime Minister's Office of the Republic of Mauritius, conducted a seminar on the Convention and chemical safety and security management for African Member States in Port Louis, Mauritius. The seminar, co-funded by the European Union, and as a part of the European Union Joint Action Programme, aimed to provide tools and opportunities to exchange experience in the prevention of incidents and accidents involving toxic chemicals. The seminar gathered 19 participants from industry, academia, and government institutions representing 12 African States Parties: Algeria, Botswana, Chad, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, the Sudan, and Zimbabwe.

Executive programme on integrated chemicals management, Port Louis, Mauritius 11 – 14 October 2022

24. From 11 to 14 October, the Secretariat, jointly with the Prime Minister's Office of the Republic of Mauritius, organised an executive programme on integrated chemicals management in Port Louis, Mauritius. The programme, co-funded by the European Union, and as a part of the European Union Joint Action Programme, aimed to raise awareness of and build capacities in integrated chemicals management and the peaceful uses of chemistry among senior and middle management in industry, laboratories, and government institutions. This year, the programme focused on process safety management audits, occupational health, leadership skills for fostering a culture of safety and security, and gender mainstreaming. The course was attended by 17 participants, including from the following African States Parties: Burundi, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe.

OBJECTIVE 6: STRENGTHEN THE CAPABILITIES OF CHEMICAL LABORATORIES IN AFRICA**Analytical skills development course in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad, India, 5 – 16 September 2022**

25. Organised jointly by the Secretariat and the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, the course equipped analytical chemists and chemical professionals from States Parties with economies that are developing or in transition with knowledge of and hands-on experience in the analysis of chemicals related to national implementation of the Convention, using gas chromatography (GC) and gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS). Participants were also trained in equipment maintenance and sample collection and storage. The training course benefitted, inter alia, 14 participants from 11 African Member States: Algeria, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Two courses on the enhancement of laboratory skills at the Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention, Helsinki, Finland, 5 – 16 September 2022

26. From 5 to 16 September 2022 in Helsinki, Finland, the Secretariat and VERIFIN delivered two training courses for analytical chemists from countries with economies that are developing or in transition. The two parallel courses aimed to enhance laboratory management and contribute to advancing national chemical analysis capacities. In one course, participants improved their practical skills in the analysis of chemicals related to the Convention using a technique called liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry. The other course focused on laboratory management practices in relation to achieving ISO/IEC 17025:2017 accreditation, a qualification that demonstrates competency in laboratory operations and the generation of valid results. The dual courses were co-funded by the Government of Finland and were attended by 12 participants, including from the following African States Parties: Cameroon, Kenya, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Analytical skills development course with the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad, India, 5 – 16 December 2022

27. From 5 to 16 December, the Secretariat and the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology organised an analytical skills training course for analytical chemists and laboratory specialists from OPCW Member States with economies that are developing or in transition in Hyderabad, India. The two-week training course provided chemistry professionals with the requisite theoretical knowledge and practical skills in techniques used to analyse chemicals subject to the Convention. In particular, the participants received insight into techniques such as GC and GC-MS. The course also covered methods used in sample preparation and derivatisation. The training course was attended by 18 participants, including from the following African States Parties: Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Malawi, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Seychelles, and Uganda.

OBJECTIVE 7: PROMOTE KNOWLEDGE OF PEACEFUL CHEMISTRY AND ITS EXCHANGE IN AFRICA

Education and training programme on peaceful uses of chemistry for youth, Kenitra, Morocco, 31 October – 4 November 2022

28. From 31 October to 4 November, the Secretariat organised an in-person edition of the education and training programme for youth on peaceful uses of chemistry in collaboration with the Moroccan National Authority—the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation—the Moroccan Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research, and Innovation, and the Moroccan National School of Chemistry in Kenitra, Morocco. The training programme was held with financial support from the European Union. The programme aimed to raise awareness among participants of the Convention, chemical safety and security management, the latest research on linkages between gender and chemical weapons, chemical disarmament, and the use, misuse, and abuse of dual-use chemicals. Field visits to an electrolysis and petrochemical factory near Rabat and the National Civilian Protection Office were also organised. The programme was attended by 17 participants, including from the following African States Parties: Kenya, Mauritius, Morocco, and Togo.

OBJECTIVE 8: FOSTER PROGRAMME VISIBILITY, STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT, AND PARTNERSHIPS

Sixth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Africa Programme, online, 15 November 2022

29. The Steering Committee of the Africa Programme held an online meeting on 15 November 2022 with the administrative support of the Secretariat. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Madeleine Liguemoh Ondoua, Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the OPCW and Chairperson of the Committee for 2022, and was attended by 34 Committee members, observers, and Secretariat staff led by the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General.
30. Based on the briefing delivered by the Secretariat, the Committee reviewed the activities carried out towards the implementation of the fifth phase of the Programme since its previous meeting on 24 June 2022. It also took stock of the preliminary results of the fifth phase in its entirety, as it was slated to conclude on 31 December 2022.
31. The meeting also reviewed the advancement of preparations for the sixth phase of the Programme, which will cover the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025. The proposed concept for the sixth phase, developed by the Secretariat based on a series of consultations conducted throughout 2022 with the African Group, was shared with the Committee ahead of the meeting.
32. Noting the progress made and the preliminary results achieved under the fifth phase, the Steering Committee members and observers lauded the OPCW Director-General and the Secretariat's team, and expressed their full satisfaction with the successful implementation and results of the fifth phase, despite the constraints imposed earlier by the pandemic. The Committee also expressed its gratitude to Programme donors and partners for their support for Africa within the Programme's framework.

33. The Committee also voiced its satisfaction with the progress made in preparing for the sixth phase of the Programme and expressed its support for the concept and the final steps of the preparatory process for the sixth phase.

OPCW Africa Network

34. During the reporting period, the Secretariat continued to maintain and develop the Africa Network through the facilitation of regular interaction, the exchange of knowledge and expertise, and professional networking. The outreach efforts undertaken by the Secretariat led to an increase in Network membership to 1,000 active members by the end of the reporting period.

OPCW Africa Bulletin

35. In 2022, the Secretariat worked on the third edition of the OPCW Africa Bulletin. By sharing articles authored by African States Parties, the Bulletin publicises national experiences on the implementation of the Convention and contributes to sharing knowledge and raising awareness among National Authorities and other Convention stakeholders. It also stimulates more cooperation among Member States.

Continued alumni engagement through post-participation action plans

36. During the reporting period, the Secretariat continued to send post-training action plans to the alumni of capacity-building activities organised under the fifth phase of the Africa Programme.

Partnerships

37. During the reporting period, the Secretariat continued to cooperate with a variety of stakeholders to organise activities under the Africa Programme and explore new initiatives. The list of partners includes international, regional, and national organisations. Valuable support was also provided by several Member States co-organising events under the Programme.

Annex 3

LIST OF KEY ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FIFTH PHASE OF THE AFRICA PROGRAMME (2020 – 2022)

OBJECTIVE 1: ADVANCE NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION IN AFRICA; AND

OBJECTIVE 2: ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

1. Lessons-learned workshop on the Mentorship/Partnership Programme, The Hague, the Netherlands, 30 – 31 January 2020
2. Study visit by a Moroccan parliamentary delegation to the OPCW Headquarters, 17 February 2020
3. Eighteenth Regional Meeting of African National Authorities, online, 4 August 2020
4. General training course on the Chemical Weapons Convention for the personnel of National Authorities and relevant stakeholders in French-speaking Member States in Central and West Africa, online, 7 – 9 September 2020
5. Seventh Annual Meeting of Representatives of the Chemical Industry and National Authorities of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, online, 17 and 18 November 2020
6. Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of National Authorities, online, 23 – 25 November 2020
7. Individual technical consultations in areas of national implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, Ethiopia, online, first quarter 2021
8. Individual technical consultations in areas of national implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, Kenya, online, first quarter 2021
9. Individual technical consultations in areas of national implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, Madagascar, online, first quarter 2021
10. Individual technical consultations in areas of national implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, South Africa, online, first quarter 2021
11. Individual technical consultations in areas of national implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Sudan, online, first quarter 2021
12. National Legislative Review Forum for Mauritania, online, 23 February 2021
13. Training course on fulfilling declarations and inspections obligations under Article VI of the Convention, online, 1 March – 15 April 2021
14. General training course on the Chemical Weapons Convention for the personnel of National Authorities and relevant stakeholders, online, 19 – 22 April 2021
15. Consultations with Togo on the status of its draft law implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention, online, 3 June 2021
16. Nineteenth Regional Meeting of African National Authorities, online, 15 – 17 June 2021

17. Assistance with the national implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in Mozambique, online, 2 August 2021
18. Subregional training course on fulfilling declarations and inspections obligations under Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention for Arabic-speaking States Parties in the Middle East and North Africa, online, 13 – 30 September 2021
19. Eighth Annual Meeting of representatives of the chemical industry and National Authorities of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, online, 12 and 13 October 2021
20. Twenty-Third Annual Meeting of National Authorities, online, 23 – 26 November 2021
21. Global training course on fulfilling declarations and inspections obligations under Article VI of the Convention, online, 7 – 25 February 2022
22. Workshop on the United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 National Implementation Action Plan for Botswana, online, 8 – 9 February 2022
23. Bilateral visit by representatives of the National Authority of Mauritania to Morocco under the OPCW Mentorship/Partnership Programme, Rabat, Morocco, 21 – 25 February 2022
24. Bilateral visit by representatives of the National Authority of France to Côte d'Ivoire under the OPCW Mentorship/Partnership Programme, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 28 March – 1 April 2022
25. Advanced training course on fulfilling Article VI declarations and inspections, online, 25 April – 11 May 2022
26. National Legislative Review Forum for Malawi, online, 30 May 2022
27. Twentieth Regional Meeting of African National Authorities, online, 31 May – 2 June 2022
28. National Legislative Review Forum for the Niger, online, 14 July 2022
29. Regional general training course on the Convention and national obligations for the personnel of National Authorities and other national stakeholders, Lomé, Togo, 23 – 25 August 2022
30. Global stakeholders forum to advance the adoption of implementing legislation, The Hague, the Netherlands, 13 – 15 September 2022
31. Ninth Annual Meeting of representatives of the chemical industry and National Authorities of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, Doha, Qatar, 18 – 20 October 2022
32. National Legislative Review Forum for Kenya to identify and address gaps in implementing legislation, online, 20 October 2022
33. Regional workshop for French-speaking African States Parties on the role of national implementing legislation in addressing threats from non-State actors, Dakar, Senegal, 16 – 18 November 2022
34. Global Meeting of National Authorities, The Hague, the Netherlands, 22 – 25 November 2022

OBJECTIVE 3: STRENGTHEN CONTROLS OVER CROSS-BORDER TRANSFERS OF TOXIC CHEMICALS TO PREVENT ACCESS TO SUCH

CHEMICALS, INCLUDING BY NON-STATE ACTORS, FOR PURPOSES PROHIBITED UNDER THE CONVENTION

1. Training course for customs officials on the transfers regime of the Chemical Weapons Convention, online, 14 – 18 September 2020
2. Training course for customs officials on the transfers regime of the Chemical Weapons Convention, online, 25 – 27 May 2021
3. Course for analytical chemists from laboratories supporting customs services, online, 4 – 14 October 2021
4. Training course for customs officials from the Africa region on the transfers regime of the Chemical Weapons Convention, online, 8 – 10 December 2021
5. Training course for customs officers on the transfers regime of the Chemical Weapons Convention, online, 16 – 18 May 2022
6. Train-the-trainer course for representatives of customs training institutions and academies on the technical aspects of the transfers regime of the Chemical Weapons Convention, The Hague, the Netherlands, 6 – 9 September 2022
7. Specialised analytical chemistry course for laboratories supporting customs services in African Member States, Warsaw, Poland, 10 – 14 October 2022

OBJECTIVE 4: ENHANCE PROTECTION AND RESPONSE CAPABILITIES AGAINST CHEMICAL INCIDENTS AND ATTACKS

1. International course on pre-hospital medical care for chemical casualties, Doha, Qatar, 17 – 20 February 2020
2. National basic training course on assistance and protection against chemical weapons for Rwanda's airport, border, and police personnel, Kigali, Rwanda, 2 – 6 March 2020
3. Basic training on the use of the Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders and the Emergency Response Guidebook for first responders from States Parties in the East African Community, online, 19 – 20 October 2020
4. Regional table-top exercise on chemical emergency response for the Economic Community of West African States, online, 16 – 17 November 2020
5. Launch meeting of the assistance and protection project for the Southern African Development Community, online, 23 November 2020
6. Basic course on assistance and protection for Member States in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development region, online, 23 – 24 November 2020
7. Basic course on emergency response to chemical incidents for North Africa and the Sahel, online, 7 – 10 December 2020
8. Refresher course for instructors on chemical emergency response, planning, and management from Member States in the East African Community, online, 15 December 2020

9. Basic training course on the Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders and use of the Emergency Response Guidebook for first responders from States Parties in the Southern African Development Community, online, 2 – 3 March 2021
10. International course on reconnaissance and sampling operations in a highly contaminated environment, online, 15 – 19 March 2021
11. Basic training course on the Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders and the use of Emergency Response Guidebook for first responders from States Parties in the Economic Community of West African States, online, 28 – 29 April 2021
12. Training course on incident response operations and sample management of chemical incidents for Member States of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) region, online, 25 – 27 May 2021
13. Coordination meeting for the Assistance and Protection Project for the Southern African Development Community (2020 – 2021), online, 1 June 2021
14. Basic course on decontamination of chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals for emergency first responders of African Member States, online, 13 – 15 July 2021
15. Training course on conducting sampling and analysis in a highly contaminated environment for African Member States, online, 27 – 29 July 2021
16. Basic training course on the Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders and use of the Emergency Response Guidebook for first responders in French-Speaking African Member States, online, 18 – 20 August 2021
17. Webinar for African Member States on chemical security response measures and emergency response arrangements for major public events, online, 22 and 23 September 2021
18. Workshop for women first responders in chemical emergencies, online, 23 and 24 September 2021
19. Regional basic assistance and protection course for first responders, online, 11 – 15 October 2021
20. Virtual course on assistance and protection against chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals for first responders of Portuguese-speaking States Parties, 23 – 25 November 2021
21. Basic assistance and protection course, online, 29 November – 2 December 2021
22. National workshop on emergency response mitigation against chemical threat to major public events to support Cameroon in its preparation for the 2022 Africa Cup of Nations, Yaoundé, Cameroon, 1 – 3 December 2021
23. Specialised training course on deterrence and prevention of the use of chemical weapons and toxic industrial chemicals, online, 1 – 17 December 2021
24. Online Self-Assessment Tool implementation phase for the Southern African Development Community, online, 15 December 2021
25. Assistance and protection online course for instructors, online, 14 – 16 December 2021

26. Virtual meeting of assistance and protection partner training centres in Africa, online, 2 and 3 February 2022
27. Online course for national emergency response instructors, online, 15 – 17 February 2022
28. Course on emergency toxicology for receiving medical facilities in Africa, online, 22 – 24 February 2022
29. Course on reconnaissance and sampling operations in a highly contaminated environment, online, 14 March to 1 April 2022
30. OPCW Online Self-Assessment Tool workshop for Member States from the Southern African Development Community, Cape Town, South Africa, 28 – 30 March 2022
31. Module 2 – Course on assistance and protection in deterrence and prevention of the use of chemical weapons and toxic industrial chemicals from a law enforcement first responder perspective, online, 11 – 30 April 2022
32. Subregional basic course on emergency response to chemical incidents for States Parties of the Southern African Development Community, Swakopmund, Namibia, 9 – 13 May 2022
33. Regional table-top exercise on assistance and protection for States Parties in the Economic Community of West African States region, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 24 – 26 May 2022
34. Live agent training for experts, Zemianske Kostol'any, Slovakia, online, 31 May – 10 June 2022
35. Assistance and protection training for instructors, Lázně Bohdaneč, Czech Republic, 1 – 9 June 2022
36. Course on assistance and protection in deterrence and prevention of the use of chemical weapons and toxic industrial chemicals from a law enforcement first responder perspective, Module 3, Montelibretti, Italy, 6 – 10 June 2022
37. Subregional basic course on emergency response to chemical incidents for Member States of the Economic Community of West African States, Abuja, Nigeria, 14 – 18 June 2022
38. Basic course on emergency response to chemical incidents for Portuguese-speaking States Parties in Africa, Luanda, Angola, 27 June – 1 July 2022
39. Swiss basic course on assistance and protection, Spiez, Switzerland, 11 – 15 July 2022
40. Exercise on assistance and protection for Portuguese-speaking States Parties, Rio de Janeiro, 11 – 15 July 2022
41. Subregional basic course on emergency response to chemical incidents for States Parties in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Khartoum, the Sudan, 25 – 29 July 2022
42. International basic course on chemical weapons assistance and protection, Ahrweiler, Germany, 12 – 16 September 2022
43. Swiss laboratory course, Spiez, Switzerland, 31 October – 4 November 2022

44. Workshop on chemical incident preparedness for hospitals for States Parties in the Africa region, Rabat, Morocco, 7 – 10 November 2022
45. Advanced international course and exercise on assistance and protection against chemical weapons, Islamabad, Pakistan, 7 – 11 November 2022
46. Basic course on response to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals for States Parties in the Africa region, Murcia, Spain, 7 – 11 November 2022
47. Fifth operational training on chemical emergency response, planning and management for the East African Community partner States, Jinja, Uganda, 5 – 14 December 2022
48. Training course on conducting sampling and analysis in a highly contaminated environment for African States Parties, Algiers, Algeria, 18 – 21 December 2022

OBJECTIVE 5: ADVANCE CHEMICAL SAFETY AND SECURITY CULTURE, STANDARDS, AND PRACTICES IN AFRICA

1. Advanced course on chemical safety and security management, online, 25 June 2020
2. Training course on chemical safety and security management for African States Parties, online, 12 August 2020
3. Executive programme on integrated chemicals management, online, 19 August 2020
4. Training course on chemical safety and security management for African Member States, online, 19 August 2020
5. Wuppertal course on explosion protection and error management, online, 7 – 30 September 2020
6. Intersessional training for the Twenty-First OPCW Associate Programme, online, 21 September – 2 October 2020
7. Course on legislative and regulatory issues of chemical security for African States Parties, online, 19 – 22 April 2021
8. Intersessional training for the Associate Programme 2021, 19 May – 1 June 2021
9. Workshop on general aspects of chemical safety and security in laboratories, online, 8 – 10 June 2021
10. Launch event on the indicative guidelines for chemical safety and security in small and medium-sized enterprises to foster the peaceful uses of chemistry, online, 29 June 2021
11. Advanced chemical safety and security management course for Member States in the Africa region, online, 2 July 2021
12. Wuppertal course on explosion protection and error management in the chemical process industries for OPCW States Parties, online, 6 September – 8 October 2021
13. Course on legislative and regulatory issues of chemical security for French-speaking African States Parties, online, 16 – 21 October 2021

14. Workshop to develop guidelines for road transportation of hazardous chemicals, Wuppertal, Germany, 4 – 6 April 2022
15. Seminar on chemical safety and security management for African States Parties, Harare, Zimbabwe, 10 – 12 May 2022
16. Advanced course on supply chain vulnerability assessment – Workshop for Nigeria, The Hague, the Netherlands, 27 – 28 June 2022
17. Associate Programme 2022, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 28 July – 8 September 2022
18. Wuppertal course on explosion protection and safety management in the chemical process industries, online, 5 September – 7 October 2022
19. Workshop on general aspects of chemical safety and security in laboratories, Milan, Italy, 20 – 22 September 2022
20. Advanced course on chemical safety and security management for African Member States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 18 – 20 October 2022
21. Executive programme on integrated chemicals management, Port Louis, Mauritius, 18 – 22 October 2022

OBJECTIVE 6: STRENGTHEN THE CAPABILITIES OF CHEMICAL LABORATORIES IN AFRICA

1. Training course on the analysis of Chemical Weapons Convention-related chemicals and preparation for the OPCW Proficiency Test under the project to assess and enhance the capacity of analytical laboratories in States Parties from Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, Helsinki, Finland, 10 – 14 February 2020
2. Online workshop on “Assessing and Enhancing Capacity of Analytical Laboratories from African and GRULAC Member States: Towards OPCW Designation”, 2 and 3 June 2020
3. Two OPCW–VERIFIN combined courses on liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry and laboratory quality management, online, 7 – 11 September 2020
4. Coaching workshop in support of the participation of assisted laboratories from the Africa and GRULAC regions in OPCW proficiency testing, online, 21 January 2021
5. Coaching workshop in support of the participation of assisted laboratories from the Africa and GRULAC regions in OPCW proficiency testing, online, 19 February 2021
6. Capacity-building course for laboratories from States Parties in Africa that aspire to join the OPCW network of designated laboratories, online, 15 – 19 March 2021
7. Workshop to review progress and agreed next steps for laboratories from States Parties in the Africa and GRULAC regions towards achieving OPCW designated laboratory status, online, 8 April 2021
8. Online course on the enhancement of laboratory skills in chemical weapons-related laboratory quality management in collaboration with VERIFIN, 23 – 27 August 2021

9. Online course on the enhancement of laboratory skills in liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry, in collaboration with VERIFIN, online, 23 – 27 August 2021
10. Basic analytical chemistry course for women chemists, online, 4 – 13 October 2021
11. Basic course on proficiency testing to support laboratories interested in passing the proficiency tests to gain OPCW designated status, online, 4 – 15 October 2021
12. Analytical chemistry skills development course for the Africa region (in partnership with Protechnik Laboratories, South Africa), online, 23 – 25 November 2021
13. Training programme aimed at enhancing analytical capacities of laboratories in Africa to pass the OPCW Proficiency Test, online, 21 January – 23 March 2022
14. Analytical skills development course in partnership with the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology in Hyderabad, India, online, 25 – 29 April 2022
15. Analytical skills development course for African States Parties, in collaboration with Protechnik Laboratories, South Africa, online, 23 May – 3 June 2022
16. Basic analytical chemistry course for women chemists, Rijswijk, the Netherlands, 16 – 20 May 2022
17. Analytical skills development course for chemistry professionals from African Member States, in partnership with VERIFIN, online, 30 May – 10 June 2022
18. Analytical skills development course, Hyderabad, India, 5 – 16 September 2022
19. Two parallel courses on the enhancement of laboratory skills, Helsinki, Finland, 5 – 16 September 2022
20. Analytical skills development course, Hyderabad, India, 5 – 16 December 2022
21. Laboratory twinning projects throughout the fifth phase of the Africa Programme: Three ongoing projects (Algeria–Germany, Morocco–the United States of America, and South Africa–the Netherlands)
22. Equipment Exchange Programme throughout the fifth phase of the Africa Programme: Transfers of laboratory equipment from Germany to the Sudan, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania

OBJECTIVE 7: PROMOTE KNOWLEDGE OF PEACEFUL CHEMISTRY AND ITS EXCHANGE IN AFRICA

1. Forum for the Africa region on the peaceful uses of chemistry, “New Norms for OPCW Capacity-Building Programmes After the COVID-19 Pandemic”, online, 1 April 2021
2. Fifth edition of the OPCW’s Women in Chemistry Symposium: “Fostering a Culture of Promoting Peaceful Uses of Chemistry”, online, 1 July 2021
3. Educational training programme on peaceful uses of chemistry for youth, online, 7 April 2022
4. Forum on peaceful uses of chemistry, online, 28 April 2022
5. Education and training programme for peaceful uses of chemistry for youth (funded by the European Union), Kenitra, Morocco, 31 October – 4 November 2022
6. Symposium on Women in Chemistry, Turin, Italy, 9 and 10 November 2022

7. Sponsorship of African scientists under the OPCW Fellowship Programme, throughout the fifth phase of the Africa Programme (2020 – 2022)
8. Sponsorship of African scientists under the OPCW Conference Support Programme, throughout the fifth phase of the Africa Programme (2020 – 2022)
9. Sponsorship of African scientists under the OPCW Programme for the Support of Research Projects, throughout the fifth phase of the Africa Programme (2020 – 2022)

OBJECTIVE 8: FOSTER PROGRAMME VISIBILITY, STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT, AND PARTNERSHIPS

1. Inaugural meeting of the Steering Committee of the Africa Programme, online, 26 June 2020
2. Presentation of special projects for extrabudgetary funding under the fifth phase of the Africa Programme, online, 1 July 2020
3. Second meeting of the Steering Committee of the Africa Programme, online, 16 November 2020
4. Briefing on the Africa Programme for non-Hague-based Permanent Representations, online, 18 November 2020
5. Third Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Africa Programme, online, 25 June 2021
6. Briefing on the Africa Programme for non-Hague-based Permanent Representations to the OPCW, 12 November 2021
7. Fourth meeting of the Steering Committee of the Africa Programme, online, 15 November 2021
8. Fifth meeting of the Steering Committee of the Africa Programme, online, 24 June 2022
9. Participation in a coordination workshop for the project on supporting universalisation and effective implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention in Africa, Geneva, Switzerland, 26 – 27 July 2022
10. Briefing on the Africa Programme for non-Hague-based Permanent Representations, Brussels, Belgium, 10 November 2022
11. Sixth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Africa Programme, online, 14 November 2022
12. OPCW Africa Network, throughout the fifth phase of the Africa Programme (2020 – 2022)
13. OPCW Africa Bulletin, throughout the fifth phase of the Africa Programme (2020 – 2022)
14. Continued alumni engagement through post-participation action plans, throughout the fifth phase of the Africa Programme (2020 – 2022)
15. Partnership development and resource mobilisation throughout the fifth phase of the Africa Programme (2020 – 2022)