



OPCW

Executive Council

106th Session
9 – 12 July 2024

EC-106/2
C-29/CRP.1
11 July 2024
Original: ENGLISH

**DRAFT REPORT OF THE OPCW ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT,
PRODUCTION, STOCKPILING AND USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS
AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION IN 2023**



EC-106/2
C-29/CRP.1
page ii

(blank page)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	1
1. VERIFICATION.....	3
CHEMICAL WEAPONS DESTRUCTION.....	4
CHEMICAL WEAPONS STORAGE FACILITIES.....	6
CHEMICAL WEAPONS PRODUCTION FACILITIES	6
ABANDONED CHEMICAL WEAPONS	6
OLD CHEMICAL WEAPONS	6
CHALLENGE INSPECTIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS OF ALLEGED USE	6
DECLARATION ASSESSMENT TEAM	7
SYRIAN SCIENTIFIC STUDIES AND RESEARCH CENTRE	8
OPCW FACT-FINDING MISSION IN SYRIA	9
IMPLEMENTATION OF CONFERENCE DECISION C-SS-4/DEC.3.....	10
INDUSTRY VERIFICATION	11
DECLARATIONS	12
TRANSFERS OF SCHEDULED CHEMICALS	12
TRANSFER DISCREPANCIES	13
RIOT CONTROL AGENTS.....	13
ELECTRONIC DECLARATIONS AND THE SECURE INFORMATION EXCHANGE SYSTEM.....	13
ANALYTICS PLATFORM AND BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE	13
ELECTRONIC INSPECTIONS TOOL	14
VERIFICATION INFORMATION SYSTEM.....	14
INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS.....	14
OPCW PROFICIENCY TESTS AND DESIGNATED LABORATORIES	14
PROJECT TO UPGRADE THE OPCW LABORATORY AND EQUIPMENT STORE TO A CENTRE FOR CHEMISTRY AND TECHNOLOGY	14
OPCW CENTRAL ANALYTICAL DATABASE	15
TRAINING PROVIDED BY THE INSPECTORATE DIVISION	15
KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT	16
2. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE	17
NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.....	17
ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION.....	19
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT	21
THE AFRICA PROGRAMME	24
3. POLICY-MAKING ORGANS	26
ACTIVITIES OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES.....	26
ACTIVITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL	27
ACTIVITIES OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES	28
4. EXTERNAL RELATIONS.....	29
UNIVERSALITY	29
EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	29
PROTOCOL AND PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES SUPPORT.....	30

OPCW–THE HAGUE AWARD	30
OTHER ACTIVITIES	30
PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND MEDIA PROFILE	31
5. EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION	34
ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS	34
INTERNAL OVERSIGHT	36
LEGAL AFFAIRS	38
STRATEGY AND POLICY	39
CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY	41
HEALTH AND SAFETY	43
6. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	43
THE OPCW SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD	43
ENGAGEMENT WITH THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY	44

TABLE OF ANNEXES

Annex 1:	STATES PARTIES TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023	45
Annex 2:	CHEMICAL WEAPONS DESTRUCTION FACILITIES IN SERVICE OR UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN 2023	50
Annex 3:	CHEMICAL WEAPONS DECLARED, DESTROYED, AND WITHDRAWN AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023	51
Annex 4:	NUMBER OF STATES PARTIES THAT HAD DECLARED RIOT CONTROL AGENTS, BY TYPE OF AGENT, AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023	53
Annex 5:	LIST OF DESIGNATED LABORATORIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023	54
Annex 6:	SUMMARISED FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR 2023	56
Annex 7:	STATUS OF FUND BALANCES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023	58
Annex 8:	INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND LEGAL INSTRUMENTS REGISTERED BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT FROM 1 JANUARY 2023 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023	59

INTRODUCTION

1. In 2023, progress continued to be made in addressing the use of chemical weapons, destroying the remaining declared stockpiles of chemical weapons, implementing and enhancing industry verification, delivering international cooperation and assistance, addressing the challenges posed by chemical terrorism, and broadening and sustaining the OPCW's education and outreach efforts.
2. The United States of America, the last possessor State Party with declared chemical weapons yet to be destroyed, completed the destruction of its remaining chemical weapons stockpiles in July 2023.
3. In the process of the destruction of declared chemical weapons in 2023, the Technical Secretariat (the Secretariat) verified the destruction of 358.293 metric tonnes (MT) of Category 1 chemical weapons.
4. Between entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention) and 31 December 2023, the Secretariat had verified the destruction of 70,493.640 MT¹ of declared Category 1 chemical weapons, representing 100% of the total amount of declared agent, and thus marking the complete elimination of the chemical weapons stockpiles declared by the eight former possessor States Parties.
5. China and Japan continued to cooperate bilaterally in relation to the destruction, excavation, and recovery of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China. In-person inspections regarding abandoned chemical weapons (ACW) resumed in April 2023, and a total of 12 inspections were conducted. The Secretariat, in consultation with relevant States Parties, conducted four inspections concerning old chemical weapons (OCW).
6. The OPCW carried out 196 inspections of industrial facilities in 2023. Owing to operational constraints outside the control of the Secretariat, it was not possible to accomplish all 200 Article VI inspections envisaged in the Programme and Budget for 2023.
7. Work continued to clarify the initial declaration of the Syrian Arab Republic and to address the use of chemical weapons in that country. The work of the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT), aimed at clarifying all outstanding issues regarding the Syrian Arab Republic's initial declaration and subsequently submitted declarations, continued throughout 2023. The OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria (FFM) also continued its activities in 2023, guided by the relevant decisions of the Executive Council (the Council) and resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. The Secretariat also focused on implementation of the decision adopted by the Conference of the States Parties (the Conference) at its Fourth Special Session (C-SS-4/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2018), including the operation of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) established pursuant to that decision, as well as on implementation of the decision adopted by the Conference at its Twenty-Fifth Session (C-25/DEC.9, dated 21 April 2021).

¹ This figure includes 2.913 MT of Schedule 1 chemicals withdrawn for purposes not prohibited by the Convention, pursuant to subparagraph 2(d) of Part VI of the Verification Annex to the Convention (the Verification Annex).

8. The OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre) was inaugurated on 12 May 2023 in the presence of H.M. King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands, the Mayor of Pijnacker-Nootdorp, the Chairpersons of the Conference and the Council, representatives from States Parties, and other stakeholders. The Centre was made fully operational during the year.
9. In 2023, the Secretariat continued to conduct capacity-building programmes in support of States Parties' implementation of the Convention. The Secretariat conducted 79 activities and programmes for 2,200 experts from all regional groups.
10. The Fifth Review Conference² took place from 15 to 19 May 2023 in The Hague, following preparatory work within the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference (OEWG-RC), meeting from January to April 2023.
11. The full and effective implementation of the Convention continued to underlie the OPCW's contribution to global counterterrorism efforts. The Council's Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T) held three meetings, as well as a table-top exercise emulating the phases of a chemical terrorism attack.
12. The three advisory bodies of the OPCW, namely the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF), and the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO), continued to provide advice to the OPCW according to their respective mandates.
13. Public interest in the work of the OPCW remained strong. The OPCW's social media platforms experienced an average growth rate of 8% in 2023. In-person visits continued, while the Secretariat also employed digital outreach tools.
14. In 2023, the number of States Parties to the Convention remained at 193. Within the framework of the Action Plan for the Universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Secretariat continued to reach out to the remaining States not Party during the course of the year.

² Review Conference = Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

1. VERIFICATION

- 1.1 A summary of the inspections carried out in 2023 is provided in Table 1 below. The OPCW conducted 248 inspections in 2023, of which 21% were related to chemical weapons. Operations connected with non-routine missions accounted for a further 740 inspector days.

TABLE 1: INSPECTIONS COMPLETED IN 2023

Type of Facility	Number of Inspections	Number of Facilities or Sites Inspected	Number of Inspector Days
Chemical Weapons-Related Inspections			
CWDF ³	31	3 ⁴	2,572
CWSF ⁵	4	2	72
CWPF ⁶	0	0	0
OCW	4	4	54
ACW ⁷	13	11	236
Non-routine missions	N/A		740
Subtotal	52	20	3,674
Article VI Inspections			
Schedule 1	11	11	202
Schedule 2	49	49	808
Schedule 3	8	8	82
OCPF ⁸	128	128	1142
Subtotal	196	196	2,234
Total	248	216	5,908

- 1.2 As at 31 December 2023, eight States Parties (a State Party,⁹ Albania, India, Iraq, Libya, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the United States of America) had declared a combined total of 72,304.343 MT¹⁰ of Category 1 and Category 2 chemical weapons, as well as 417,833 items of Category 3 chemical weapons. Additional information is provided in Annex 3 to this report.
- 1.3 Progress continued with respect to OCW. States Parties that declared possession of OCW continued to carry out their destruction in a safe and effective manner.

³ CWDF = chemical weapons destruction facility.

⁴ All facilities are in the United States of America.

⁵ CWSF = chemical weapons storage facility.

⁶ CWPF = chemical weapons production facility.

⁷ This includes ACW storage and destruction facilities.

⁸ OCPF = other chemical production facility.

⁹ As the State Party in question has requested that its name be regarded as highly protected information, for the purposes of this report it is hereinafter referred to as “a State Party”.

¹⁰ This total does not include the weight of the thickening agent declared by the Russian Federation or the remnants of chemical weapons declared by Iraq.

- 1.4 China and Japan continued to cooperate in the field of ACW and their destruction, in accordance with the decision adopted by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012). Furthermore, in 2023, China and Japan continued to cooperate on implementing the “Destruction Plan Beyond the Year 2022 for the Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People’s Republic of China”, submitted to the Council at its 101st Session (EC-101/NAT.4*, dated 30 September 2022), which contains information on destruction facilities and time frames for destruction.

Chemical weapons destruction

- 1.5 During the reporting period, three CWDFs located in the United States of America were involved in the destruction of Category 1 chemical weapons¹¹ (see Annex 2). Through a combination of the continuous presence of inspectors, the use of monitoring and dedicated recording equipment, as well as the review of relevant documentation, the Secretariat in 2023 verified the destruction of 358.293 MT of Category 1 chemical weapons.
- 1.6 On 22 June 2023, the last munition at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) was destroyed. All systematic verification activities at the PCAPP have been terminated. At the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) the last munition was processed on 7 July 2023, marking the complete elimination of the chemical weapons stockpile in the United States of America. While the destruction of chemical weapons was completed, the disposal of chemical weapons component wastes continued at the BGCAPP non-contiguous Static Detonation Chamber (SDC) 2000 site.
- 1.7 The Secretariat also verified the destruction of removed energetics components from the PCAPP at the non-contiguous SDC site at Anniston Army Depot, Alabama, the destruction of hydrolysate from the BGCAPP at the non-contiguous Veolia treatment, storage, and disposal facility (TSDF) at Port Arthur, Texas, and the destruction of the rocket motors at the BGCAPP non-contiguous Anniston SDC site. In addition, the Secretariat verified the destruction of three rocket motors with shipping and firing tube end caps at the Prototype Detonation and Destruction Facility at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. These rocket motors had been detached from the GB-filled rockets at the BGCAPP.
- 1.8 As at 31 December 2023, the Secretariat had verified the destruction of a total of 27,769.831 MT of Category 1 chemical weapons declared by the United States of America, or 100% of its declared stockpile. All of the United States’ Category 2 and 3 chemical weapons had previously been verified as destroyed.
- 1.9 Thus, between the entry into force of the Convention and 31 December 2023, the Secretariat had verified the destruction of: 70,493.640 MT, or 100%, of declared Category 1 chemical weapons; 1,810.703 MT, or 100%, of declared Category 2 chemical weapons; and 417,833 items, or 100%, of declared Category 3 chemical weapons. Additional information is provided in Annex 3 to this report.

¹¹ Not counting OCW or ACW (see Annex 2).

- 1.10 The United States of America made the following submissions in 2023:
- (a) amendments to the chemical weapon initial declaration (update #78);
 - (b) amendments to the chemical weapon initial declaration (update #79);
 - (c) amendments to the chemical weapon initial declaration (update #80);
 - (d) amendments to the chemical weapon initial declaration (update #81);
 - (e) amendments to the chemical weapon initial declaration (update #82);
 - (f) amendments to the chemical weapon initial declaration (update #83);
 - (g) BGCAPP detailed facility information (DFI) Addendum #4, Volume 1, Revision 1, regarding the repurposing of the SDC 2000 Earth-Covered Magazine to house the Rocket Separation Activity;
 - (h) BGCAPP DFI Addendum #4, Volume 2, Supplement, regarding the diagrams for the SDC 2000 Earth-Covered Magazine housing the Rocket Separation Activity;
 - (i) BGCAPP Facility Agreement and Agreed Detailed Plan for Verification containing amendments and modifications required for the addition of the Rocket Separation Activity;
 - (j) PCAPP Treaty Closure Plan;
 - (k) BGCAPP Treaty Closure Plan;
 - (l) notification of the closure of the Pueblo Chemical Depot CWSF;
 - (m) notification of the closure of the Blue Grass Chemical Activity CWSF;
 - (n) declaration of completion of chemical weapon destruction activities at PCAPP;
 - (o) declaration of completion of chemical weapon destruction activities at BGCAPP;
 - (p) notification of continued elimination of rocket component wastes at the BGCAPP subject to verification;
 - (q) termination of the systematic inspection at the Chemical Transfer Facility/Munitions Assessment and Processing System CWDF;
 - (r) termination of the systematic inspection at the Recovered Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility;
 - (s) termination of the systematic inspection at the Prototype Detonation Test and Destruction Facility CWDF; and
 - (t) 2022 annual report for destruction of chemical weapons.

Chemical weapons storage facilities

- 1.11 In 2023, the Secretariat conducted four inspections at two CWSFs in the United States of America. The United States declared the removal of all chemical weapons from these CWSFs, and the Secretariat conducted inspections which confirmed the absence of chemical weapons. As such, all systematic verification activities at these facilities have been terminated.

Chemical weapons production facilities

- 1.12 By 31 December 2023, all 97 CWPFs declared to the OPCW by 14 States Parties had been certified by the Director-General as having been destroyed or converted for purposes not prohibited by the Convention (74 had been certified as destroyed and 23 as converted).
- 1.13 Four inspections planned to be conducted in 2023 at converted CWPFs in Libya and Iraq could not proceed because of the security situations in these two countries.

Abandoned chemical weapons

- 1.14 Since entry into force of the Convention, four States Parties have reported ACW on their territory. One State Party, Japan, reported ACW on the territory of another State Party, China.
- 1.15 The Secretariat continued to engage with Japan and China on ACW matters. Two trilateral meetings were conducted in 2023 to ensure transparency, to discuss technical and practical issues, to implement projects in accordance with the appropriate verification measures, and to plan for future activities.
- 1.16 As at 31 December 2023, China had declared 115,741 items of ACW, while Japan had declared 115,520 such items. A total of 88,155 items of the declared ACW on the territory of China had been destroyed. The destruction rate of ACW in Haerbaling, China was at its highest ever in 2023, as a result of the operation of the four large controlled detonation chambers.

Old chemical weapons

- 1.17 As at 31 December 2023, 19 States Parties had declared 153,431 items of OCW produced either before 1925, or between 1925 and 1946. Approximately 78% of these were reported as destroyed. In 2023, the Secretariat conducted four OCW inspections in Belgium, France, Germany, and Italy.

Challenge inspections and investigations of alleged use

- 1.18 No challenge inspections (CIs) or investigations of alleged use (IAUs) under the Convention were requested in 2023. The Secretariat focused its training on improving preparedness for IAUs, more specifically methodology and execution of reconnaissance, documentation, and sampling procedures in field environments.

Declaration Assessment Team

- 1.19 In 2023, the Secretariat continued its efforts to verify fulfilment by the Syrian Arab Republic of all its declaration requirements in accordance with the Convention, paragraph 1 of Council decision EC-M-33/DEC.1 (dated 27 September 2013), paragraph 3 of Council decision EC-81/DEC.4 (dated 23 March 2016), paragraph 6 of Council decision EC-83/DEC.5 (dated 11 November 2016), and paragraph 5 of Council decision EC-94/DEC.2 (dated 9 July 2020). The shortcomings noted in the declarations are raised with the Syrian National Authority as outstanding issues until the Secretariat receives sufficient information to consider these issues as resolved.
- 1.20 As a result of the declaration-related consultations between the Secretariat and the Syrian National Authority since 2014, the Syrian Arab Republic had, by the end of 2023, submitted a total of 19 amendments to its initial declaration. These amendments contained previously undeclared elements, including: one additional CWPF; four additional chemical weapons research and development facilities; activities involving five previously undeclared chemical warfare agents; a substantial amount of previously undeclared chemical munitions; and other supplementary information about all of the segments of the Syrian chemical weapons programme.
- 1.21 Since 2014, the Secretariat has raised and reported a total of 24 outstanding issues, of which four have been resolved.¹² The last issue was opened by the Secretariat in April 2021 following insufficient explanations provided by the Syrian National Authority on the presence of a chemical warfare agent in the large-volume storage containers at the CWPF declared by the Syrian Arab Republic as having never been used for the production of this agent. The clarification of this issue continued during the reporting period.
- 1.22 The substance of the 20 issues still remaining at the end of 2023 involves large quantities of potentially undeclared or unverified chemical agents and chemical munitions. Additionally, the Syrian Arab Republic had not completed any of the declaration-related measures specified in paragraph 5 of Council decision EC-94/DEC.2.
- 1.23 Between April 2021 and October 2023, the Secretariat's efforts to organise the twenty-fifth round of consultations between the DAT and the Syrian National Authority remained unsuccessful, mainly as a result of the Syrian Arab Republic's refusal to issue a visa to the DAT's lead technical expert.
- 1.24 In light of this, the Secretariat proposed several alternatives, including deployment dates and meeting venues for limited consultations. All of these attempts remained unsuccessful because of the visa issue or financial conditions imposed by the Syrian Arab Republic.
- 1.25 In January and April 2023, the Secretariat deployed a reduced team comprised of several members of the DAT to the Syrian Arab Republic to conduct limited in-country activities (LICA). During these two LICA deployments, the reduced team conducted interviews and site visits and collected samples. No technical discussions between

¹² The Secretariat reported three additional outstanding issues as resolved in 2024. This will be reflected in the Annual Report of the OPCW for 2024.

experts took place during the LICA deployments. The outcomes of the two LICA deployments were reported through the Director-General's reports on the work of the DAT to the 102nd and 103rd Sessions of the Council.¹³

- 1.26 During the meeting between the delegations of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Secretariat, which took place in Beirut in June 2023, the resumption of consultations involving all experts from the DAT was discussed as the best way forward for the resolution of gaps, inconsistencies, and discrepancies noted in the initial declaration of the Syrian Arab Republic.
- 1.27 As a follow-up to the above-mentioned meeting in Beirut, the Secretariat informed the Syrian National Authority of its intention to deploy the full DAT to Damascus to conduct the twenty-fifth round of consultations. The Syrian National Authority welcomed the convening of the twenty-fifth round of consultations with the full participation of all members of the DAT in October 2023.
- 1.28 During the twenty-fifth round of consultations, the current status of all outstanding issues and the action plan for their resolution were reviewed.
- 1.29 The Director-General continued to report on all unresolved issues regarding the Syrian declaration and related submissions through his Notes circulated to the Council at its 102nd, 103rd, and 104th Sessions. In the last Note on this subject issued in 2023 (EC-104/HP/DG.2/Add.2), the Director-General concluded that "the Secretariat assesses that the declaration submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic still cannot be considered accurate and complete in accordance with the Convention, Council decisions EC-M-33/DEC.1 (dated 27 September 2013), EC-81/DEC.4 (dated 23 March 2016), EC-83/DEC.5 (dated 11 November 2016), EC-94/DEC.2 (dated 9 July 2020), Conference decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 (dated 27 June 2018) and United Nations Security Council resolution 2118(2013)".

Syrian Scientific Studies and Research Centre

- 1.30 In accordance with paragraph 11 of Council decision EC-83/DEC.5, the Secretariat is to conduct inspections, including sampling and analysis, twice a year at the Barzah facilities of the Syrian Scientific Studies and Research Centre (SSRC), and twice a year at the Jamrayah SSRC facilities "on dates to be determined by the Secretariat with full and unfettered access to all buildings at these sites and all rooms within these buildings".
- 1.31 The Secretariat conducted the tenth round of inspections at the Barzah and Jamrayah facilities of the SSRC in December 2023.
- 1.32 With regard to an issue regarding the presence of the Schedule 2.B.04 chemical detected during the third round of inspections in November 2018 at the Barzah facilities of the SSRC, the Secretariat has engaged with the Syrian Arab Republic mostly through the exchange of notes verbales. The issue was discussed during the tenth round of

¹³ EC-102/HP/DG.1 (dated 6 March 2023) and EC-103/HP/DG.1 (dated 6 July 2023). Additional reports on the work of the DAT were submitted to the Council at its 104th Session: EC-104/HP/DG.2 (dated 25 September 2023) and Add.1 (dated 27 October 2023) and Add.2 (dated 22 November 2023).

inspections in December 2023. The inspection team did not receive any new technical information that would enable the Secretariat to close this issue.

- 1.33 Concerning the origin and use of a chemical of a dual-use nature observed by the inspection team during the previous round of inspections in September 2022, the inspection team discussed this matter with the Syrian National Authority during the tenth round of inspections. During this discussion, the Syrian National Authority did not provide any new information. The Secretariat will continue its engagement with the Syrian National Authority on this matter.
- 1.34 With regard to the plan for the construction of an incineration unit for the destruction of chemical wastes at the SSRC, about which the Secretariat was notified by the Syrian National Authority in April 2022, the inspection team requested an update from the Syrian National Authority. The Syrian National Authority informed the inspection team that the project was on hold as a result of cost increases.

OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria

- 1.35 Following the FFM's investigation into alleged incidents in Kharbit Massasneh in the Syrian Arab Republic on 7 July and 4 August 2017, the Secretariat issued a report, entitled "Report of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission Regarding Incidents of Alleged Use of Toxic Chemicals as a Weapon in Kharbit Massasneh, Syrian Arab Republic, on 7 July and 4 August 2017" (S/2186/2023, dated 28 June 2023).
- 1.36 The information obtained and analysed in line with the FFM's mandate to gather facts about incidents of alleged use of toxic chemicals as a weapon in the Syrian Arab Republic did not provide reasonable grounds for the FFM to determine that toxic chemicals were used as a weapon in the reported incidents that occurred in Kharbit Massasneh on 7 July and 4 August 2017.
- 1.37 The FFM has continued to work on allegations that have been assessed as credible. Since the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference held in 2022, the FFM has carried out five deployments to collect further information regarding allegations under review, on which States Parties were briefed on 8 March, 3 July, and 28 September 2023.
- 1.38 A summary update of the activities carried out by the FFM in 2023 was provided in a Note by the Secretariat (S/2232/2023, dated 21 December 2023).

Implementation of Conference decision C-SS-4/DEC.3

- 1.39 The IIT continued its investigation into several incidents identified in Annex 2 to Note EC-91/S/3 (dated 28 June 2019) entitled “Work of the Investigation and Identification Team Established by Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 (Dated 27 June 2018)”.
- 1.40 The IIT released its third report on 27 January 2023 (S/2125/2023), focusing on the use of chlorine gas in the town of Douma (Rif Damascus) on 7 April 2018. On the basis of all the information obtained and analysed by the IIT, the report concluded that there were reasonable grounds to believe that, between 19:10 and 19:40 (UTC+3), on 7 April 2018, at least one Mi-8/17 helicopter of the Syrian Arab Air Force, operating under the control of the Tiger Forces, dropped two yellow cylinders filled with chlorine gas which hit two residential buildings in a central area of the city. Forty-three named individuals were killed, and dozens more were affected. The Council was briefed on the report on 2 February 2023. The United Nations Security Council was briefed on the report on 7 February 2023 upon the invitation of its President.
- 1.41 The IIT continued to be denied access to and direct engagement with representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as access to the relevant locations, despite:
 - (a) various requests addressed to them by the Secretariat;
 - (b) the obligation by the Syrian Arab Republic to cooperate with the Secretariat under paragraph 7 of Article VII of the Convention; and
 - (c) the obligation incumbent on the Syrian Arab Republic, pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), to cooperate fully with the OPCW by providing personnel designated by the OPCW with immediate and unfettered access to any and all sites and individuals that the OPCW has grounds to believe to be of importance for the purpose of its mandate.
- 1.42 On 11 December 2023, the Syrian Arab Republic addressed a note verbale to the Secretariat in response to a request for information relevant to the IIT’s ongoing investigations.
- 1.43 Pursuant to paragraph 12 of C-SS-4/DEC.3 and the memorandum of understanding between the OPCW and the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 (IIIM) regarding the provision of access, storage, and handling of information and evidence, the IIT continued preserving and sharing information with the IIIM.
- 1.44 IIT personnel worked further on the transfer of knowledge and expertise to other units and offices of the Secretariat. This includes the enhancement of the forensic and investigative capabilities of the Secretariat in providing States Parties with technical expertise to identify those who were perpetrators, organisers, sponsors, or otherwise involved in the use of chemicals as weapons, as decided in paragraph 20 of C-SS-4/DEC.3.

Industry verification

- 1.45 States Parties to the Convention provide declarations related to the production, importing, exporting, processing, and consumption of chemicals that are listed in the three schedules of chemicals contained in the Convention's Annex on Chemicals, as well as declarations related to OCPFs producing discrete organic chemicals for purposes not prohibited by the Convention. Table 2 below provides information about such chemical industry declarations received by the OPCW as at 31 December 2023.

TABLE 2: DECLARABLE FACILITIES BY TYPE, AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

Type of Facility	Declarable Facilities	Facilities Subject to Inspection ¹⁴	States Parties Having Reported Declarable Facilities ¹⁵	States Parties with Facilities Subject to Inspection
Schedule 1	28	28	24	24
Schedule 2	462	226	36	25
Schedule 3	385	362	33	32
OCPF	4,526	4,356	81	81
Total	5,401	5,152	81¹⁶	81¹⁷

- 1.46 Table 3 below shows that the Secretariat carried out 196 Article VI inspections in 2023. Owing to operational constraints outside the control of the Secretariat, it was not possible to accomplish all 200 Article VI inspections envisaged in the Programme and Budget for 2023. As a result, two OCPF and two Schedule 3 inspections were not conducted.
- 1.47 The 196 inspections referred to above comprised 11 Schedule 1 facilities, 49 Schedule 2 plant sites, eight Schedule 3 plant sites, and 128 OCPFs (respectively 39%, 22%, 2%, and 3% of the total of inspectable facilities). During the inspections no uncertainties were recorded. However, 10 inspections resulted in issues requiring further attention, and in 116 inspections it was recommended that further information be provided in declarations. In addition, two OCPF inspections were carried out at facilities that were found not to be inspectable as a result of declaration errors.

TABLE 3: ARTICLE VI INSPECTIONS

Number of Article VI Inspections by Year								
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
241	241	241	241	241	82	80	160	196

- 1.48 For the OCPF and Schedule 3 sites inspected in 2023, the site selection was performed as described in the "Alternative Approach to Verification at Mixed Plant Sites" (S/1202/2014, dated 23 July 2014). If a Schedule 3 or OCPF mixed plant site has already been inspected under one Article VI verification regime, the plant site is, for the purpose of the random

¹⁴ Above the threshold for verification through on-site inspections.

¹⁵ Includes annual declarations on anticipated activities (ADAAs) and annual declarations on past activities (ADPAs).

¹⁶ Eighty-two States Parties declared having at least one Article VI facility.

¹⁷ Eighty-two States Parties declared having at least one inspectable Article VI facility.

selection of Schedule 3 and OCPF plant sites for inspection, considered as previously inspected. As a result, this plant site should, statistically, be selected for inspection less often.

- 1.49 In 2023, the Secretariat, supported by States Parties, continued its efforts to maximise the number of sequential inspections as a way of optimising resources. Accordingly, the number of sequential inspections in the 2023 inspection plan was increased as compared to 2022. The 48 sequential missions indicated in Table 4 below were carried out in 21 different countries, including 14 long industry missions to nine different countries. Thirty-nine sequential missions were intracountry, with the remaining nine consisting of long intercountry missions.

TABLE 4: SEQUENTIAL INSPECTIONS

Number of Sequential Inspections by Year								
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
59	54	58	58	60	20	21	34	48

- 1.50 In 2023, the Secretariat continued the work of a cross-divisional team to perform a thorough review of inspection practices, inspection report templates, inspection tools, and inspection training to identify further options to optimise the conduct of inspections. For example, in 2023 the Secretariat implemented the new electronic tool for inspections and revised inspection report templates (see paragraph 1.62 below).
- 1.51 In 2023, one inspection involving sampling and analysis activities was carried out. The annual numbers of inspections carried out using sampling and analysis are shown in Table 5 below.

TABLE 5: SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS AT INDUSTRY PLANT SITES

Number of Inspections Completed with Sampling and Analysis by Year								
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
11	11	10	9	6	1	0	0	1

Declarations

- 1.52 In 2023, 68 of the 85 States Parties (80%) that submitted ADPAs did so by the deadline set forth by the Convention. In the year under review, 94% of the States Parties with declarable OCPFs updated the lists of OCPFs in their ADPAs, with the result that 99.3% of declarable OCPFs were updated. By providing annual updates to their OCPF lists, States Parties greatly facilitate the operation of the verification regime.

Transfers of scheduled chemicals

- 1.53 Ten transfers of Schedule 1 chemicals were declared by five States Parties in their ADPAs for 2022. Nine of these transfers were notified and declared by both the sending and receiving States Parties, and one transfer was notified and declared by the receiving State Party.

- 1.54 ADPAs for 2022 indicated that 55 States Parties were involved in the transfer of approximately 6,283 MT of Schedule 2 chemicals, and that 123 States Parties were involved in the transfer of approximately 539,577 MT of Schedule 3 chemicals.
- 1.55 Seven States Parties declared the export of four Schedule 3 chemicals to three States not Party.

Transfer discrepancies

- 1.56 In 2023, ADPAs for 2022 indicated a total of 1,679 transfers of Schedule 2 and Schedule 3 chemicals between States Parties. Of these, 835 transfers were declared with quantities above the declaration threshold, of which 592 involving 94 States Parties showed discrepancies.
- 1.57 The Secretariat continued to follow up with the States Parties in this regard and to work closely with other stakeholders to support States Parties in the reduction and resolution of these transfer discrepancies.

Riot control agents

- 1.58 At the end of the reporting period, 137 States Parties had declared the possession of riot control agents (mainly tear gases), and 53 States Parties had declared that they did not possess such agents. One State Party had not yet provided an initial declaration, and two other States Parties had not provided detailed information on riot control agents in their initial declarations. Additional information on the possession of riot control agents is provided in Annex 4 to this report.

Electronic declarations and the Secure Information Exchange System

- 1.59 In 2023, the Secretariat identified areas of improvements to the Electronic Declaration Information System (EDIS) software application and documentation. This information was gathered mainly during trainings and consultations with States Parties. These changes will be added to the next EDIS release tentatively scheduled for 2024. By the end of the reporting period, 119 active users from 63 States Parties had registered to use the Secure Information Exchange System (SIX).
- 1.60 In 2023, the Secretariat provided EDIS training as a component of various Article VI-related training activities. In addition, the Secretariat provided on-demand virtual training and consultations on EDIS and SIX to requesting States Parties.

Analytics platform and business intelligence

- 1.61 The Secretariat has continued to work on a new analytics platform, which includes a data warehouse software application (WhereScape) and a business intelligence software application (Qlik Sense). Qlik Sense will replace the older business intelligence software application (Cognos). The development work is scheduled to be completed in 2024.

Electronic Inspections Tool

- 1.62 The Electronic Inspections Tool (eINS) software application was used in 2023 to streamline and digitise the inspection process. This tool is part of the cross-divisional Article VI optimisation project to improve work efficiencies in all aspects of the current verification process.

Verification Information System

- 1.63 In 2023, the Secretariat approved the project plan for the Verification Information System-Industry modernisation project. A vendor was selected and a project manager was hired. The project team has been onboarded and development is under way; according to the approved project plan, it will be completed at the end of 2025.

Informal consultations

- 1.64 Five informal consultations on Article VI verification and inspections (Industry Cluster consultations) were conducted in 2023. Meetings were held in a hybrid format. States Parties undertook consultations on a number of verification-related topics, including:
- (a) results of the implementation of policy guidelines for determining the number of Article VI inspections;
 - (b) recommendation of the 2022 report of the External Auditor;
 - (c) Schedule 2 inspections – current backlog and the future;
 - (d) improvement of the plant site selection algorithm; and
 - (e) OCPF site selection performance.

OPCW proficiency tests and designated laboratories

- 1.65 Each year, the OPCW carries out proficiency tests for institutions that wish to be a part of the OPCW's network of analytical laboratories. During the reporting period, the Fifty-Second Official OPCW Proficiency Test for Environmental Analysis was completed, the Fifty-Third Test was conducted and completed, and the Fifty-Fourth Test began. Additionally, the Eighth Official OPCW Biomedical Proficiency Test was conducted. At the end of the reporting period, 26 laboratories from 21 States Parties had been designated for environmental analysis, and 19 laboratories from 14 States Parties had been designated for biomedical sample analysis. Annex 5 to this report shows the status of each designated laboratory as at 31 December 2023.

Project to upgrade the OPCW Laboratory and Equipment Store to a Centre for Chemistry and Technology

- 1.66 The ChemTech Centre was made fully functional in 2023. An inauguration ceremony took place on 12 May 2023 in the presence of H.M. King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands, the Mayor of Pijnacker-Nootdorp, the Chairpersons of the Conference and the Council, representatives from States Parties, and other stakeholders. A total of EUR 34.6 million had been raised from 57 countries, the European Union, and other donors for the project to build the Centre.

- 1.67 Updates on project progress were provided in Notes S/2136/2023 (dated 17 February 2023) and S/2193/2023 (dated 20 July 2023), both entitled “Progress in the Project to Upgrade the OPCW Laboratory and Equipment Store to a Centre for Chemistry and Technology”.

OPCW Central Analytical Database

- 1.68 Table 6 below reflects the number of chemicals covered in the OPCW Central Analytical Database (OCAD) for each technique for the last five years. Only the gas chromatography (retention index) and mass spectrometry data were used in on-site analysis.

TABLE 6: NUMBER OF CHEMICAL SPECIES IN THE OPCW CENTRAL ANALYTICAL DATABASE

Technique	Status at the Beginning of:				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Infrared (IR)	775	775	794	805	816
Gas chromatography (retention index) (GC(RI))	4,482	4,543	4,588	4,596	4,609
Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR)	298	300	300	300	300
Mass spectrometry (MS)	4,602	4,647	4,673	4,682	4,697
Tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS)	N/A	38	68	68	68

Training provided by the Inspectorate Division

- 1.69 In 2023, the Capacity-Building and Contingency-Planning Cell (CBCP) of the Inspectorate Division coordinated or delivered 31 individual training courses which took place in the following countries: Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Serbia, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The CBCP, supported by other parts of the Secretariat, continued to provide mandatory inspector refresher trainings as well as specialised courses in occupational health and safety, the OPCW confidentiality regime, ordnance training, explosive remnants of war, mobile laboratory deployment, and analytical chemist certification, among others.
- 1.70 The United States of America provided support in the delivery of one initial and three refresher hazardous waste operations and emergency response courses to a total of 69 Secretariat staff members.
- 1.71 The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland provided support through four different courses: one in occupational health and safety and three refresher courses for offshore medics. Additionally, the United Kingdom sponsored a diplomatic skills course delivered at the OPCW Main Building for 12 Secretariat staff members.
- 1.72 Further, two Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments (SSAFE) courses were sponsored and hosted by Germany. As a result, 135 Secretariat staff members whose jobs could require deployment to high-risk areas received training.

- 1.73 In 2023, two toxic chemicals training courses took place in Serbia, after which a total of 35 Secretariat staff members received their certification.
- 1.74 In September 2023, a group of seven new inspectors (Group V) joined the OPCW. The CBCP, together with other parts of the Secretariat, facilitated a 12-week mandatory initial training aimed at preparing them for their important role as inspectors.

Knowledge management

- 1.75 In 2023, the Secretariat further strengthened its knowledge management policy framework with a knowledge strategy aligned with the Organisation's strategic goals and based on continuous knowledge management, which aims to identify, develop, and retain expertise and knowledge in the Organisation through a set of continuous processes. The Secretariat implemented new and improved existing processes as part of this strategy, with priority given to specific expertise in the Inspectorate and Verification Divisions.
- 1.76 In 2023, the Verification Division continued its work to ensure that the OPCW remains as the global repository of knowledge in the core work areas of expertise of the Division. The Chemical Demilitarisation Branch (CDB) specifically focused on preserving the Organisation's knowledge base related to chemical weapons. This involved further refining repositories of lessons learned, best practices, and technologies associated with chemical weapons destruction. The Division also successfully launched knowledge transfer seminars to capture key tacit knowledge possessed by staff members, especially close to their planned separation from the Organisation. VERCOM—the already well-functioning digital communications repository in the Declarations Branch—has been further improved, taking into account end-user feedback and technical feasibility on SharePoint. Finally, the Division contributed to reinforcing the culture of knowledge-sharing by actively participating in the OPCW Share Seminar series.
- 1.77 In 2023, the Inspectorate Division continued to implement knowledge management to enable sustainable operations. Among others, this ensures continuity of operations and retention of knowledge, skills, and expertise pertaining to inspections. A number of tailored activities and processes continued to be optimised and implemented, such as mentoring of new staff members as well as knowledge-sharing presentations. Moreover, intensive efforts have been made to ensure that a number of departing inspectors from Group P have participated in the knowledge-transfer sessions, ensuring preservation of core operational expertise and skills. Notable progress has been made in establishing comprehensive digital repositories and enhancing the use of an innovative tool—the Continuous Improvement Platform—for capturing and preserving lessons learned from inspections and for identifying preventive and corrective actions, whenever required.

2. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

- 2.1 In 2023, the Secretariat continued to provide technical assistance through capacity-building programmes in support of States Parties' implementation of the Convention. The Secretariat conducted 79 activities and programmes benefitting some 2,200 experts from across all regions. These activities included online, hybrid, and in-person activities. In addition, the Secretariat continued to implement four standing programmes, namely the Fellowship Programme, the Programme for Support of Research Projects, the Conference Support Programme, and the Equipment Exchange Programme.
- 2.2 Further, since inauguration of the ChemTech Centre in May 2023, the Secretariat has increasingly leveraged its capabilities to better address States Parties' needs in terms of training and exchange of expertise. Thirteen capacity-building activities were conducted from the ChemTech Centre during the year under review, benefitting participants from all regions and across all the mandated areas.

National implementation and technical assistance

- 2.3 In 2023, the Secretariat continued to strengthen States Parties' national capacities to fully and effectively implement the Convention. A total of 654 participants from all regions took part in 15 technical assistance activities which focused on enhancing institutional capacities to meet their obligations under the Convention.
- 2.4 As of 31 December 2023, out of the 193 States Parties to the Convention, 161 had reported the adoption of national implementing legislation, of which 128 had legislation covering all the initial measures. A total of 33 States Parties had reported legislation covering some of the initial measures. The remaining 32 States Parties had yet to report on the adoption of implementing legislation and/or submit the information to the Secretariat. Detailed information is contained in the Secretariat's annual reports on the status of implementation of Article VII of the Convention.¹⁸
- 2.5 The Secretariat conducted two national legislative review forums in 2023, with the National Authorities of Myanmar (27 January) and Djibouti (30 May). During these forums, the Secretariat and respective States Party delegates jointly reviewed the scope of their national legislative frameworks on the Convention, and the Secretariat provided dedicated advice on various legislative and regulatory approaches to its implementation.
- 2.6 The Secretariat, in cooperation with the World Customs Organization, held a regional conference on enforcing effective customs control of the trade in toxic chemicals in the Congo from 23 to 25 May 2023. The regional conference, attended by 53 participants from 27 African States Parties, served as a forum for customs institutions and National Authorities to share best practices on how to enforce effective control of the trade in chemicals. The Secretariat further trained customs institutions in enforcing the Convention's transfers regime for scheduled chemicals during a peer-to-peer training of customs training institutions conducted in Kenya from 10 to 12 October 2023. The training strengthened the knowledge and skills of 41 participants from 13 African

¹⁸ Annual reports on the status of implementation of Article VII of the Convention in 2023: EC-104/DG.8 C-28/DG.7 (dated 6 September 2023); EC-104/DG.9 C-28/DG.8 (dated 6 September 2023); and EC-104/DG.10 C-28/DG.9 (dated 6 September 2023).

States Parties, and additionally served as a platform to foster networking and collaboration between customs training institutions.

- 2.7 A subregional forum on national implementation of the Convention for Caribbean States Parties was held in Barbados from 3 to 5 October 2023. The forum, attended by 48 participants from 11 States Parties, revitalised the Secretariat's engagement with the subregion and encouraged broader cooperation and engagement on the implementation of the Convention by facilitating the sharing of experiences, challenges, and good practices.
- 2.8 Four regional meetings of National Authorities of States Parties to the Convention were held in July and August 2023. During the meetings, National Authorities provided updates on issues concerning national implementation of the Convention, discussed challenges, and shared lessons learned. Representatives also engaged with the Secretariat on a range of issues relating to strengthening national capacities under Articles VI, VII, X, and XI of the Convention, and were briefed on the Secretariat's technical assistance and capacity-building agenda. Meetings were held for the Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean regions.
- 2.9 A general training course on the Convention was held by the Secretariat in the Dominican Republic from 27 to 29 June 2023 for the National Authorities and relevant stakeholders of States Parties from the Latin America and Caribbean Group (GRULAC). Participants improved their understanding and skills related to the obligations set out in the Convention. The course was attended by 53 participants from 24 States Parties.
- 2.10 From 24 to 26 October 2023, the Secretariat held the Tenth Annual Meeting of Representatives of Chemical Industry and National Authorities of States Parties to the Convention in Doha, Qatar. The meeting provided a forum for personnel from National Authorities and industry representatives to share experiences, developments, good practices, and challenges in relation to the implementation of the Convention at the national, regional, and global level. At the meeting, 50 participants from 26 States Parties from all geographical regions enhanced their awareness of important implementation issues and of the need for comprehensive implementing legislation in guiding industry declarations and compliance with Convention obligations.
- 2.11 The Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties to the Convention was held from 22 to 24 November 2023 at the OPCW Main Building in The Hague. National Authorities shared experiences, knowledge, and good practices related to the implementation of the Convention and the enhancement of chemical security. The annual meeting also served as an opportunity for National Authorities to be updated on highlights and achievements of capacity-development activities in the previous year, and to discuss ways and means of renewing commitments to strengthen cooperation and increase engagement in implementation of the Convention. The meeting was attended by over 200 participants from 123 States Parties representing all regional groups.

Assistance and protection

- 2.12 In 2023, 39 States Parties made annual submissions pursuant to paragraph 4 of Article X regarding their national protective programmes against the use of chemical weapons.
- 2.13 The situation in Ukraine increased the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons. In this regard, the Secretariat continued to provide assistance and protection to Ukraine, upon its request, as provided for under Article X. Capacity-building courses were delivered, both online and in person, for first responders to be better prepared against the threat of chemical weapons use, and in case of incidents involving chemical industrial facilities.
- 2.14 The Secretariat was also engaged in providing first responders in Ukraine with the necessary equipment for chemical detection, together with training activities and capacity-building courses providing instruction on the use of such equipment. The Trust Fund for the Implementation of Article X, to which States Parties contributed, was used to finance the costs of these procurements. At the end of 2023, around EUR 1.4 million had been committed for this purpose.
- 2.15 Throughout 2023, the Secretariat continued to monitor the situation in Ukraine as it relates to the implementation of the Convention and kept States Parties apprised of any relevant developments. This included maintaining a compendium of correspondence shared by States Parties on Ukraine, which has been made publicly accessible on the OPCW website. This resource has helped States Parties stay aware of relevant developments, with the Secretariat updating it as needed.
- 2.16 The Secretariat continued to promote the use of a user-friendly online tool facilitating the collection and submission of information required under paragraph 4 of Article X. This online tool has been incorporated in the updated version of the Protection and Assistance Databank (PAD). The PAD is accessible to States Parties through the external server known as “Catalyst”.
- 2.17 During the reporting period, the Secretariat continued to deliver capacity-building activities under Article X, and 36 capacity-building events were organised, benefitting 805 first responders from all regions. The new format of the capacity-building activities run by the Secretariat under Article X is based on a five-component hybrid training cycle that comprises two online courses to cover the theoretical knowledge, two face-to-face activities (a basic and an integrated advanced and exercise course) to develop practical skills, and one follow-up webinar.
- 2.18 The Secretariat offered a range of 16 tailored specialised training courses to suit the protective needs of States Parties across all regional groups. The Secretariat also relied on its Instructor Development and Exchange Programme to support the development and delivery of online training. This programme involves the international exchange of expertise and the fostering of best practices to enhance States Parties’ response capabilities at the national, subregional, and regional level. It also continued to bolster the OPCW’s readiness to respond to requests for assistance.
- 2.19 In 2023, the Secretariat conducted two assistance and protection training cycles for States Parties in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean respectively, as well as two international and two subregional cycles. These training cycles are an important means to

strengthen the capacity of States Parties to respond to incidents involving toxic chemicals. Some training cycle programmes span both 2023 and 2024 and will be completed later in 2024. The training cycles were supported by Argentina, Ecuador, Germany, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, and Zambia.

- 2.20 For Latin America and the Caribbean, the Secretariat offered nine online and face-to-face capacity-building activities. These included hybrid courses under the regional training cycle on emergency response to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals. In addition, specialised courses, supported by Barbados, Mexico, and Spain, on topics such as pre-hospital care, hospital preparedness, emergency response involving toxic chemicals in unconventional environments, as well as a workshop on the Online Self-Assessment Tool, were also delivered in the region.
- 2.21 Under the sixth phase of the OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Africa Programme), further progress was made with regard to establishing and strengthening national and regional capacity to respond to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals.
- 2.22 The first pan-African “Chemical Emergency Response Capacity-Building Exercise for the Africa Region” (CHEMEX Africa) was jointly organised by the Secretariat and Algeria in Algiers from 23 September to 5 October 2023, and was funded through a generous voluntary contribution from Canada.
- 2.23 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 received training from instructors from the East African Community, who were supported by technical teams from North Africa and the Sahel, and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.
- 2.24 Eighty-one first responders from 33 African States Parties took part in CHEMEX Africa. In addition, external experts, notably from the Czech Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and the European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence took part in the exercise in different capacities, namely as supervisors, observers, and evaluators.
- 2.25 A VIP Day was held on 3 October 2023 under the patronage of H.E. Abdelmadjid Tebboune, President of Algeria, and chaired by General Saïd Chanegriha, Chief of Staff of the Algerian People’s National Army. The day included, inter alia, a major exercise simulating a coordinated response to a terrorist attack involving a toxic chemical agent, as well as an international equipment exhibition.
- 2.26 Furthermore, to make the best use of regional and subregional capacities and expertise in Africa, the Secretariat continued to work with the regional economic communities to deliver capacity-building support for States Parties in each subregion. Capacity-building activities continued to follow the training cycle approach, in addition to specialised activities focusing on specific needs, such as developing the skills of incident commanders to respond to chemical emergencies.

- 2.27 Efforts within the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons continued to support the network's objectives. Furthermore, broader participation in the funding of its activities, in accordance with the relevant decision of the Conference (C-16/DEC.13, dated 2 December 2011), was encouraged in support of future projects. In 2023, the Secretariat continued to work with an international group of experts to draft a second guidebook for medical practitioners focusing on the long-term care of victims, which is in the final stage of drafting and is expected to be published in 2024.
- 2.28 The balance of the Trust Fund for Victims stood at EUR 98,728. The Voluntary Fund for Assistance, established under subparagraph 7(a) of Article X of the Convention, reached a balance of EUR 1,594,085, with 47 States Parties offering assistance in accordance with subparagraph 7(c) of Article X.

International cooperation and technological development

- 2.29 In 2023, the Secretariat continued to deliver capacity-building programmes and facilitate international cooperation to advance the peaceful uses of chemistry. The programmes under Article XI were offered in face-to-face, hybrid, and online formats, across the three thematic areas of integrated chemicals management, enhancement of laboratory capabilities, and the promotion and exchange of chemical knowledge.
- 2.30 During the year under review, 28 capacity-building programmes and events covering the three thematic areas were carried out by the Secretariat for 750 participants.
- 2.31 The review and evaluation workshop for the "the Components of an Agreed Framework for the Full Implementation of Article XI" (C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011) serves as an overarching platform to facilitate discussion and the exchange of views among States Parties and relevant stakeholders to further the full implementation of Article XI of the Convention. The eighth edition of the workshop was organised in a hybrid format on 20 November 2023 and was attended by 40 participants from 26 States Parties. It reviewed ongoing capacity-building efforts under Article XI, as well as the impact of related programmes and activities, including deliberations on progress and gaps.
- 2.32 The Secretariat organised from 21 July to 22 September the twenty-fourth edition of the OPCW Associate Programme, featuring: a training segment at the OPCW Main Building covering topics such as the verification regime, the inspection process, the role of National Authorities, and international cooperation and assistance; a study segment at the University of Surrey in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, for the development of skills in the operation of chemical plants and chemical engineering theories in industry environments; and an industry segment for hands-on exposure and training in various industrial operations. A total of 31 participants representing 31 States Parties took part in this edition of the Programme. At the end of the reporting period, the Associate Programme Alumni Network comprised 576 alumni from 122 States Parties.
- 2.33 In the area of integrated chemicals management, the Secretariat organised a series of 12 global and regional capacity-building events on chemical safety and security, seven of which were held in person in Italy, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain

and Northern Ireland. These events included the aforementioned Associate Programme, a series of global and regional seminars focusing on chemical safety and security management, and training and e-learning events to promote safety and security standards for chemical facilities and laboratories to minimise the risk of incidents.

- 2.34 The second phase of the Chemical Safety and Security Tools Development Programme continued in 2023. During the reporting period, two workshops to develop the indicative guidelines for the transportation of hazardous chemicals by road were organised (one in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 21 to 24 February and one online on 13 November). The guidelines are expected to be launched in 2024. Within the framework of enhancing the capabilities of analytical laboratories, nine training courses on the analysis of Convention-related chemicals and on OPCW proficiency testing were held in 2023, organised by laboratories from Finland, India, Spain, South Africa, and at the ChemTech Centre. This included online trainings on basic analytical chemistry and specialised proficiency testing. In addition, the Secretariat organised two dedicated training courses, one in Warsaw, Poland and one at the ChemTech Centre, to equip qualified analytical chemists from laboratories that support, or plan to support, customs services or offices with practical knowledge in the analysis of Convention-related chemicals. Furthermore, a basic analytical chemistry course to enhance the knowledge and practical skills of female specialists in the analysis of chemicals relevant to the Convention was also organised at the ChemTech Centre from 11 to 13 July 2023.
- 2.35 Under the Laboratory Twinning and Assistance Programme, three twinning projects continued in 2023: one between Algeria (assisted laboratory) and Germany (assisting laboratory), one between South Africa (assisted laboratory) and the Netherlands (assisting laboratory), and one between Serbia (assisted laboratory) and Finland (assisting laboratory). The project in Serbia was successfully completed at the end of 2023. These projects aim at enhancing the capacity of assisted laboratories towards successful completion of the OPCW proficiency tests required for obtaining OPCW designation status.
- 2.36 To further enhance the capacity of laboratories in Africa and in Latin America and the Caribbean, the fourth phase of the “Project on Assessing and Enhancing the Capacity of Analytical Laboratories from African and GRULAC Member States: Towards OPCW Designation” was completed on 31 March 2023. The project, funded from a voluntary contribution from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was renewed in August 2023 until 31 March 2024. Project activities continued to focus on building the capacity of four analytical laboratories in Brazil, Chile, Kenya, and Nigeria.
- 2.37 February 2023 marked the beginning of a five-year project aimed at establishing a network of Spanish-speaking laboratories for the analysis of chemicals covered by the Convention. In 2023, the Laboratorio de Verificación de Armas Químicas (LAVEMA), a designated laboratory from Spain and partner of the Secretariat for this project, initiated a survey of candidate laboratories for this project.
- 2.38 During the reporting period the first activities were undertaken under the project on “Enhancing Capacity of Analytical Laboratories from African Member States”, supported by a voluntary contribution from Germany. The project, planned from 2023

to 2025, features a range of activities, including: provision of training for customs laboratories from Africa on chemical weapons-related analysis; enhancement of capacity of African laboratories in the maintenance of equipment; and tailored action, based on a twinning scheme, to assist one African laboratory seeking OPCW designation.

- 2.39 Under the Equipment Exchange Programme, the Secretariat facilitated in 2023 a donation from Germany to the University of Mwenge in the United Republic of Tanzania. This was followed by a training of 15 Tanzanian experts. In addition, the Secretariat facilitated the transfer of two laboratory devices from a German laboratory to the National Authority of Kenya in July 2023.
- 2.40 During the reporting period, the Secretariat continued to promote chemical knowledge among various groups of stakeholders. From 23 to 25 May 2023, the annual Forum on Peaceful Uses of Chemistry was organised in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, focusing on elevating awareness and deepening participants' understanding of chemical safety and security management, as well as promoting green and sustainable chemistry. On 19 and 20 June 2023, the Symposium on Women in Chemistry was held at the ChemTech Centre. The Symposium, supported by a voluntary contribution from France, brought together experts, scientists, and researchers from across the globe to discuss and address the challenges faced by women in science, and particularly in the field of chemistry.
- 2.41 Additionally, the Secretariat revived the "Policy and Diplomacy for Scientists" workshop, which took place from 21 to 23 June 2023 at the ChemTech Centre. This was centred around the promotion of responsible research practices within the chemical and biochemical sciences, including the dual uses of scientific research, the impact of scientific and technological developments on international security, and the role of science and academia in minimising chemical risks.
- 2.42 Under the Fellowship Programme, the Secretariat continues to facilitate the exchange of scientific and technical information between institutions, while at the same time supporting scientific research and strengthening institutions in the targeted countries through capacity building and facilitating international cooperation in science. A total of 12 fellowships were completed in 2023, as follows: six from Cameroon (hosted in France, Germany (3), Romania, and Spain); one from Kenya (hosted in Germany); one from the Philippines (hosted in Sweden); two from Serbia (hosted in Finland and Hungary); and two from Ukraine (hosted in Finland and Poland).
- 2.43 Under the Programme for Support of Research Projects, the Secretariat continued to extend its support to small-scale research projects in States Parties to help promote the development of scientific and technical knowledge in chemistry for industrial, agricultural, research, medical, pharmaceutical, and other peaceful purposes relevant to the Convention. As at the end of 2023, the Secretariat continued to support 20 ongoing research projects.
- 2.44 In 2023, the importance of enhancing capacity-building needs assessments for the delivery of pertinent and effective programmes in chemical safety and security management was further underscored. In this context, the Secretariat invited States Parties, on a voluntary basis, to submit assessments of their specific needs in chemical

safety and security management, as well as information on existing tools, guidance, and best practices in chemical management. In order to solicit enhanced feedback, the survey questionnaire was modified and updated to better focus on Member States' needs in capacity building as well as tools and guidelines in relevant areas, including the transportation of hazardous chemicals, while promoting wider outreach to States Parties. As result, responses were received from 55 States Parties, and following a fuller analysis, the findings were used to inform the ongoing programmes and activities.

- 2.45 The programme review and lessons-learned approach and techniques were further institutionalised during the reporting period. In 2023, the Secretariat conducted a review of the Analytical Skills Development Programme delivered between 2019 to 2022. The lessons and findings have helped in informing and enhancing the planned delivery of courses in 2024 and beyond.
- 2.46 The Secretariat convened an online information briefing on 4 May 2023 to raise awareness among States Parties on its extensive range of services and capacity-building programmes under Article XI, also including brief overviews of similar programmes under articles VII and X. The briefing, which was attended by 145 participants from 59 States Parties, elaborated on the specialised and customised trainings and available technical support in these areas.

The Africa Programme

- 2.47 During the reporting period, the Secretariat, through the Africa Programme, continued to actively address the specific needs of the Africa region in relation to the Convention. The implementation of the sixth phase of the Programme (2023–2025) was initiated, and progress continued to be made in 2023. Fifty-five capacity-building activities organised during the year by the Secretariat benefited some 850 participants from 45 African States Parties. These activities include 22 activities organised specifically for the Africa region.
- 2.48 In line with the sixth phase objectives, the focus of activities ranged from enhancing national implementation of the Convention to improving controls over cross-border transfers of scheduled chemicals, to developing assistance and protection capabilities against chemical emergencies, to advancing chemical safety and security management, and to upgrading laboratory competencies across the continent.
- 2.49 Several of the activities mentioned above were carried out at the ChemTech Centre in 2023. The Secretariat also continued during the reporting period to provide sponsorship for six fellowships and 12 research projects conducted by African scientists. Under the Conference Support Programme, the Secretariat also provided sponsorship for participation in three international scientific events held in Italy, Finland, and Mauritius (online), which accommodated 101 scientists from Africa. The Secretariat also facilitated transfers of laboratory equipment from Germany to Kenya and to the United Republic of Tanzania.
- 2.50 In 2023, the Secretariat, together with partners, facilitated targeted training and twinning projects to strengthen the capabilities of interested and eligible laboratories in Africa to pass the OPCW proficiency test and achieve OPCW designated status.

- 2.51 The activities conducted within the framework of the Africa Programme in 2023 continued to be funded through the OPCW regular budget with additional voluntary contributions utilised to further achieve the objectives of the Programme. During the reporting period the following key special projects were delivered within the framework of the Programme using extrabudgetary funding: the “Regional Conference on Enforcing Effective Customs Control of the Trade in Toxic Chemicals in Africa (Brazzaville, the Congo, 23 to 25 May 2023); CHEMEX Africa, (Algiers, Algeria, 23 September to 5 October 2023); and the peer-to-peer training course for African customs training institutions (Nairobi, Kenya, 10 to 12 October 2023).
- 2.52 CHEMEX Africa was the first pan-African chemical emergency response capacity-building exercise ever conducted in the context of the Convention. It illustrated the OPCW’s endeavour to facilitate further South-South cooperation and train-the-trainer approaches in the delivery of capacity-building support to Member States. As a mark of the importance of the event for the OPCW, the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General joined the VIP Day component of the event. The VIP Day included, inter alia, a major exercise simulating a coordinated response to a terrorist attack involving a toxic chemical agent, as well as an international equipment exhibition.
- 2.53 Separately, as part of strengthening relevant partnerships, on 13 April 2023 the Director-General received the visit of H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, the African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security. The two parties had a fruitful exchange and agreed to revitalise the collaboration between the two organisations, with a view to further promoting the universality of the Convention and its domestication in Africa and to reviving the memorandum of understanding signed by the two organisations in 2006. As a follow-up to the meeting, a revised list of proposed action items was shared by the Secretariat with the African Union Commission, and contact has been maintained in this context.
- 2.54 The Africa Programme Steering Committee continued to monitor and support Programme implementation in 2023. The Committee members for 2023 included Algeria, Angola, Cameroon (Chairperson), Chad, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, and the Sudan. Committee observers (donors to the Programme) included 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.
- 2.55 The Steering Committee, chaired by H.E. Ambassador Madeleine Liguemoh Ondoua of Cameroon, met on 26 June and 20 November 2023, and reviewed in detail the recent developments in the Programme.

3. POLICY-MAKING ORGANS

Activities of the Conference of the States Parties

Fifth Review Conference

- 3.1 The Fifth Review Conference was held from 15 to 19 May 2023 in The Hague. A total of 137 States Parties to the Convention took part in the Conference, along with one signatory State and one non-signatory State. Fourteen international organisations and specialised agencies, 74 non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and three bodies representing the global chemical industry and scientific community also registered to attend. The Conference received a message from the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, H.E. Ms Izumi Nakamitsu.
- 3.2 The Fifth Review Conference conducted a review of the operation of all provisions of the Convention as provided for in paragraph 22 of its Article VIII, taking into account any relevant scientific and technological developments. Dr Günther Povoden, Chairperson of the SAB, briefed the Fifth Review Conference on the Board's report on developments in science and technology (RC-5/DG.1, dated 22 February 2023), highlighting the science review process, thematic areas for consideration, and recommendations. In accordance with decision C-16/DEC.11 (dated 1 December 2011), the Fifth Review Conference conducted a comprehensive review of the destruction of remaining declared chemical weapons stockpiles and progress achieved to meet the planned completion date.
- 3.3 The Fifth Review Conference adopted a factual report (RC-5/3, dated 7 June 2023).
- 3.4 The "Reflections by H.E. Ambassador Henk Cor van der Kwast, Chairperson of the Fifth Review Conference, on the Outcome of the Fifth Review Conference" were circulated to the Council at its 103rd Session (EC-103/WP.1, dated 26 June 2023). The Council and the Conference considered the follow-up to the Fifth Review Conference and took several actions in this regard, as reflected in relevant sections below.

Twenty-Eighth Session of the Conference

- 3.5 The Twenty-Eighth Session of the Conference took place from 27 November to 1 December 2023, and was attended by representatives of 143 States Parties, a signatory State, one non-signatory State, and eight international organisations, specialised agencies, and other international bodies. A total of 106 NGOs and three bodies representing the global chemical industry and scientific community also registered to attend.
- 3.6 States Parties marked the Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare on 29 November 2023.
- 3.7 The Conference at its Twenty-Eighth Session reviewed the status of implementation of the Convention in all its aspects, including: chemical disarmament; destruction-related issues; national implementation measures; assistance and protection; international cooperation; the activities of the ABEO; and activities related to preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons. States Parties discussed a report covering the activities carried out under the auspices of the Africa Programme, and also considered progress made regarding the OPCW's efforts to engage with the chemical industry and the scientific community.

- 3.8 The following decisions were among those adopted by the Conference at its Twenty-Eighth Session:¹⁹
- (a) “Participation of the OPCW in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund” (C-28/DEC.8, dated 27 November 2023);
 - (b) “Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2024–2025” (C-28/DEC.9, dated 29 November 2023);
 - (c) “Amendment of the OPCW Tenure Policy” (C-28/DEC.10, dated 30 November 2023);
 - (d) “Action Plan on Geographical Representation” (C-28/DEC.11, dated 30 November 2023); and
 - (e) “Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use and the Threat of Future Use” (C-28/DEC.12, dated 30 November 2023).

Activities of the Executive Council

- 3.9 In 2023, the Council considered a number of reports by the Secretariat on the status of implementation of the Convention, including verification activities and the implementation of Articles VI, VII, X, and XI.
- 3.10 The Council also:
- (a) reviewed progress in decisions on the destruction of chemical weapons;
 - (b) discussed the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic;
 - (c) reviewed the work of the DAT;
 - (d) discussed one report of the FFM (S/2186/2023);
 - (e) reviewed progress in the implementation of Conference decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 and received one report of the IIT (S/2125/2023);
 - (f) approved the amendments to a facility agreement and an agreed detailed plan for verification between the OPCW and a State Party;
 - (g) adopted a decision on lists of newly validated data on scheduled chemicals (EC-102/DEC.1, dated 14 March 2023), and a decision on lists of newly validated data on non-scheduled chemicals relevant to the Convention (EC-102/DEC.2, dated 14 March 2023) for inclusion in the OCAD;
 - (h) considered the work done in the context of the Africa Programme;
 - (i) considered the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight (OIO) for 2022 (EC-103/DG.8 C-28/DG.3, dated 1 June 2023);
 - (j) adopted a decision on the establishment of a working group on geographical representation (EC-103/DEC.1, dated 12 July 2023);

¹⁹ Other (unclassified) decisions can be found on the public website of the OPCW.

- (k) adopted a decision on allowing the convening of Council meetings or sessions in extraordinary circumstances (EC-102/DEC.6, dated 16 March 2023);
- (l) adopted decisions on administrative and financial matters; and
- (m) forwarded its recommendations on a number of matters to the Conference at its Twenty-Eighth Session.

Activities of subsidiary bodies

- 3.11 The Commission for the Settlement of Disputes Related to Confidentiality (the Confidentiality Commission) held its Twenty-Fifth Meeting from 31 May to 2 June 2023 (CC-25/1, dated 2 June 2023).
- 3.12 The ABAF held its Fifty-Fourth Session from 6 to 8 June 2023 (ABAF-54/1, dated 8 June 2023) and its Fifty-Fifth Session from 25 to 27 July 2023 (ABAF-55/1, dated 27 July 2023).
- 3.13 The SAB held its Thirty-Seventh Session from 28 August to 1 September 2023 (SAB-37/1, dated 1 September 2023).
- 3.14 The ABEO held its Fourteenth Session from 7 to 9 February 2023 (ABEO-14/1, dated 9 February 2023) and its Fifteenth Session from 20 to 22 June 2023 (ABEO-15/1, dated 22 June 2023).
- 3.15 The Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Lucian Fătu of Romania, reported to the Conference at its Twenty-Eighth Session on the status of the work of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country. To improve the support to the policy-making organs, the Secretariat:
 - (a) acquired and maintained a multilingual web conferencing platform—KUDO—with a live interpretation feature in all official OPCW languages, to conduct Council sessions and meetings remotely as required by EC-102/DEC.6;
 - (b) completed migration of the archive of audio/video recordings of sessions and meetings of the policy-making organs and their subsidiary bodies to the Connected Views 5.0 cloud system to ensure long-term, safe preservation and access to the records of the policy-making organs;
 - (c) further upgraded the external server of the OPCW—Catalyst—to facilitate accessibility to national statements pertaining to a particular session; and
 - (d) maintained the informal consultations process as a procedure to consider non-contentious agenda items in pre-session mode, as well as a best practice tool that boosts the efficient and timely management of Conference and Council sessions.

4. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Universality

- 4.1 In 2023, the number of States Parties to the Convention remained at 193. Israel has signed but not ratified the Convention; the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, and South Sudan have neither signed nor acceded to the Convention.
- 4.2 Within the framework of the Action Plan for the Universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Secretariat continued to reach out to the remaining States not Party throughout 2023. The Secretariat maintained its practice of inviting representatives of States not Party and the signatory State to participate in selected OPCW activities, including the Fifth Review Conference and the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Conference. During the reporting period, the Secretariat also made use of various opportunities to engage with representatives of States not Party, including in The Hague and in the margins of international conferences and meetings.
- 4.3 With respect to the signatory State, the Secretariat maintained regular contact with the Embassy of Israel in the Netherlands throughout the year. A delegation from Israel attended both the Fifth Review Conference and the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Conference, and the Ambassador of Israel delivered statements at both events.
- 4.4 On the margins of CHEMEX Africa in Algiers, the Director-General met with Mr James Pitia Morgan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of South Sudan. During the meeting, both sides signed a joint communiqué agreeing to cooperate to complete South Sudan's accession process as soon as possible. The Secretariat maintained regular contact with the Embassy of South Sudan to the Benelux Countries and the European Union. A delegation from South Sudan participated in the Fifth Review Conference, where Mr Riek Pouk Riek, Director-General for Multilateral Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, delivered a statement. A delegation from South Sudan also attended the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Conference. Additionally, in November one delegate participated in the briefing for non-Hague-based Permanent Representations held at the ChemTech Centre, where he met the Director-General.
- 4.5 The Director-General continued to underline the importance of achieving universality in his contacts with representatives of States not Party, the signatory State, senior officials of States Parties, and in his interactions with international organisations, academic institutions, and think tanks.

External engagement and outreach activities

- 4.6 Throughout 2023, the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General continued to meet with high-level officials of States Parties from all regional groups, as well as senior officials of other international organisations, hosting 33 such visits at the OPCW Main Building.
- 4.7 The Secretariat also continued its activities to strengthen its partnership with the United Nations, as well as to enhance relations with other international organisations, with a view to advancing disarmament and non-proliferation issues relevant to the OPCW.

- 4.8 The Director-General met with officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands to discuss matters pertaining to the implementation of the Agreement between the Organisation and the Kingdom of the Netherlands concerning the Headquarters of the OPCW, signed at The Hague on 22 May 1997.

Visits and briefings by the Director-General and Deputy Director-General

- 4.9 During the year the Director-General visited Algeria, Finland, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America. During these visits he met with high-level government officials, including ministers and vice-ministers. The Director-General also addressed diverse audiences, including representatives of the scientific community, government agencies, and the chemical industry.
- 4.10 On 7 February 2023, the Director-General gave a virtual briefing to the United Nations Security Council following the release of the third report of the IIT.
- 4.11 The Director-General also addressed a number of events throughout the year, including CHEMEX Africa in Algiers, Algeria; the Tenth Annual Meeting of Representatives of the Chemical Industry and National Authorities of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, in Doha, Qatar; the international workshop on the analysis of chemical warfare agents to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN), in Helsinki, Finland; and a ceremony marking the completion of destruction of declared chemical weapons by the United States of America, in Washington D.C., the United States.
- 4.12 In 2023, the Deputy Director-General accompanied the Director-General on his visits to Algeria in September and to Qatar in October.

Protocol and privileges and immunities support

- 4.13 The External Relations Division continued to provide protocol services to senior management and other members of the Secretariat. Additionally, the Division continued to administer the privileges and immunities of the Organisation and its staff under the Headquarters Agreement and relevant rules and regulations of the Host Country. In all, 28 Permanent Representatives presented their letters of credentials to the Director-General in 2023.

OPCW–The Hague Award

- 4.14 In 2023, recipients of the OPCW–The Hague Award included the Spiez Laboratory of Switzerland, Dr Syeda Sultana Razia of Bangladesh, and Mr Hubert K. Foy of Ghana.

Other activities

- 4.15 On 12 May 2023, the OPCW organised a ceremony to inaugurate the ChemTech Centre, in the presence of the H.M. King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands. During the ceremony, H.M. King Willem-Alexander unveiled a plaque to mark the official inauguration of the Centre, with attendance by high-level delegates from capitals, Permanent Representatives, and other guests.

- 4.16 The Twenty-Third Induction Workshop for Diplomatic Personnel was convened on 27 September 2023. A total of 99 delegates registered to attend.
- 4.17 On 19 and 20 September 2023, the OPCW hosted 25 fellows of the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme for a day of briefings by experts from the Secretariat and a tour of the ChemTech Centre. This was the twenty-fourth edition of the programme to visit the OPCW.
- 4.18 On 3 November, the Director-General gave a briefing at the ChemTech Centre for Permanent Representatives based outside The Hague. The briefing was attended by Permanent Representatives and other diplomatic personnel from 23 Member States.

Public affairs and media profile

Public outreach

- 4.19 The OPCW participated in The Hague International Open Day (24 September 2023) by hosting over 350 participants at the OPCW Main Building to learn about the Convention and the work of the Organisation. The Public Affairs Branch and Inspectorate Division gave presentations and demonstrations. Visitors were also able to see models of chemical weapons destroyed under the Convention, to learn about different types of protective gear used on missions, and to visit the Nobel Peace Prize display. “OPCW Basics” videos were shown in the Delegate’s Lounge and children were invited to a “Chemistry for Peace” colouring station.
- 4.20 During the reporting period, the Public Affairs Branch organised 80 outreach events, of which 77 were part of the OPCW Group Visits Programme. Demand for in-person visits to the OPCW has increased since the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in 70 of the 77 group visits in 2023 being held in-person at the OPCW Main Building, and only seven being organised virtually. In addition, the Public Affairs Branch organised the OPCW’s participation in three off-site outreach events, including a booth at the annual conference of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and presentations at a conference of the German Chemical Society’s Young Chemist Network and at the University of Trento’s Winter School on Arms Transfer and Control. Through these events, the OPCW had direct interaction with a total of 2,667 participants.

Civil society outreach

T.M.C. Asser Institute

- 4.21 The fourteenth edition of the T.M.C. Asser Institute’s Training Programme on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction took place from 18 to 23 September 2023. A total of 30 early- and mid-career professionals from 23 States Parties participated, increasing their knowledge about the diplomatic, legal, and technical aspects of disarmament and non-proliferation of chemical weapons. The Deputy Director-General addressed the programme participants. The OPCW, with financial support from the European Union, awarded three scholarships for the programme to participants from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, and Uganda.

Fifth Review Conference

- 4.22 A total of 74 civil society organisations received approval to participate in the Fifth Review Conference. As the first OPCW conference to resume in a normal modality following the COVID-19 pandemic, civil society organisations participated by delivering 10 statements in the plenary and hosted a range of side events on topics relevant to the Convention.

Twenty-Eighth Session of the Conference of the States Parties

- 4.23 A total of 106 civil society organisations received approval to participate in the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Conference. Participating civil society organisations held side events and delivered eight statements in the plenary on topics relevant to the Convention. Thanks to support from the European Union, the OPCW was able to provide limited financial support to four participants of civil society from countries with developing economies or economies in transition.

Social media

- 4.24 The Secretariat provided a live webcast of the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Conference, which attracted 4,669 views. The Conference was extensively covered on the Secretariat's official social media channels, including details of major decisions, and coverage of side events.
- 4.25 In 2023, the Secretariat's digital audiences continued to increase according to metrics for social media platforms, as shown in Table 7 below.

TABLE 7: SOCIAL MEDIA GROWTH

Social Media	2022	2023	Change 2022/2023
Facebook followers	20,936	22,087	5.5%
X followers	37,882	39,055	3.1%
YouTube followers	2,582	2,942	14%
LinkedIn followers	29,157	33,579	15.2%

- 4.26 The Secretariat's social media strategy ensures that posts and campaigns are designed to increase awareness and to enhance stakeholder understanding of the work and activities related to the Organisation and the Convention. Notable social media campaigns in 2023 included:
- (a) coverage of IIT and FFM reports;
 - (b) coverage of the Fifth Review Conference and the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Conference;
 - (c) science communications awareness, including SAB reports, op-eds, and educational/awareness materials; and
 - (d) coverage of the OPCW–The Hague Award.

- 4.27 In addition to the above, social media campaigns also covered several international days and commemorations, such as the International Day of Women and Girls in Science and the Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare. Changes in corporate policies at X (formerly Twitter) in 2023 altered user patterns and platform dynamics. As a measure to mitigate potential disruptions caused by instability with any single social media network, the Secretariat established a presence on the emerging decentralised, open-source social media network Mastodon, to ensure continuity of an online presence amid the evolving social media landscape. Overall, the OPCW's social media platforms experienced a combined growth rate of 8% in 2023.

5. EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Administrative and budgetary matters

- 5.1 In 2023, the Secretariat implemented its revised 2023 Programme and Budget under historically high inflationary pressures beyond the Secretariat's control, primarily with regard to extraordinary in-year increases in utility and staff remuneration costs. Timely mitigation measures were necessarily taken to avoid budget overspend. While the Organisation successfully mitigated the inflationary impacts in the short-term, such mitigation measures were not sustainable for the longer term. Therefore, during the 2024–2025 Biennium Programme and Budget preparation process, the budget proposal was formulated with a view to keeping costs to the minimum necessary while ensuring sustainability of operations to fulfil the Secretariat's mandates under the Convention. The 2024–2025 Biennium Programme and Budget was approved by the Conference at its Twenty-Eighth Session in decision C-28/DEC.9.
- 5.2 The Administration Division continued to closely monitor and actively address the Organisation's cash situation throughout 2023, apprising States Parties of the financial position on a monthly basis, including the status of payment of assessed contributions and reimbursements of Article IV and Article V invoices. In 2023, there was a significant improvement in the collection rate of assessed contributions for the year, which reached 96.1%, as well as in the recovery of assessed contributions in arrears, amounting to EUR 7.16 million, or 62%, of the outstanding assessed contributions as at 31 December 2022.
- 5.3 The 2022 Financial Statements for both the OPCW and the Provident Fund were audited and certified by the External Auditor of the OPCW in April 2023 (EC-104/DG.3 C-28/DG.5, dated 9 August 2023 and Corr.1, dated 30 August 2023); both received unqualified audit opinions. The 2022 Financial Statements of the OPCW continued to include a comprehensive introduction and commentary by the Director-General, highlighting key trends and issues of financial importance to the Organisation.
- 5.4 The General Support Services provided a wide range of services, including building maintenance and management, facility support services, transportation and fleet management, shipments and removal of household goods, travel facilitation, visa and travel documentation services, conference and meeting infrastructure support, asset and property management, supplies, insurances, procurement administration, and mail and courier services, during a very dynamic and challenging period of high inflationary pressures.
- 5.5 Additional measures were put in place to reduce energy consumption at the Main Building, including reducing office temperatures in winter and increasing them in summer, and the extra installation of energy-saving light bulbs wherever feasible.
- 5.6 The General Support Services provided substantial support to the management, maintenance, and operation of the ChemTech Centre following its inauguration, and also supported the decommissioning of the former OPCW Laboratory in Rijswijk.

- 5.7 Secretariat procurement reached a total volume of EUR 21.5 million in 2023. This amount was reached through 315 contracts or purchase orders raised for a total value of EUR 19.34 million, and 850 purchase orders raised at the individual Secretariat unit level (for low-value procurements), for a total value of EUR 2.2 million.
- 5.8 In 2023, the Secretariat continued to seek the best candidates from all geographic regions for positions under recruitment, and to position the Organisation as a preferred place to work. This included organising webinars with other international organisations, such as the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency, to reach new candidates and help applicants improve the quality of their applications.
- 5.9 In 2023, the Secretariat revised the administrative directive on performance management to streamline the process, while maintaining the spirit of a continuing dialogue as a key ingredient to successful performance management. Comprehensive training sessions on emotional intelligence tailored for both managers and staff members alike were held. These sessions were designed to foster understanding and mastery of emotional intelligence competencies, to ensure continued effective leadership and teamwork. Building on previous work in this regard, the Secretariat undertook various initiatives aimed at promoting and maintaining an inclusive work environment. Additionally, recognising the critical role of leadership in driving organisational success, specialised coaching skills and leadership training courses were provided for programme managers, equipping them with the necessary tools and strategies to inspire and lead their teams effectively.
- 5.10 The Secretariat continued to implement the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) Programme in 2023. There are currently five JPOs at the Secretariat.
- 5.11 In 2023, the Secretariat continued to promote and support mental health and well-being in the workplace, aligning its activities and interventions to the evidence-based and data-driven approach introduced by the international guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO). The Secretariat enhanced its action to strengthen psychological safety and occupational psychological health by delivering tailored interventions to support positive relationships, collaboration, and inclusivity.
- 5.12 The work of the Information Services Branch in 2023 was focused on rolling out additional and timely major improvements to many systems used both by staff and external stakeholders. The improvements were varied, but all were connected to the core IT strategy focused on systems that are secure, resilient, and agile.
- 5.13 The updated enterprise resource planning (ERP) platform continued to be a focus area in 2023. In the first quarter of the year, the system went through its first major version upgrade, to the “Milestone 7” platform. This upgrade occurred on time, on budget, and with no disruption to business processes. The OPCW was one of the first clients to move to the latest cloud hosting iteration of the platform, ensuring improved system reliability and flexibility for the future.
- 5.14 The installation of networking and communication devices in the ChemTech Centre was a major area of focus in the first half of 2023. This included foundational equipment such as switches, access points, and communication infrastructure, but also equipment

to power new hybrid (in-person/online) events from the ChemTech Centre. Implementing robust security measures to fortify the integrity and resilience of the network infrastructure was an integral part of the work at the ChemTech Centre.

- 5.15 A further area of improvement was to the underlying IT infrastructure, both for administrative systems and for the OPCW's most sensitive data. Key systems for outreach, such as the Eventus platform, were migrated to the OPCW's secure cloud infrastructure, ensuring continuous uptime and a seamless event registration experience. Simultaneously, work began on a new secure network—Citadel—which will be the on-premises next generation home for the OPCW's most sensitive data.
- 5.16 Activities related to the identification, development, and retention of knowledge at the OPCW continued to be coordinated. The Knowledge Management Section pursued efforts to strengthen a knowledge-sharing culture, to coordinate a Knowledge Management Champions network, and to guide staff to implement continuous knowledge management processes. The Section also continued to manage the archives, the Correspondence Management System, and the OPCW Library. The Senior Knowledge Management Advisor reported to States Parties through presentations, including at briefings related to knowledge management and its aspects related to the tenure policy. Knowledge management practices and goals were defined through the issuing of a new knowledge management strategy.

Internal oversight

- 5.17 In 2023, the OIO continued to implement its Strategic Master Plan for 2020 to 2024, which had been approved by the Director-General in 2020 after due consideration by the ABAF. The Master Plan establishes the strategic objectives of the OIO, which are focused on three key pillars/drivers—people, processes, and technology—to enable the OIO to add value to the Organisation and to keep its services fit for purpose.
- 5.18 The OIO conducted several audits and evaluations in 2023, including: Audit of the Waivers of Bidding in the Procurement Process; Audit of the Management of Flexible Working Arrangements; Audit of the Management of Home Leave; and Evaluation of Talent Management – Inspector Training.
- 5.19 In accordance with the requirements of OPCW Financial Rule 12.2.02 and paragraph 2.7 of the OIO Charter, the OIO investigates reported allegations of potential violations of the OPCW Financial Regulations, Rules and Directives issued thereunder, and the relevant Staff Regulations, Rules, and Directives; alleged waste, fraud, and mismanagement of OPCW resources; and where required, alleged misconduct or wrongdoing by OPCW staff, non-staff personnel, and third parties. The results of these fact-finding activities are transmitted to the Director-General, together with supporting evidence, to guide OPCW Management in deciding on administrative, disciplinary, or other actions to be taken, as appropriate.
- 5.20 In 2023, the OIO closed two investigations that were reported in 2022. No new allegations of breaches of the OPCW Financial Rules and Regulations were reported during the year.

- 5.21 The investigation function also successfully hosted the second Global Compliance Week and the first-ever Fraud Awareness Week at the Secretariat, receiving positive feedback from staff. Activities included a compliance competition, a “fraud detective” quiz, and an open forum on fraud-related issues, concluding with an awards ceremony to recognise staff participation in anti-fraud activities.
- 5.22 A new fraud and corruption awareness e-learning course was introduced and is aimed at strengthening internal controls and promoting ethical practices within the Secretariat. It is intended that the course will be made mandatory for staff members in 2024.
- 5.23 The OIO managed the Quality Management System (QMS) by performing three QMS internal audits, provided secretarial support for the QMS Technical Committee, and conducted management reviews of accredited areas. These activities enabled the OPCW to maintain certification in the accredited processes. As a result of the three audits, core areas of activity subject to accreditation have been audited. These audits have resulted in three findings aimed at further improving the QMS. All of the findings are subject to a dedicated follow-up exercise in line with accredited standards of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). It is important to note that the regularly scheduled fourth audit—focusing on Certification of the OCAD and On-Site Databases as well as Certification of Testing, Preparing, and Packing of Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry Inspection Equipment—was not conducted, following a specific audit recommendation. That audit is now scheduled for 2024.
- 5.24 As a result of the 2023 surveillance/relocation assessment by the Dutch Accreditation Council—the Raad voor Accreditatie (RvA)—of the OPCW Laboratory at the recently commissioned ChemTech Centre, the OPCW Laboratory continues to be recognised as fully compliant with ISO 17025:2017 and ISO 17043:2010 Standards. Notably, there were zero non-conformities identified by the RvA during the 2023 assessment. The next RvA assessment will be conducted in 2024.
- 5.25 In 2023, the OIO organised one training course for Secretariat staff aimed at improving their professional skills and knowledge of the QMS and related standards. The course was conducted in person at the OPCW Main Building. An additional 11 staff members are now certified and fully competent to support QMS improvements.
- 5.26 During the period under review, the OIO continued to conduct its audits in conformity with the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing of the Institute of Internal Auditors–United States of America. The United Nations Evaluation Group Norms and Standards for Evaluation were also observed.
- 5.27 During the reporting period, OIO staff members also continued to provide advice through their participation as observers at meetings of various committees, such as the Committee on Contracts, the Investment Committee, the IT Strategy Advisory Committee, the IT Steering Committee, the Risk Management Committee, the Data Protection Committee, the Business Continuity Steering Group, the Verification IT Application Steering Committee, and the QMS Technical Committee, in addition to providing advice to the Diversity and Inclusion Network and Gender Focal Points volunteers.

- 5.28 In 2023, the OIO continued to follow up on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in its audit and evaluation reports, in order to assess the actions taken by Management in implementation of the audit recommendations. The cumulative rate of implementation of the audit and evaluation recommendations issued in the past five years was 73.8%. The outcome of the follow-up exercises was reported periodically to the Management Board and to the States Parties in the OIO's annual summary report. To facilitate the timely follow-up of recommendations, the OIO used an online SharePoint-based "Audit Tracker" tool and an "Audilytics" dashboard for reporting thereon. The implementation of the OIO's audit and evaluation recommendations contributed to enhancing compliance with existing regulations and procedures, to further strengthening internal controls, and to improving the allocation of resources and the effectiveness of programmes and policies.
- 5.29 In 2023, the OIO organised two virtual trainings on risk management for Secretariat staff. This included one advanced risk management training for directors, branch heads, risk owners, and other staff that support risk management activities (attended by 25 participants) and one training session on Administrative Directive AD/ADM/33/Rev.1 (dated 29 December 2021) on the Risk Management Framework (attended by 37 staff members, including directors and branch heads). Accordingly, in the past two years (2022 and 2023) the OIO has provided risk management training to a total of 192 participants. These trainings helped to raise awareness of the importance of embedding risk management into the Secretariat's operations and to improve the understanding of the Risk Management Framework and methodology.
- 5.30 The OIO also successfully deployed two technological projects in 2023 with the support of external contractors: the update of OIO templates for management reporting and the first exploration of the continuous auditing project, using IDEA, on defined high-risk processes such as procurement and finance. A business case for procurement dashboards using the Power BI software was also developed jointly with the Procurement Unit.

Legal affairs

- 5.31 In 2023, the Office of the Legal Adviser (LAO) provided legal advice to the policy-making organs, States Parties, the Director-General, and units of the Secretariat.
- 5.32 This legal advice pertained to the interpretation and implementation of the Convention and its verification regime; the rules of procedure of the policy-making organs; negotiation of international agreements, including agreements on privileges and immunities, voluntary contribution agreements and technical agreements, inter alia with designated laboratories and national and international agencies on the conduct of trainings and other activities; cooperation with other intergovernmental organisations; administrative policies and procedures, including the formulation and interpretation of the OPCW Staff Regulations and interim Staff Rules and other administrative issuances, as well as procurement practices, policies, and procedures; and financial questions, including those concerning commercial contracts for the procurement of goods and services, also in relation to the Main Building of the Organisation and the ChemTech Centre. The LAO further represented the OPCW before administrative, quasi-judicial, and judicial bodies, including the Administrative Tribunal of the

International Labour Organization. In addition, the LAO assumed the function of Personal Data Protection Officer, serving as the focal point for internal and external questions and requests in relation to the Secretariat processing of personal data.

- 5.33 The Secretariat registered 48 international agreements in 2023 and 13 amendments to international agreements (see Annex 8 to this report).

Strategy and policy

Preparations for the Fifth Review Conference

- 5.34 The OEWG-RC met at regular intervals from January to April 2023 to lay the foundations for the Fifth Review Conference. From June 2022 to April 2023, informal consultations were held within the OEWG-RC on the full range of issues concerning the operation of the Convention since the Fourth Review Conference. From February to April 2023, the Working Group focused on a draft provisional text that was submitted to the Fifth Review Conference for its consideration. The programme of work also included exchanges with representatives of civil society as well as chemical industry associations.

Countering chemical terrorism

- 5.35 In 2023, the OEWG-T remained the primary platform for States Parties to interact with international experts and exchange views on challenges posed by terrorism and on how the OPCW could further address this subject through the full and effective implementation of the Convention. In 2023, the Secretariat supported the convening of three OEWG-T meetings, as well as a table-top exercise held under the auspices of the Working Group.
- 5.36 The focus of discussions in the OEWG-T in 2023 was on developments in science and technology, plans for CHEMEX Africa, cooperation with other international organisations, and preparations for the OEWG-T table-top exercise. The meetings of the OEWG-T were held on 6 March, 6 July, and 30 September. All were chaired by H.E. Ambassador Vusimuzi Philemon Madonsela of South Africa.
- 5.37 The OEWG-T table-top exercise took place at the ChemTech Centre on 20 and 21 November 2023. The exercise, held with financial support from the European Union, brought together 48 participants from 24 States Parties across all regions. Participants included representatives of National Authorities, the scientific community, law enforcement, emergency management, defence, and policymaking authorities. Using a scenario to emulate the course of a chemical terrorism attack across three phases (pre-attack, incident response, and investigation), participants were invited to collaboratively identify and address gaps and make recommendations for further consideration. The outcome of the exercise was to be considered by the OEWG-T in 2024.
- 5.38 In 2023, the OPCW continued to actively participate in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, to which it became a signatory in 2018. Under the Compact's auspices, the Organisation acts as a Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection, which is chaired by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). In this framework, the OPCW completed implementation of the third phase of a project to enhance interagency interoperability and public communications in the event of a chemical or biological

attack, together with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the WHO, INTERPOL, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, and the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit. As part of this work, a workshop on information exchange was hosted by the OPCW in The Hague on 27 and 28 March 2023, a workshop on emergency operation centres was hosted by INTERPOL in Lyon, France on 5 May 2023, and a workshop on deployments was hosted by the OPCW at the ChemTech Centre on 26 and 27 June 2023.

- 5.39 The Secretariat and the Expert Group of the Committee established pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) continued to collaborate in strengthening States Parties' awareness of their relevant obligations, and to offer practical assistance in the areas in which the Convention and United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) are mutually reinforcing, namely, national legislation, chemical security, and customs and border control.

Engagement with chemical industry associations

- 5.40 The OPCW continued engagement with the global chemical industry, a key stakeholder in the implementation of the Convention. Throughout the reporting period, the Secretariat facilitated dialogue between National Authorities and the chemical industry, and also held regular consultations with the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) and the International Chemical Trade Association (ICTA). During the reporting period, the fourteenth and fifteenth meetings of the Chemical Industry Coordination Group took place. Participants discussed issues such as current trends and challenges in the global chemical industry and adaptation of the industry verification regime, and exchanged information on capacity-development activities, focusing on promotion of best practices in the area of chemical safety and security.
- 5.41 In 2023, representatives of ICCA and ICTA participated in a number of the Secretariat's activities. The Director-General submitted a Note entitled "Engaging the Chemical Industry Associations" to the Conference at its Twenty-Eighth Session (C-28/DG.15, dated 6 November 2023), which provided a detailed account of the OPCW's engagement with industry associations since the previous session of the Conference. The Note covers activities related to verification, education and outreach, national implementation of the Convention, and chemical safety and security.

Education and outreach

- 5.42 The ABEO held two in-person sessions in 2023, from 7 to 9 February and from 20 to 22 June, respectively. The Chairperson of the ABEO participated on behalf of the Board in the general debate of the Fifth Review Conference, during which the increasing role of education and outreach to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons was highlighted by States Parties. Furthermore, a side event was organised on 15 May 2023 in the margins of the Fifth Review Conference to discuss the role of education and outreach in light of the rapidly evolving current international context. The event was attended by representatives of States Parties, the chemical industry, academic institutions, and NGOs. In 2023, the ABEO delivered a briefing to States Parties on its activities and future priorities and participated in the general debate of the Twenty-Eighth Session of Conference in order to provide an update on its activities.

- 5.43 The ABEO conducted multiple activities in 2023 related to education and raising awareness about the OPCW and the Convention. The Board continued to provide its advice on the enhancement of the Secretariat's educational offering, with a special focus on e-learning resources, and decided to update the ABEO Strategic Plan in light of the complete destruction of all declared chemical weapons. The Board provided its expert advice on the development of a network with academic institutions and prepared an inventory of relevant international organisations with synergies in areas related to the OPCW's educational and outreach activities. Furthermore, the Board continued its ongoing cooperation with the International Cooperation and Assistance Division. The Director-General encouraged the Board to promote and contribute to the activities and programmes at the ChemTech Centre and to consider an increased focus on specific target audiences, such as women and youth.

Confidentiality and security

- 5.44 In the period under review, the Office of Confidentiality and Security (OCS) continued its efforts to ensure and improve the level of security for OPCW personnel, facilities, assets, and information based on the United Nations minimum security standards and international best practice. The OCS continued to use a data-driven and risk-based approach aligned with the organisational risk appetite.
- 5.45 After the OPCW Main Building intrusion on 3 December 2021, the OCS completed a comprehensive security risk assessment which outlined all the required security measures to increase security at the OPCW Main Building to lower the risks to an acceptable level, and to meet the United Nations minimum standards. Its conclusions and recommendations fully align with those of the assessment that was conducted by the Host Country's security services in 2022. In 2023, the OCS continued its engagement with the Host Country's security services to seek concrete support for the Main Building's perimeter security. A physical security upgrade of the security critical areas was finalised, providing certified levels of resistance against forced entry and contributing significantly to the overall confidentiality regime. Internal physical security controls have been revitalised with new tools and documentation in a range of areas, including physical security zoning and fire safety. The procurement process for the establishment of a secure compartment in the Main Building reception area was retendered in 2023 and is expected to be implemented in 2024. Following the provision of additional budgetary resources at the end of 2023, the procurement of goods to improve the resistance levels of the Main Building access points was initiated and is planned to be completed in 2024. In 2023, the cross-federation of physical security management systems at the Main Building and the ChemTech Centre further progressed and is expected to be completed in 2024, which will ensure greater resilience and readiness in case of serious incidents at either location.
- 5.46 Demonstrations took place in the direct vicinity of the OPCW Main Building over about 90 days in 2023. The Secretariat remained in permanent contact with the relevant Host Country authorities and continued to request adequate security support. The continuing high number of demonstrations again stretched resources for safeguarding the control and authority of the OPCW Main Building. This had a significant impact on the OCS staffing and budget and resulted in considerable costs for overtime for security staff.

- 5.47 In 2023, the OPCW continued to address challenges in managing the protection of confidential and sensitive information within existing resources. The OCS Security Operations Centre deployed a diverse set of tools to provide continuous monitoring over all known OPCW information systems, applications, networks, and devices to provide greater levels of information assurance. Additionally, in 2023 the OCS initiated the establishment a more robust governance, risk, and compliance strategy by promulgating policies and standards, and by actively promoting a strong security awareness culture throughout the Organisation.
- 5.48 In 2023, the average weekly number of cyberattacks (phishing and malware) remained at roughly the same level as in 2022, yet with a significantly higher level of sophistication and with increased and more specific targeting of certain OPCW staff members and/or group accounts. Overall, in 2023 the OCS successfully detected over 3,600 hacking attempts on OPCW accounts and over 4,500 e-mail-based phishing attacks. The OCS further increased the OPCW's cybersecurity resilience and continued to identify and initiate new and follow-up projects to anticipate and respond to the fast-evolving cybersecurity threats and related risks.
- 5.49 The OCS continued its strong focus on staff training and awareness in 2023 by conducting nearly 100 staff trainings, briefings, and awareness sessions related to both physical and digital security, as well as confidentiality. The total number has almost doubled since 2022 and includes confidentiality trainings and briefings, SSAFE training, travel briefings, fire warden training, active shooter training, monthly induction trainings, and designated cybersecurity awareness sessions. The trainings and briefings were delivered in various modalities, including in-person, online, hybrid, individual, and group sessions.
- 5.50 The OCS supported the annual meeting of the Confidentiality Commission, with a record number of nine newly installed Commission members in 2023. The OCS also actively supported ad hoc classified briefings, and coordinated security for OPCW missions, frequently in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security. The OCS conducted 26 investigations into incidents that migrated into a breach, with 25 of the 26 incidents related to errors in the handling of confidential information by States Parties which did not have a high impact. Despite this low impact, the 2023 increase is being addressed by the OCS in several ways, including the promulgation of a new information classification policy and an increased focus on compliance with the standards within the Secretariat.
- 5.51 In 2023, the designated business continuity tool was implemented and rolled out and is being further customised and optimised for OPCW use. After the first ever Business Continuity Steering Group and Working Group meetings at the end of 2022, two further Working Group meetings were held in 2023. These meetings were facilitated by the OCS in its capacity as Secretary to the Steering and Working Groups. Division and branch-specific business continuity plans are in process and are due for completion by mid-2024. The OCS held its first business continuity table-top exercise in November 2023. The embedding of business continuity into routine practices is an ongoing process and requires a designated business continuity resource within the Secretariat.

Health and safety

- 5.52 No major health and safety incidents were reported in 2023. The process of encouraging near-miss reporting via an electronic platform has resulted in greater staff engagement in proactive reporting. Migration to an electronic medical management system was approved in 2023 for implementation in 2024.
- 5.53 The annual workplace inspection in 2023 showed that the Secretariat is a safe workplace. Most issues highlighted in the 2022 report had been resolved satisfactorily.
- 5.54 No radiation safety-related issues, excessive noise level issues, or poor air quality issues were reported by staff over the year.
- 5.55 The staff of the Health and Safety Branch continued to participate in professional development programmes in 2023.

6. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The OPCW Scientific Advisory Board

- 6.1 In support of the Fifth Review Conference, the SAB finalised its scientific report on developments in science and technology in early 2023 (RC-5/DG.1). The report contains an executive summary and recommendations addressing issues related to advances in science and technology that may impact the implementation of the Convention and the work of the Secretariat. The Director-General issued a response to the report (RC-5/DG.2, dated 22 February 2023). In addition, the Chairperson of the SAB, Mr Günter Povoden, addressed the Review Conference during its proceedings.
- 6.2 The SAB met for its Thirty-Seventh Session in August 2023 (report issued as SAB-37/1). In addition to discussing SAB-related business, the Board received six briefings from external speakers on topics including 3D bioprinting, medical countermeasures and therapeutics, high-throughput experimentation, and biomarkers. In addition, the Board received briefings from various branches of the Secretariat in order to enrich its scientific discussions. Also, a number of recommendations were made for the Director-General's consideration, including the establishment of a new temporary working group (TWG). The response of the Director-General to the report of the Thirty-Seventh Session of the SAB was issued as EC-104/DG.22 (dated 27 September 2023). In it, the Director-General indicated that a new TWG on chemical forensics would be established and that he would work with the SAB Chairperson to determine the composition of the group and its terms of reference.
- 6.3 The TWG on the Analysis of Biotoxins held its seventh and final meeting in January 2023, with the goal of finalising its end-of-mandate report. The report was subsequently issued on 20 April 2023 (SAB/REP/1/23) and ultimately endorsed by the SAB at its Thirty-Seventh Session. The report contains 23 recommendations for the Director-General and the OPCW.
- 6.4 The SAB's collaboration and engagement across scientific communities continued throughout 2023. SAB members chaired, attended, and presented at conferences, continued with their leadership of professional chemistry societies, and continued to

partner with IUPAC and to issue publications in scientific literature. In particular, the SAB played a prominent role at the 49th IUPAC World Chemistry Congress (August 2023). SAB involvement in such activities ensures that the Secretariat stays abreast of developments in chemistry, maintains visibility and credibility among scientists, promotes responsible and ethical scientific practices, and supports education and outreach activities.

Engagement with the scientific community

- 6.5 The Secretariat's engagement with global scientific communities continued in 2023. Secretariat staff continued to serve on IUPAC committees.
- 6.6 The Secretariat continued to maintain a visible presence among technical communities in 2023, participating in the 2023 Gordon Research Conference on Chemical and Biological Defense (March 2023), the Global Congress on Chemical Security and Emerging Threats (October 2023), and the international workshop on the analysis of chemical warfare agents to mark the 50th anniversary of VERIFIN (November 2023). The Secretariat also delivered presentations at: the Chemical Weapons Demilitarisation Conference (May 2023); the CTBTO Science and Technology Conference (June 2023); the 49th IUPAC World Chemistry Congress (August 2023); the United Nations Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons (UNSGM) workshop (September 2023); and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute workshop on strengthening the Chemical Weapons Convention (November 2023). In addition, the Science Policy Adviser chaired the inaugural Gordon Research Conference on Nonproliferation, Counterproliferation and Disarmament Science (July 2023), and published an op-ed in the peer-reviewed journal *Nature* on how accessible scientific data presents opportunities in preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons.²⁰
- 6.7 The Plant Biomarker Challenge, for which research teams were awarded funds to investigate methods or systems by which a specific type of vegetation could act as an indicator of exposure to chemicals that are toxic to humans and/or animals, concluded in 2023. Five of the six research teams were able to present their work to the SAB at its Thirty-Seventh Session. The challenge was funded by the European Union and had already resulted in one peer-reviewed scientific publication, with several more expected in the next one to two years.
- 6.8 The Secretariat remained engaged with international organisation partners, participating in scientific and technical discussions, including with IUPAC, INTERPOL, the CTBTO, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, and the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit. In addition, scientific briefings were delivered at the T.M.C. Asser Institute's Annual Training Programme on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (September 2023) and at the OPCW's Twenty-Third Annual Induction Workshop for Diplomatic Personnel.

²⁰ *Nature* 623, 459 (2023), accessible at: https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-03509-1?utm_medium=Social&utm_campaign=nature&utm_source=Twitter#Echobox=1699975360.

Annex 1

**STATES PARTIES TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023²¹**

	State Party	Dates		
		Signature	Deposit	Entry into Force
1.	Afghanistan	14-01-93	24-09-03	24-10-03
2.	Albania	14-01-93	11-05-94	29-04-97
3.	Algeria	13-01-93	14-08-95	29-04-97
4.	Andorra		27-02-03[a]	29-03-03
5.	Angola		16-09-15[a]	16-10-15
6.	Antigua and Barbuda		29-08-05[a]	28-09-05
7.	Argentina	13-01-93	02-10-95	29-04-97
8.	Armenia	19-03-93	27-01-95	29-04-97
9.	Australia	13-01-93	06-05-94	29-04-97
10.	Austria	13-01-93	17-08-95	29-04-97
11.	Azerbaijan	13-01-93	29-02-00	30-03-00
12.	Bahamas	02-03-94	21-04-09	21-05-09
13.	Bahrain	24-02-93	28-04-97	29-04-97
14.	Bangladesh	14-01-93	25-04-97	29-04-97
15.	Barbados		07-03-07[a]	06-04-07
16.	Belarus	14-01-93	11-07-96	29-04-97
17.	Belgium	13-01-93	27-01-97	29-04-97
18.	Belize		01-12-03[a]	31-12-03
19.	Benin	14-01-93	14-05-98	13-06-98
20.	Bhutan	24-04-97	18-08-05	17-09-05
21.	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	14-01-93	14-08-98	13-09-98
22.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	16-01-97	25-02-97	29-04-97
23.	Botswana		31-08-98[a]	30-09-98
24.	Brazil	13-01-93	13-03-96	29-04-97
25.	Brunei Darussalam	13-01-93	28-07-97	27-08-97
26.	Bulgaria	13-01-93	10-08-94	29-04-97
27.	Burkina Faso	14-01-93	08-07-97	07-08-97
28.	Burundi	15-01-93	04-09-98	04-10-98
29.	Cabo Verde	15-01-93	10-10-03	09-11-03
30.	Cambodia	15-01-93	19-07-05	18-08-05
31.	Cameroon	14-01-93	16-09-96	29-04-97
32.	Canada	13-01-93	26-09-95	29-04-97

²¹

For each State Party listed, the date in the “Signature” column is that on which it signed the original of the Convention, which was received by the United Nations Secretary-General as depositary, while the date in the “Deposit” column is that on which the Secretary-General received an instrument of accession or ratification by the State Party. Throughout the table, “[a]” means “deposit of instrument of accession”, “[A]” means “deposit of instrument of acceptance”, and “[d]” means “deposit of instrument of succession”.

	State Party	Dates		
		Signature	Deposit	Entry into Force
33.	Central African Republic	14-01-93	20-09-06	20-10-06
34.	Chad	11-10-94	13-02-04	14-03-04
35.	Chile	14-01-93	12-07-96	29-04-97
36.	China	13-01-93	25-04-97	29-04-97
37.	Colombia	13-01-93	05-04-00	05-05-00
38.	Comoros	13-01-93	18-08-06	17-09-06
39.	Congo	15-01-93	04-12-07	03-01-08
40.	Cook Islands	14-01-93	15-07-94	29-04-97
41.	Costa Rica	14-01-93	31-05-96	29-04-97
42.	Côte d'Ivoire	13-01-93	18-12-95	29-04-97
43.	Croatia	13-01-93	23-05-95	29-04-97
44.	Cuba	13-01-93	29-04-97	29-05-97
45.	Cyprus	13-01-93	28-08-98	27-09-98
46.	Czech Republic	14-01-93	06-03-96	29-04-97
47.	Democratic Republic of the Congo	14-01-93	12-10-05	11-11-05
48.	Denmark	14-01-93	13-07-95	29-04-97
49.	Djibouti	28-09-93	25-01-06	24-02-06
50.	Dominica	02-08-93	12-02-01	14-03-01
51.	Dominican Republic	13-01-93	27-03-09	26-04-09
52.	Ecuador	14-01-93	06-09-95	29-04-97
53.	El Salvador	14-01-93	30-10-95	29-04-97
54.	Equatorial Guinea	14-01-93	25-04-97	29-04-97
55.	Eritrea		14-02-00[a]	15-03-00
56.	Estonia	14-01-93	26-05-99	25-06-99
57.	Eswatini	23-09-93	20-11-96	29-04-97
58.	Ethiopia	14-01-93	13-05-96	29-04-97
59.	Fiji	14-01-93	20-01-93	29-04-97
60.	Finland	14-01-93	07-02-95	29-04-97
61.	France	13-01-93	02-03-95	29-04-97
62.	Gabon	13-01-93	08-09-00	08-10-00
63.	Gambia	13-01-93	19-05-98	18-06-98
64.	Georgia	14-01-93	27-11-95	29-04-97
65.	Germany	13-01-93	12-08-94	29-04-97
66.	Ghana	14-01-93	09-07-97	08-08-97
67.	Greece	13-01-93	22-12-94	29-04-97
68.	Grenada	09-04-97	03-06-05	03-07-05
69.	Guatemala	14-01-93	12-02-03	14-03-03
70.	Guinea	14-01-93	09-06-97	09-07-97
71.	Guinea-Bissau	14-01-93	20-05-08	19-06-08
72.	Guyana	06-10-93	12-09-97	12-10-97
73.	Haiti	14-01-93	22-02-06	24-03-06
74.	Holy See	14-01-93	12-05-99	11-06-99

	State Party	Dates		
		Signature	Deposit	Entry into Force
75.	Honduras	13-01-93	29-08-05	28-09-05
76.	Hungary	13-01-93	31-10-96	29-04-97
77.	Iceland	13-01-93	28-04-97	29-04-97
78.	India	14-01-93	03-09-96	29-04-97
79.	Indonesia	13-01-93	12-11-98	12-12-98
80.	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	13-01-93	03-11-97	03-12-97
81.	Iraq		13-01-09[a]	12-02-09
82.	Ireland	14-01-93	24-06-96	29-04-97
83.	Italy	13-01-93	08-12-95	29-04-97
84.	Jamaica	18-04-97	08-09-00	08-10-00
85.	Japan	13-01-93	15-09-95	29-04-97
86.	Jordan		29-10-97[a]	28-11-97
87.	Kazakhstan	14-01-93	23-03-00	22-04-00
88.	Kenya	15-01-93	25-04-97	29-04-97
89.	Kiribati		07-09-00[a]	07-10-00
90.	Kuwait	27-01-93	29-05-97	28-06-97
91.	Kyrgyzstan	22-02-93	29-09-03	29-10-03
92.	Lao People's Democratic Republic	13-05-93	25-02-97	29-04-97
93.	Latvia	06-05-93	23-07-96	29-04-97
94.	Lebanon		20-11-08[a]	20-12-08
95.	Lesotho	07-12-94	07-12-94	29-04-97
96.	Liberia	15-01-93	23-02-06	25-03-06
97.	Libya		06-01-04[a]	05-02-04
98.	Liechtenstein	21-07-93	24-11-99	24-12-99
99.	Lithuania	13-01-93	15-04-98	15-05-98
100.	Luxembourg	13-01-93	15-04-97	29-04-97
101.	Madagascar	15-01-93	20-10-04	19-11-04
102.	Malawi	14-01-93	11-06-98	11-07-98
103.	Malaysia	13-01-93	20-04-00	20-05-00
104.	Maldives	04-10-93	31-05-94	29-04-97
105.	Mali	13-01-93	28-04-97	29-04-97
106.	Malta	13-01-93	28-04-97	29-04-97
107.	Marshall Islands	13-01-93	19-05-04	18-06-04
108.	Mauritania	13-01-93	09-02-98	11-03-98
109.	Mauritius	14-01-93	09-02-93	29-04-97
110.	Mexico	13-01-93	29-08-94	29-04-97
111.	Micronesia (Federated States of)	13-01-93	21-06-99	21-07-99
112.	Monaco	13-01-93	01-06-95	29-04-97
113.	Mongolia	14-01-93	17-01-95	29-04-97
114.	Montenegro		23-10-06[d]	03-06-06
115.	Morocco	13-01-93	28-12-95	29-04-97
116.	Mozambique		15-08-00[a]	14-09-00

	State Party	Dates		
		Signature	Deposit	Entry into Force
117.	Myanmar	14-01-93	08-07-15	07-08-15
118.	Namibia	13-01-93	24-11-95	29-04-97
119.	Nauru	13-01-93	12-11-01	12-12-01
120.	Nepal	19-01-93	18-11-97	18-12-97
121.	Netherlands	14-01-93	30-06-95	29-04-97
122.	New Zealand	14-01-93	15-07-96	29-04-97
123.	Nicaragua	09-03-93	05-11-99	05-12-99
124.	Niger	14-01-93	09-04-97	29-04-97
125.	Nigeria	13-01-93	20-05-99	19-06-99
126.	Niue		21-04-05[a]	21-05-05
127.	North Macedonia		20-06-97[a]	20-07-97
128.	Norway	13-01-93	07-04-94	29-04-97
129.	Oman	02-02-93	08-02-95	29-04-97
130.	Pakistan	13-01-93	28-10-97	27-11-97
131.	Palau		03-02-03[a]	05-03-03
132.	Panama	16-06-93	07-10-98	06-11-98
133.	Papua New Guinea	14-01-93	17-04-96	29-04-97
134.	Paraguay	14-01-93	01-12-94	29-04-97
135.	Peru	14-01-93	20-07-95	29-04-97
136.	Philippines	13-01-93	11-12-96	29-04-97
137.	Poland	13-01-93	23-08-95	29-04-97
138.	Portugal	13-01-93	10-09-96	29-04-97
139.	Qatar	01-02-93	03-09-97	03-10-97
140.	Republic of Korea	14-01-93	28-04-97	29-04-97
141.	Republic of Moldova	13-01-93	08-07-96	29-04-97
142.	Romania	13-01-93	15-02-95	29-04-97
143.	Russian Federation	13-01-93	05-11-97	05-12-97
144.	Rwanda	17-05-93	31-03-04	30-04-04
145.	Saint Kitts and Nevis	16-03-94	21-05-04	20-06-04
146.	Saint Lucia	29-03-93	09-04-97	29-04-97
147.	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	20-09-93	18-09-02	18-10-02
148.	Samoa	14-01-93	27-09-02	27-10-02
149.	San Marino	13-01-93	10-12-99	09-01-00
150.	Sao Tome and Principe		09-09-03[A]	09-10-03
151.	Saudi Arabia	20-01-93	09-08-96	29-04-97
152.	Senegal	13-01-93	20-07-98	19-08-98
153.	Serbia		20-04-00[a]	20-05-00
154.	Seychelles	15-01-93	07-04-93	29-04-97
155.	Sierra Leone	15-01-93	30-09-04	30-10-04
156.	Singapore	14-01-93	21-05-97	20-06-97
157.	Slovakia	14-01-93	27-10-95	29-04-97
158.	Slovenia	14-01-93	11-06-97	11-07-97

	State Party	Dates		
		Signature	Deposit	Entry into Force
159.	Solomon Islands		23-09-04[a]	23-10-04
160.	Somalia		29-05-13[a]	28-06-13
161.	South Africa	14-01-93	13-09-95	29-04-97
162.	Spain	13-01-93	03-08-94	29-04-97
163.	Sri Lanka	14-01-93	19-08-94	29-04-97
164.	State of Palestine		17-05-18	16-06-18
165.	Sudan		24-05-99[a]	23-06-99
166.	Suriname	28-04-97	28-04-97	29-04-97
167.	Sweden	13-01-93	17-06-93	29-04-97
168.	Switzerland	14-01-93	10-03-95	29-04-97
169.	Syrian Arab Republic		14-09-13[a]	14-10-13
170.	Tajikistan	14-01-93	11-01-95	29-04-97
171.	Thailand	14-01-93	10-12-02	09-01-03
172.	Timor-Leste		07-05-03[a]	06-06-03
173.	Togo	13-01-93	23-04-97	29-04-97
174.	Tonga		29-05-03[a]	28-06-03
175.	Trinidad and Tobago		24-06-97[a]	24-07-97
176.	Tunisia	13-01-93	15-04-97	29-04-97
177.	Türkiye	14-01-93	12-05-97	11-06-97
178.	Turkmenistan	12-10-93	29-09-94	29-04-97
179.	Tuvalu		19-01-04[a]	18-02-04
180.	Uganda	14-01-93	30-11-01	30-12-01
181.	Ukraine	13-01-93	16-10-98	15-11-98
182.	United Arab Emirates	02-02-93	28-11-00	28-12-00
183.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	13-01-93	13-05-96	29-04-97
184.	United Republic of Tanzania	25-02-94	25-06-98	25-07-98
185.	United States of America	13-01-93	25-04-97	29-04-97
186.	Uruguay	15-01-93	06-10-94	29-04-97
187.	Uzbekistan	24-11-95	23-07-96	29-04-97
188.	Vanuatu		16-09-05[a]	16-10-05
189.	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	14-01-93	03-12-97	02-01-98
190.	Viet Nam	13-01-93	30-09-98	30-10-98
191.	Yemen	08-02-93	02-10-00	01-11-00
192.	Zambia	13-01-93	09-02-01	11-03-01
193.	Zimbabwe	13-01-93	25-04-97	29-04-97

Annex 2

**CHEMICAL WEAPONS DESTRUCTION FACILITIES
IN SERVICE OR UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN 2023**

Chemical Weapons Destruction Facilities by State Party	
United States of America	Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) Recovered Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility (RCWDF)* Chemical Transfer Facility/Munition Assessment Processing System (CTF/MAPS)* Prototype Detonation Test and Destruction Facility (PDTDF)

* No destruction took place at the facility in 2023.

Annex 3

**CHEMICAL WEAPONS DECLARED, DESTROYED, AND WITHDRAWN²²
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Common Name of Chemical	Number of MT Declared	Number of MT Destroyed²³
Category 1		
Sarin (GB)	15,047.041	15,047.041
Soman (GD) + viscous soman	9,057.203	9,057.203
Tabun (GA) + GA with UCON	2.283	2.283
VX/Vx + viscous Vx	19,586.722	19,586.722
EA 1699	0.002	0.002
Sulfur mustard (sulfur mustard, H, HD, HT, sulfur mustard in oil product)	17,439.877	17,439.877
Mixtures of sulfur mustard and lewisite (including HD/L mixture in dichloroethane)	344.679	344.679
Lewisite	6,746.876	6,746.876
DF	1,024.765	1,024.765
QL	46.174	46.174
OPA	730.545	730.545
Unknown	3.863	3.863
Toxic waste	1.705	1.705
Hexamine	78.231	78.231
IZO	133.325	133.325
Substance A	112.300	112.300
Substance B/BB	97.879	97.879
Substance B salt	40.170	40.170
Total Category 1:	70,493.640	70,493.640
Category 2		
Adamsite	0.350	0.350
CN	0.989	0.989
CNS	0.010	0.010
Chloroethanol	323.150	323.150
Thiodiglycol	50.960	50.960
Phosgene	10.616	10.616
Isopropanol	114.103	114.103
Phosphorous trichloride	154.056	154.056
Pinacolyl alcohol	19.257	19.257
Thionyl chloride	100.834	100.834
Sodium sulfide	246.625	246.625
Sodium fluoride	304.725	304.725
Tributylamine	238.655	238.655

²² Chemical warfare agents and precursors declared as Category 1 and Category 2 chemical weapons.

²³ Including Schedule 1 chemicals withdrawn from chemical weapons stocks (2.913 MT). The rounding rule has been applied.

Common Name of Chemical	Number of MT Declared	Number of MT Destroyed²³
DIPA ethanol	8.356	8.356
DMP	5.725	5.725
Hydrogen fluoride	31.850	31.850
Hydrogen chloride	44.500	44.500
Methanol	1.480	1.480
Monoisopropylamine	36.120	36.120
Butanol	3.792	3.792
Phosphorous pentasulfide	11.250	11.250
Phosphorous oxychloride	13.500	13.500
TEA	34.000	34.000
TMP	55.800	55.800
Total Category 2:	1,810.703	1,810.703
Total	72,304.343	71,304.343

Annex 4

**NUMBER OF STATES PARTIES THAT HAD DECLARED
RIOT CONTROL AGENTS, BY TYPE OF AGENT,
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023²⁴**

Name of Riot Control Agent	Number of States Parties That Had Declared Possession
CS	119
CN	64
OC	26
PAVA	13
Capsaicin	16
CR	14
Other types	12

Total number of States Parties that had declared possession of riot control agents: 137

²⁴ The Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) nomenclature for riot control agents listed in this chart is as follows:

CS: CAS number 2698-41-1;
CN: CAS number 532-27-4;
OC: CAS number 8023-77-6;
PAVA: CAS number 2444-46-4;
Capsaicin: CAS number 404-86-4; and
CR: CAS number 257-07-8.

Other types include mixtures of chemicals mentioned in the table or older types of riot control agents.

Annex 5

**LIST OF DESIGNATED LABORATORIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023
(ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS)**

	State Party	Laboratory Name	Date of Designation
1.	Australia	Defence Science and Technology Group	25 Mar 2021
2.	Belgium	Defensielaboratoria – Laboratoires de la Défense (DLD)	12 May 2004
3.	Brazil	Laboratório de Análises Químicas, Centro Tecnológico do Exército (CTEx)	31 Aug 2021
4.	China	Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry Research Institute of Chemical Defence	17 Nov 1998
5.	China	Laboratory of Toxicant Analysis Academy of Military Medical Sciences	14 Sept 2007
6.	Finland	Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN)	29 Mar 2017
7.	France	DGA Maîtrise NRBC Département Analyse Chimique	29 Jun 1999
8.	Germany	Bundeswehr Research Institute for Protective Technologies and CBRN Protection	29 Jun 1999
9.	India	VERTOX Laboratory Defence Research and Development Establishment	18 Apr 2006
10.	India	Centre for Analysis of Chemical Toxins – Indian Institute of Chemical Technology	4 Apr 2023
11.	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Defence Chemical Research Laboratory	3 Aug 2011
12.	Netherlands	TNO Defence, Safety and Security	17 Nov 1998
13.	Norway	Laboratory for the Analysis of Chemical Threat Agents, Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI)	25 Mar 2021
14.	Pakistan	Analytical Laboratory, Defense Science Technology Organization	18 Apr 2018
15.	Republic of Korea	Chemical Analysis Laboratory CBR Directorate, Agency for Defense Development	3 Aug 2011
16.	Republic of Korea	CBRN Defense Research Institute ROK Defense Command	15 Aug 2022
17.	Romania	Research and Innovation Center for CBRN Defense and Ecology, Chemical Analysis Laboratory	18 Apr 2018
18.	Russian Federation	Laboratory for the Chemical and Analytical Control of the Military Research Centre	4 Aug 2000
19.	Russian Federation	Central Chemical Weapons Destruction Analytical Laboratory of the Federal State Unitary Enterprise, “State Scientific Research Institute of Organic Chemistry and Technology”	15 Apr 2015
20.	Singapore	Verification Laboratory Defence Medical and Environmental Research Institute DSO National Laboratories	14 Apr 2003
21.	Spain	Laboratorio de Verificación de Armas Químicas (LAVEMA), INTA Campus La Marañosa	8 Sept 2004
22.	Sweden	Swedish Defence Research Agency, FOI	17 Nov 1998
23.	Switzerland	Spiez Laboratory Swiss NBC Defence Establishment	17 Nov 1998

	State Party	Laboratory Name	Date of Designation
24.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Defence Science and Technology Laboratory Porton Down	29 Jun 1999
25.	United States of America	DEVCOM Chemical Biological Center Forensic Analytical Laboratory	17 Nov 1998
26.	United States of America	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	14 Apr 2003

LIST OF DESIGNATED LABORATORIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023
(BIOMEDICAL ANALYSIS)

	State Party	Laboratory Name	Date of Designation
1.	Australia	Defence Science and Technology Group	1 Aug 2016
2.	China	Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry Research Institute of Chemical Defence	1 Aug 2016
3.	China	Laboratory of Toxicant Analysis Academy of Military Medical Sciences	1 Aug 2016
4.	Finland	Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN)	1 Aug 2016
5.	France	DGA Maîtrise NRBC Département Analyse Chimique	1 Aug 2016
6.	Germany	Bundeswehr Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology	1 Aug 2016
7.	India	Biomedical Verification Division Defence Research and Development Establishment	1 Aug 2016
8.	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Defense Chemical Research Laboratory	31 Aug 2021
9.	Netherlands	TNO Defence, Safety and Security	1 Aug 2016
10.	Republic of Korea	Chemical Analysis Laboratory CBR Directorate, Agency for Defense Development	31 Aug 2021
11.	Russian Federation	Laboratory for the Chemical and Analytical Control of the Military Research Centre	1 Aug 2016
12.	Russian Federation	Laboratory of Chemical Analytical Control and Biotesting, Research Institute of Hygiene, Occupational Pathology and Human Ecology (RIHOPHE)	1 Aug 2016
13.	Singapore	Verification Laboratory Defence Medical and Environmental Research Institute DSO National Laboratories	1 Aug 2016
14.	Sweden	Swedish Defence Research Agency, FOI	1 Aug 2016
15.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Defence Science and Technology Laboratory Porton Down	1 Aug 2016
16.	United States of America	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	11 Jul 2017
17.	United States of America	DEVCOM, Chemical Biological Center Forensic Analytical Laboratory	1 Aug 2016
18.	United States of America	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	1 Aug 2016
19.	United States of America	U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense	19 Aug 2019

Annex 6

SUMMARISED FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR 2023²⁵

STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS BY FUNDING PROGRAMME AND SUBPROGRAMME
FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

Funding Programme	Final Appropriation	Total Expenditure	Balance of Appropriations
1	2	3	4 (2-3)
CHAPTER 1			
1. Verification Programme	9,675,33	8,559,891	1,115,448
2. Inspections Programme	21,772,520	21,652,480	120,040
TOTAL CHAPTER 1	31,447,859	30,212,371	1,235,488
CHAPTER 2			
3. International Cooperation and Assistance Programme	7,282,012	6,514,580	767,432
4. Support to the Policy-Making Organs	6,101,217	6,095,801	5,416
5. External Relations Programme	2,206,602	2,197,10	9,493
6. Executive Management Programme	10,986,293	10,976,318	9,975
7. Administration Programme	15,720,641	15,712,800	7,841
TOTAL CHAPTER 2	42,296,765	41,496,608	800,157
GRAND TOTAL	73,744,624	71,708,979	2,035,645

BANK BALANCES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

Fund	Balance	
	As at 31 December 2023 ²⁶	As at 31 December 2022
General Fund	9,163,941	13,154,346
Working Capital Fund	8,143,668	3,133,878
Voluntary Fund for Assistance (Article X)	1,605,423	1,582,950
OPCW special accounts	3,979,606	3,160,988
OPCW trust funds	22,762,763	26,730,576
Total	45,655,401	47,767,738

²⁶ The bank balances of funds will usually differ from the status of fund balances owing to timing differences.

Annex 7

STATUS OF FUND BALANCES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

Fund Balances

Working Capital Fund, Special Funds, Voluntary Fund for Assistance, Trust Funds	Balance as at 1 January 2023	2023 Income	Refunds/ Transfers During 2023	Prior Years' Adjustments	Expenditure During 2023	Fund Balance as at 31 December 2023
	A	B	C	D	E	F (A+B+C+D-E)
Working Capital Fund	8,143,174	157,251	(160,483)	-	-	8,139,941
Special funds	3,782,065	41,467	762,358	-	464,427	4,121,463
Voluntary Fund for Assistance (Article X)	1,567,975	16,111	-	-	-	1,589,085
Trust funds	14,475,207	11,757,457	(7,445)	-	11,233,070	14,992,150

Syria Trust Fund Balances

Syria Trust Funds	Balance as at 1 January 2023	2023 Income	Refunds/ Transfers During 2023	Prior Years' Adjustments	Expenditure During 2023	Fund Balance as at 31 December 2023
	A	B	C	D	E	F (A+B+C+D-E)
Syria Trust Fund for the Destruction of Chemical Weapons	191,988	4,576	-	-	-	196,563
Trust Fund for Syria Missions	1,147,314	2,185,049	184,648	-	3,223,792	293,219

Annex 8

**INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND LEGAL INSTRUMENTS REGISTERED BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT
FROM 1 JANUARY 2023 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023**

International Agreements Registered in 2023				
OPCW Registration Number	Subject of Agreement/Instrument	Parties	Date of	
			Signature	Entry into Force
IAR 732	Technical Agreement between the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and Bundeswehr Research Institute for Protective Technologies and CBRN Protection (WIS Laboratory), Germany Concerning Sample Preparation for the 53rd Official OPCW Proficiency Test	OPCW Technical Secretariat Bundeswehr Research Institute for Protective Technologies and CBRN Protection (WIS Laboratory), Germany	14-12-22 14-01-23	14-01-23
IAR 733	Exchange of Letters: Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the State of Qatar and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for the Centre for Chemistry and Technology	OPCW Technical Secretariat Qatar	20-01-23 20-01-23	20-01-23
IAR 734	Exchange of Letters: Voluntary Contribution Agreement between Brazil and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for the Centre for Chemistry and Technology	OPCW Technical Secretariat Brazil	06-02-23 30-01-23	06-02-23
IAR 735	Exchange of Letters: Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the United States of America and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for Syria Missions	OPCW Technical Secretariat United States of America	14-02-23 12-12-22	14-02-23

International Agreements Registered in 2023				
OPCW Registration Number	Subject of Agreement/Instrument	Parties	Date of	
			Signature	Entry into Force
IAR 736	Exchange of Letters: Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the Republic of Korea and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for Regional Seminars	OPCW Technical Secretariat Republic of Korea	21-02-23 21-02-23	21-02-23
IAR 737	Exchange of Letters: Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the Republic of Korea and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for a Centre for Chemistry and Technology	OPCW Technical Secretariat Republic of Korea	21-02-23 21-02-23	21-02-23
IAR 738	Exchange of Letters: Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Spain and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for a Centre for Chemistry and Technology	OPCW Technical Secretariat Spain	24-02-23 24-02-23	24-02-23
IAR 739	Exchange of Letters: Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Spain and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for a Centre for Chemistry and Technology	OPCW Technical Secretariat Spain	24-02-23 24-02-23	24-02-23
IAR 740	Exchange of Letters: Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Spain and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for Security and Business Continuity	OPCW Technical Secretariat Spain	24-02-23 24-02-23	24-02-23

International Agreements Registered in 2023				
OPCW Registration Number	Subject of Agreement/Instrument	Parties	Date of	
			Signature	Entry into Force
IAR 741	Exchange of Letters: Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Spain and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for Training	OPCW Technical Secretariat Spain	24-02-23 24-02-23	24-02-23
IAR 742	Exchange of Letters: Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Spain and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to the Trust Fund for Training – Algeria and Morocco	OPCW Technical Secretariat Spain	24-02-23 24-02-23	24-02-23
IAR 743	Technical Agreement between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons concerning the Conduct of Training	OPCW Technical Secretariat Serbia	06-02-23 20-03-23	20-03-23
IAR 744	Technical Agreement between the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and FOI, Swedish Defence Research Agency, Sweden concerning Evaluation of the Results for the 53rd Official OPCW Proficiency Test	OPCW Technical Secretariat FOI Swedish Defence Research Agency, Sweden	17-04-23 23-04-23	23-04-23
IAR 745	Exchange of Letters: Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the Government of New Zealand and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for Syria Missions	OPCW Technical Secretariat New Zealand	01-05-23 20-04-23	01-05-23

International Agreements Registered in 2023				
OPCW Registration Number	Subject of Agreement/Instrument	Parties	Date of	
			Signature	Entry into Force
IAR 746	Technical Arrangement between the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and Laboratory for Analysis of Chemical Threat Agents, Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI), Norway, regarding the Off-Site Analysis of Samples	OPCW Technical Secretariat Laboratory for Analysis of Chemical Threat Agents, Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI), Norway	01-05-23 15-05-23	15-05-23
IAR 747	Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for Training and the Trust Fund for the Implementation of Article X	OPCW Technical Secretariat France	03-05-23 03-05-23	03-05-23
IAR 748	Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the Slovak Republic and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for Syria Missions	OPCW Technical Secretariat Slovakia	05-05-23 05-05-23	05-05-23
IAR 749	Exchange of Letters: Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for a Centre for Chemistry and Technology	OPCW Technical Secretariat Croatia	09-05-23 08-05-23	09-05-23
IAR 750	Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the Czech Republic and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons for the Trust Fund for the Implementation of Article X	OPCW Technical Secretariat Czech Republic	31-05-23 31-05-23	31-05-23

International Agreements Registered in 2023				
OPCW Registration Number	Subject of Agreement/Instrument	Parties	Date of	
			Signature	Entry into Force
IAR 751	Strategic Framework between the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), USA, and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on Collaboration Opportunities for Partnership	OPCW Technical Secretariat Defense Threat Reduction Agency, United States of America	12-06-23 12-06-23	12-06-23
IAR 752	Exchange of Letters: Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for Syria Missions	OPCW Technical Secretariat United States of America	19-06-23 26-05-23	19-06-23
IAR 753	Exchange of letters: Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the Government Offices of Sweden (Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs) and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for the Implementation of Article X	OPCW Technical Secretariat Sweden, MFA	21-06-23 12-06-23	21-06-23
IAR 754	Exchange of letters: Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the Government Offices of Sweden (Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs) and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for Syria Missions	OPCW Technical Secretariat Sweden, MFA	21-06-23 12-06-23	21-06-23
IAR 755	Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for Syria Missions	OPCW Technical Secretariat Australia	19-06-23 21-06-23	21-06-23

International Agreements Registered in 2023				
OPCW Registration Number	Subject of Agreement/Instrument	Parties	Date of	
			Signature	Entry into Force
IAR 756	Exchange of Letters: Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the United States of America and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to support a Junior Professional Officer (JPO)	OPCW Technical Secretariat United States of America	10-07-23 20-06-23	10-07-23
IAR 757	Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for the Implementation of Article X	OPCW Technical Secretariat Finland	18-07-23 18-07-23	18-07-23
IAR 758	Memorandum of Understanding between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, represented by the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding a voluntary contribution to the Trust Fund for Syria Missions	OPCW Technical Secretariat United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (FCDO)	26-07-23 27-07-23	27-07-23
IAR 759	Memorandum of Understanding between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland represented by the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding a voluntary contribution to the Trust Fund for Training	OPCW Technical Secretariat United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (FCDO)	04-08-23 08-08-23	08-08-23
IAR 760	Exchange of Letters: Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the Government of the State of Qatar and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for Regional Seminars	OPCW Technical Secretariat Qatar	30-08-23 28-08-23	30-08-23

International Agreements Registered in 2023				
OPCW Registration Number	Subject of Agreement/Instrument	Parties	Date of	
			Signature	Entry into Force
IAR 761	Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the Government of His Serene Highness Albert II of Monaco and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for the Syria Missions	OPCW Technical Secretariat Monaco	08-09-23 08-09-23	08-09-23
IAR 762	Contract between the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland, as represented by the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding a voluntary contribution to the Trust Fund for the Implementation of Article X	OPCW Technical Secretariat MFA Ireland	11-09-23 30-08-23	11-09-23
IAR 763	Ad Hoc Agreement between the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and Ukraine on Privileges and Immunities for Technical Assistance Visits	OPCW Technical Secretariat Ukraine	09-08-23 01-08-23	EIF pending
IAR 764	Memorandum of Understanding between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Represented by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding a Voluntary Contribution to the Trust Fund for the Implementation of Article X	OPCW Technical Secretariat United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (FCDO)	05-09-23 12-09-23	12-09-23
IAR 765	Technical Arrangement between the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO), the Netherlands regarding the Off-Site Analysis of Samples	OPCW Technical Secretariat TNO, Netherlands	19-09-23 09-10-23	09-10-23

International Agreements Registered in 2023				
OPCW Registration Number	Subject of Agreement/Instrument	Parties	Date of	
			Signature	Entry into Force
IAR 766	Agreement for the Adherence of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to the European Union–United Nations Financial and Administrative Framework (FAFA)	OPCW European Commission	26-09-23 22-09-23	26-09-23
IAR 767	Technical Agreement between the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research–Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT), Hyderabad, India concerning Sample Preparation for the 54th Official OPCW Proficiency Test	OPCW Technical Secretariat The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research–Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT)	10-10-23 Unspecified in TA (signed in person on 16-10-23)	16-10-23
IAR 768	Technical Agreement between the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO), concerning Evaluation of the Results for the 54th Official OPCW Proficiency Test	OPCW Technical Secretariat TNO, Netherlands	10-10-23 17-10-23	17-10-23
IAR 769	Exchange of Letters: Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for Training	OPCW Technical Secretariat China	17-10-23 12-10-23	17-10-23
IAR 770	Technical Agreement between the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC, United States of America, concerning Sample Preparation for the 9th Official OPCW Biomedical Proficiency Test	OPCW Technical Secretariat Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC, United States of America	20-10-23 07-11-23	07-11-23
IAR 771	Exchange of Letters: Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the Government of New Zealand and the Technical	OPCW Technical Secretariat	10-11-23	10-11-23

International Agreements Registered in 2023				
OPCW Registration Number	Subject of Agreement/Instrument	Parties	Date of	
			Signature	Entry into Force
	Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for Regional Seminars	New Zealand	10-11-23	
IAR 772	Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the Government of the Principality of Andorra and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons and the Trust Fund for Training	OPCW Technical Secretariat Andorra	23-11-23 23-11-23	23-11-23
IAR 773	Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the State of Kuwait and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for the Scientific Advisory Board	OPCW Technical Secretariat Kuwait	29-11-23 29-11-23	29-11-23
IAR 774	Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons	OPCW Technical Secretariat Austria	05-12-23 05-12-23	05-12-23
IAR 775	Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the Government of the Netherlands and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for the Implementation of Article X	OPCW Technical Secretariat Netherlands	08-12-23 10-12-23	10-12-23
IAR 776	Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for the Implementation of Article X and the Trust Fund for OPCW Events	OPCW Technical Secretariat Germany	11-12-23 11-12-23	11-12-23

International Agreements Registered in 2023				
OPCW Registration Number	Subject of Agreement/Instrument	Parties	Date of	
			Signature	Entry into Force
IAR 777	Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the Czech Republic and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for the Implementation of Article X	OPCW Technical Secretariat Czech Republic	19-12-23 19-12-23	19-12-23
IAR 778	Voluntary Contribution Agreement between the Republic of Lithuania and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the Trust Fund for Syria Missions	OPCW Technical Secretariat Lithuania	19-12-23 19-12-23	19-12-23
IAR 779	UN Agency to UN Agency Contribution Agreement between the United Nations and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons	OPCW United Nations, acting through the Office of Counter-Terrorism	13-07-21 01-07-21	13-07-21

Amendments to International Agreements Registered in 2023				
OPCW Registration Number	Subject of Agreement/Instrument	Parties	Date of	
			Signature	Entry into Force
IAR 381(u)	Amendment No. 21 to the Agreement between the United Nations Office for Project Services and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic	OPCW United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Syrian Arab Republic	22-06-23 22-06-23 26-06-23	26-06-23
IAR 381(v)	Amendment No. 22 to the Agreement between the United Nations Office for Project Services and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic	OPCW United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Syrian Arab Republic	24-11-23 26-11-23 05-12-23	05-12-23
IAR 427(f)	Amendment Six to the Administrative Arrangement between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development of the French Republic and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Regarding the Trust Fund for Syria Missions	OPCW Technical Secretariat France – MFA	23-03-23 22-03-23	23-03-23
IAR 689(s)	Amendment Nineteen to the Contribution Agreement between the United Nations Office for Project Services and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons with Respect to the Provision of Services for the OPCW Operations in the Syrian Arab Republic	OPCW United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)	20-12-22 30-12-22	30-12-22
IAR 689(t)	Amendment Twenty to the Contribution Agreement between the United Nations Office for Project Services and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons with Respect to the Provision of Services for the OPCW Operations in the Syrian Arab Republic	OPCW United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)	30-06-23 27-06-23	30-06-23

Amendments to International Agreements Registered in 2023				
OPCW Registration Number	Subject of Agreement/Instrument	Parties	Date of	
			Signature	Entry into Force
IAR 689(u)	Amendment Twenty-One to the Contribution Agreement between the United Nations Office for Project Services and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons with Respect to the Provision of Services for the OPCW operations in the Syrian Arab Republic	OPCW United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)	20-12-23 21-12-23	21-12-23
IAR 706(c)	Amendment: Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Annex A-03 “Provision of Detection, Identification and Monitoring Equipment, Support and Training to Ukrainian First Responders”	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland OPCW	26-01-23 08-02-23	08-02-23
IAR 710(b)	Amendment: Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, represented by the Ministry of Defence, and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons for the Provision of Funding Support to the OPCW, Annex 02 “CWC Regional Training for 5 East Africa Community States”	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Ministry of Defence) OPCW Technical Secretariat	25-05-23 30-06-23	30-06-23
IAR 710(b)(i)	Amendment 1 to Annex 02: Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Represented by the Ministry of Defence, and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons for the Provision of Funding Support to the OPCW	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Ministry of Defence) OPCW Technical Secretariat	30-10-23 02-11-23	02-11-23

Amendments to International Agreements Registered in 2023				
OPCW Registration Number	Subject of Agreement/Instrument	Parties	Date of	
			Signature	Entry into Force
IAR 710(c)	Amendment: Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Represented by the Ministry of Defence, and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons for the Provision of Funding Support to the OPCW, Annex 03 “OPCW Technical Secretariat Training and Command and Control Training”	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Ministry of Defence) OPCW Technical Secretariat	25-05-23 30-06-23	30-06-23
IAR 710(d)	Amendment: Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Represented by the Ministry of Defence, and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons for the Provision of Funding Support to the OPCW, Annex 04 “Biotoxin Analysis: Enhancing the OPCW Technical Secretariat’s Ability to Respond to the Deliberate Use of Biotoxins”	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Ministry of Defence) OPCW	06-09-23 11-09-23	11-09-23
IAR 717(a)	Amendment to the Agreement between the Government of the State of Qatar and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Regarding a Contribution to the Trust Fund for Regional Seminars	Qatar OPCW	13-12-22 25-01-23	25-01-23
IAR 779 (a)	Amendment One to the UN Agency to UN Agency Contribution Agreement between the United Nations and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons	OPCW United Nations, acting through the Office of Counter-Terrorism	19-01-23 28-12-22	19-01-23

- - - 0 - - -