

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT****UPDATE ON EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT IN
THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE
SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2024****INTRODUCTION**

1. The aim of this Note is to provide the Member States of the OPCW with information on a four-monthly basis regarding the capacity-building activities delivered by the Technical Secretariat (the Secretariat) through its international cooperation and assistance programmes. These programmes support efforts by Member States to effectively implement the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention), in particular Articles VII, X, and XI. This Note covers the period 1 September to 31 December 2024.
2. The delivery of the International Cooperation and Assistance Programme continues to face challenges due to rising costs, necessitating adjustments to some planned events. In response, the Secretariat is placing a strong emphasis on reducing delivery costs wherever possible, while actively mobilising extrabudgetary funds to mitigate the impact of these challenges. These efforts are undertaken with a firm commitment to maintaining the quality of the Programme.

IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT – ARTICLE VII**Legislative review activities**

3. The Secretariat reviewed draft legislation for the national implementation of the Convention submitted by one State—Seychelles—in November. Comments were provided to the above-mentioned State Party by the Secretariat.

National Authority Mentorship/Partnership Programme

4. Two visits took place under the National Authority Mentorship/Partnership Programme during the reporting period: Representatives of the National Authority of Kenya conducted a return visit to India from 23 to 27 September 2024, and representatives of the National Authority of Sri Lanka made a return visit to Malaysia from 21 to 25 October 2024. The Mentorship/Partnership Programme seeks to facilitate the provision of technical support and assistance to States Parties through a series of National Authority exchange visits. The visits provide participants with diverse insights into national implementation processes, as well as an opportunity to share experiences and good practices and strengthen regional and bilateral relationships on issues related to national implementation of the Convention.



National legislative review forum with Sao Tome and Principe, online, 6 September 2024

5. This forum assisted the OPCW Member State in fulfilling its Article VII obligations related to the drafting and adoption of Convention implementing laws and regulations. Jointly with the delegates nominated by the Member State, the Secretariat reviewed the scope of Sao Tome and Principe's draft implementing legislation on the Convention and provided specific advice to ensure that their legislative frameworks for the Convention would comply with obligations under the Convention when enacted. Five representatives from Sao Tome and Principe participated in the forum.

Subregional conference on enforcing effective customs control of the trade in toxic chemicals in the Pacific region, Port Vila, Vanuatu, 24 – 26 September 2024

6. This conference, designed for customs administrations and National Authorities of Pacific Island States Parties, strengthened the awareness and understanding of the importance of the Convention in preventing the illicit trade and transit of scheduled chemicals. In particular, the conference provided a venue to discuss challenges and best practices in enforcing effective control of the trade and transit of scheduled chemicals. A total of 28 participants from 16 Member States, including 13 Pacific Island States, attended the event, as well as representatives from the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Customs Organization, and the Oceania Customs Organisation. The following OPCW Member States were represented: Australia, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Malaysia, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Eleventh annual meeting of representatives of the chemical industry and National Authorities, Doha, Qatar, 15 – 17 October 2024

7. This meeting provided a forum for personnel from National Authorities and chemical industry representatives to share experiences and discuss developments, good practices, and challenges in relation to the implementation of the Convention at the national, regional, and global level. A total of 53 participants from 28 Member States from all geographical regions attended: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, India, Iraq, Italy, Mauritius, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, South Africa, the State of Palestine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

Expert meeting on best practices for legislative and regulatory frameworks on chemical security, The Hague, the Netherlands, 21 and 22 October 2024

8. This meeting was held at the OPCW Main Building and Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre) and brought together select experts in chemical security from all regional groups to review initial findings and recommendations gathered through regional best practice workshops conducted by the Secretariat in 2022 and 2023. The experts discussed the scope and structure of a future compendium of such best practices, and reviewed current best practices with regard to their relevance and applicability to a wide range of OPCW Member States.

Workshop on sharing best practices in resolving transfer discrepancies, Madrid, Spain, 29 and 30 October 2024

9. This workshop facilitated an exchange of views on and experience in resolving transfer discrepancies among OPCW Member States from the Western European and Others Group and select trading partners from Eastern Europe in order to share best practices in identifying and resolving transfer discrepancies. A total of 28 participants from 16 Member States attended: the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

Twenty-Sixth- Annual Meeting of National Authorities, The Hague, the Netherlands, 20 – 22 November 2024

10. National Authorities were updated on the highlights and achievements of capacity -development activities since the Twenty--Fifth Annual Meeting, and the Secretariat and OPCW Member States discussed ways to renew commitments to strengthening cooperation and increasing engagement on the implementation of the Convention. Key topics included the importance of comprehensive implementing legislation for the Convention, developments in chemical security legislation, best practices in resolving transfer discrepancies, and the role of customs in fulfilling national obligations under the Convention. Two hundred participants from 128 Member States attended the meeting.

General training course on the Chemical Weapons Convention for National Authorities and relevant stakeholders in Latin America and the Caribbean, Lima, Peru, 3 – 5 December 2024

11. This course strengthened the skills required of National Authority personnel for the implementation of the Convention, and specifically for complying with national obligations under the Convention. The course included both theoretical and practical exercises. Sixty participants from 26 Member States attended: Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.

Workshop for customs training institutions on implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention, Luanda, Angola, 3 – 5 December 2024

12. This workshop was designed for customs authorities from Portuguese--speaking countries and emphasised the critical role of customs officers in regulating the import and export of scheduled chemicals. In addition to highlighting operational procedures, the workshop introduced innovative training methodologies employed by customs academy instructors, aimed to enhance the capacity of customs officers to identify and implement Convention-related provisions effectively in their day-to-day operations. A total of 39 participants from nine Member States attended: Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe, Timor-Leste, and Zimbabwe.

Engagement with external partners

13. The Secretariat continued to contribute to events organised by external partners during the reporting period. In September, Secretariat staff shared best practices in outreach and advocacy for Convention-implementing legislation during a regional workshop on international nuclear safeguard legislation in Fiji, organised by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. In November, Secretariat staff gave a presentation on the national implementation of the Convention and synergies between the Convention and United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), during a training course for the 1540 Committee Points of Contact in the Africa region organised by UNODA in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Secretariat staff also gave a presentation during a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear criminalisation workshop in the Republic of Moldova, organised by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) on the role of Convention-implementing legislation within this context. In December, Secretariat staff participated in a round-table event entitled “Responsible Chemical Management and Preventing the Proliferation of Chemical Weapons” in Botswana, organised by the Stimson Center, on OPCW capacity-building support for implementation of the Convention.

ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION – ARTICLE X

Consultancy meeting: Developing a syllabus on medical aspects related to chemical weapons for attending to victims, Pijnacker-Nootdorp, the Netherlands, 27 – 29 August 2024

14. The primary objectives of this meeting were to develop a comprehensive syllabus on the medical aspects related to chemical weapons and to draft an academic paper for publication. The meeting brought together experts in chemical emergency response and medical education to ensure that healthcare professionals are adequately prepared to respond to incidents involving chemical weapons. Six experts representing five OPCW Member States attended the meeting: Brazil, Chile, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

International assistance and protection sampling course for OPCW Member States, Lázně Bohdaneč, the Czech Republic, 14 – 19 September 2024

15. This course was jointly organised by the Secretariat and the Government of the Czech Republic. The course provided participants with invaluable hands-on experience and deepened their understanding of key procedures for sampling and analysis in contaminated environments, including reconnaissance, detection, decontamination, hot zone management, chain of custody, and safe practices. The course was attended by 18 participants from 18 OPCW Member States: Algeria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Kenya, Lebanon, Lesotho, Mexico, Morocco, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Uganda, and the United Arab Emirates.

Integrated advanced course and exercise: Regional training cycle on assistance and protection for French-speaking OPCW Member States in Africa, Rabat, Morocco, 16 – 20 September 2024

16. This course was jointly organised with the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the General Directorate for Civil Protection at the Ministry of Interior, and co-funded by a voluntary contribution from France. The course was the third component of the regional

training cycle on assistance and protection for French-speaking African Member States, following a basic course held in Rabat from 27 February to 3 March 2023, and the online course on the Emergency Response Guidebook, the Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations Chemicals database, and the Incident Command System. A total of 24 participants representing seven OPCW Member States attended the course: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Mauritania, Morocco, and Togo.

Integrated advanced course and exercise: 2024 regional training cycle on assistance and protection for States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 23 – 28 September 2024

17. This course served as the fourth component of the 2024 regional training cycle on assistance and protection for States Parties in the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean States (GRULAC). It was jointly organised with the National Authority of Argentina and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina in close cooperation with the Special Risk Brigade of Argentina. The course was delivered in Spanish at the School of Firefighters, which is part of the Special Risk Brigade of Argentina. It consisted of theoretical lectures on advanced elements of preparedness for and response to chemical emergencies with a significant number of practical activities. The course was attended by 19 participants from 13 OPCW Member States: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Panama.

Basic course: 2024–2025 international training cycle on assistance and protection for OPCW Member States, Bad-Neuenahr Ahrweiler, Germany, 7 – 11 October 2024

18. This course was organised jointly with the German Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance, coordinated by the German Federal Academy of Civil Protection and Civil Defence, and funded by a voluntary contribution from Germany. The course was the second component of the 2024–2025 international training cycle on assistance and protection for OPCW Member States, and followed the online introductory course that was held from 1 to 15 July 2024. The course provided participants with basic knowledge of chemical warfare agents and their actions, protective equipment and its limitations, and detection and decontamination equipment and procedures. Nineteen participants representing 13 OPCW Member States attended the course: Algeria, Bangladesh, Barbados, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Japan, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Uganda, and Viet Nam.

International training course on the medical aspects of assistance and protection against chemical weapons, Xi'an, China, 14 – 18 October 2024

19. This course was jointly organised by the Secretariat, the National Authority of China, and the Air Force Medical University. The course aimed to enhance medical preparedness for chemical emergencies by providing health professionals with theoretical knowledge and engaging them in practical activities. A total of 30 international and national participants attended the course, representing 19 OPCW Member States: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Ecuador, Germany, Honduras, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Liberia, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Uruguay, and Zambia.

Online foundation course: Training cycle on investigation of chemical incidents for French-speaking Member States in Africa, online, 16 – 31 October 2024

20. This course served as the first component of the training cycle on the investigation of incidents involving toxic chemicals. The course provided all participants with basic theoretical knowledge on the Convention, the OPCW, Article X of the Convention, chemical warfare agents, toxic industrial chemicals, personal protective equipment, decontamination, and detection, identification, and monitoring. Eighteen participants representing eight OPCW Member States took part in the course: Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal, and Togo.

Basic course: Training cycle on investigation of chemical incidents for French-speaking Member States in Africa, Jacqueville, Côte d'Ivoire, 4 – 8 November 2024

21. This was the second component of the training cycle on the investigation of incidents involving toxic chemicals. The course was organised jointly with the International Academy for the fight Against Terrorism, with the support of the National Authority of Côte d'Ivoire, and funded by a voluntary contribution from France. As with the previous online course, 18 participants from eight OPCW Member States attended the course: Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal, and Togo.

Emergency response course involving toxic chemicals in unconventional environments for States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, Murcia, Spain, 4 – 8 November 2024

22. This course was jointly organised by the Secretariat, the Murcia Government, and the Spanish National Authority in close cooperation with the Murcia Fire Brigade. The course was held at the Murcia Fire School, where different practical scenarios were developed. Twenty participants representing 15 GRULAC States Parties attended the course: Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Regional training course for States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean on the medical aspects of assistance and protection against chemical weapons, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 4 – 8 November 2024

23. This course on medical preparedness against chemical weapons was organised jointly by the Secretariat, the National Authority of Brazil, and the Brazilian Air Force. This training course aimed to enhance medical preparedness for chemical emergencies by providing practical and theoretical knowledge to health professionals. A total of 23 participants representing 13 OPCW Member States attended the course: the Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama, Peru, Spain, and Uruguay.

Detection and sampling of chemical warfare agents in highly contaminated environments for Asian States Parties, Islamabad, Pakistan, 18 – 22 November 2024

24. The Secretariat organised this course in cooperation with the Defence Science and Technology Organization of Pakistan. The course provided training for Asian experts involved in emergency response to chemical incidents with responsibilities in conducting

sampling and analysis tasks in a highly contaminated environment following a chemical attack or incident involving toxic chemicals. A total of 25 international and national participants representing 14 Asian States Parties attended the course: Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Maldives, Malaysia, the Philippines, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

Seventh operational training course on chemical emergency response, planning, and management, Jinja, Uganda, 2 – 11 December 2024

25. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the Government of Uganda, organised this course at the Uganda Rapid Deployment Capability Centre in Jinja, Uganda. The training course provided participants with the knowledge and skills to safely conduct critical emergency operations and support functions following an act of chemical terrorism or the release of other toxic chemicals. Two experts from the Population Protection Institute of the Czech Republic acted as course supervisors. A total of 35 participants representing seven OPCW Member States of the East African Community attended the course: Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Online follow-up webinar: 2024 regional training cycle on assistance and protection for States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, online, 12 December 2024

26. This webinar was held as the final part of the 2024 training cycle for GRULAC States Parties. The webinar was attended by 20 participants from 13 OPCW Member States: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

Assistance to Ukraine

27. During the reporting period, the Secretariat continued to deliver support to Ukraine, upon its request, in the field of assistance and protection. Contributions to the Trust Fund for the Implementation of Article X from States Parties have allowed the Secretariat to assist Ukrainian experts by launching two specialised courses and conducting technical assistance visits.

Specialised course on emergency response to incidents involving toxic chemicals, online, 12 August – 20 December 2024

28. The Secretariat delivered a specialised online course on emergency response to incidents involving toxic chemicals for Ukrainian first responders. The course was designed to provide trainees with theoretical knowledge and practical skills that allow them to respond competently to incidents related to the use of chemical warfare agents and the release of toxic industrial chemicals. A total of 56 participants attended the course. The specialised course was ultimately aimed at developing and strengthening Ukraine's capacity to respond to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals. The main objective of this course was to provide participants with the basic theoretical knowledge needed to competently respond to chemical incidents and to prepare them for hands-on training in the use of chemical reconnaissance detectors, as well as basic techniques for sampling and preserving evidence in a hot zone.

Sampling courses for the investigation of chemical weapons use, OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology, Pijnacker-Nootdorp, the Netherlands, 30 September – 4 October 2024

29. The Secretariat organised two specialised courses on sampling for the investigation of chemical weapons use for Ukrainian experts at the ChemTech Centre. The courses were attended by 20 participants and focused on handling of toxic chemicals, documentation, and sampling in case of incidents, to ensure that those investigating allegations of the use of toxic chemicals as weapons follow the highest international standards. These specialised courses were ultimately aimed at developing and strengthening Ukraine's capacity to respond to chemical incidents involving toxic industrial chemicals or chemical warfare agents.

Technical assistance visits, Ukraine, September and October 2024

30. Secretariat experts conducted technical assistance visits to Ukraine under subparagraph 38(e) of Article VIII of the Convention upon the State Party's request.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION – ARTICLE XI

Twenty-fifth edition of the OPCW Associate Programme, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and other locations, 29 July – 26 September 2024

31. The twenty-fifth edition of the Associate Programme was organised from 29 July to 26 September 2024. This flagship capacity-building programme comprised three distinct segments: an induction–intermediate–final segment at the OPCW Main Building; a university segment in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and an industry segment in different locations. In the first segment, the participants learned about the Convention, the work of the OPCW, and the role of chemical associations, as well as other organisations and industry partners that work jointly with the Secretariat towards achieving a common goal. During the three-week university segment, participants learned about the theory of mass balance and other required skills in chemical industry operations with a focus on model plant simulation at the University of Surrey in the United Kingdom. Subsequently, participants were deployed in pairs to chemical industry sites for first-hand exposure to and training in various industrial operations. Upon the completion of the Programme, all participants presented their research projects on topics related to the Convention, in addition to an industry assignment. The Programme hosted a total of 29 participants from the following 29 States Parties: Argentina, Armenia, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Guatemala, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. For the 2024 industry segment, participants were deployed to 14 chemical industry sites hosted by 11 States Parties: Brazil, China, Germany, India, Italy, Malaysia, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Analytical skills development course in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad, India, 2 – 13 September 2024

32. The Secretariat organised an analytical skills development course at the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology in Hyderabad, India. The course helped qualified analytical chemists from States Parties with economies that are developing or in transition gain further experience and practical knowledge, and facilitated the analysis of chemicals related to national implementation of the Convention. The course enabled participants to broaden their knowledge of the principles, procedures, and applications of gas chromatography and gas chromatography-mass spectrometry for the analysis of chemicals related to the Convention. The course was attended by 20 participants representing 20 Member States: Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Jordan, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, the Philippines, the Sudan, Suriname, the Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

Laboratory skills enhancement courses, Helsinki, Finland, 16 – 27 September 2024

33. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN), held in parallel two laboratory skills enhancement courses at VERIFIN in Helsinki, Finland. The courses were intended for qualified analytical chemists from States Parties with economies that are developing or in transition, and were aimed at facilitating the analysis of chemicals related to national implementation of the Convention, assisting participants in acquiring further experience and practical knowledge and facilitating the adoption of good laboratory practices. The course was attended by 10 participants representing 10 Member States: Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Paraguay, and Sri Lanka.

Basic analytical chemistry course from the OPCW Laboratory, second session, online, 23 September – 4 October 2024

34. The Secretariat organised an online basic analytical chemistry course that assisted qualified analytical chemists from OPCW Member States with economies that are developing or in transition in acquiring further knowledge and experience, specifically in the analysis of chemicals related to the Convention and facilitated the adoption of good laboratory practices and quality standards among Member States. The course was attended by 30 participants from 12 Member States: Brazil, Colombia, the Gambia, India, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, and Uganda.

Wuppertal course on explosion protection and safety management in the chemical process industries, online, 30 August – 7 October 2024

35. The Secretariat held an online course on explosion protection and safety management in the chemical process industries for OPCW Member States in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. The course was implemented by the University of Wuppertal and was fully funded by the German Government. The technical course aimed to improve the knowledge and skills of participants in preventing explosions and other related accidents in a chemical industry environment. Specifically, the course features modules on: the management of hazardous substances (chemical transport, handling, and storage); command and control scene management (incidents with hazardous materials); explosion protection (hazard assessment approaches,

determination of substance properties, zoning, ignition sources, and explosion protection measures, among others); and group exercises (explosion hazard assessment approaches at the Wuppertal mini-plant, in combination with real scenarios from the process industries). The course was attended by 24 participants representing 21 OPCW Member States: Barbados, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Colombia, Ethiopia, India, Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, the Philippines, Togo, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, and Uruguay.

E-learning safety training programme in Spanish for States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, online, 30 September – 29 November 2024

36. The Secretariat, in cooperation with International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry and the Chemical Industries Association of Uruguay, conducted an e-learning safety training programme in Spanish for GRULAC States Parties. Through the training programme, participants were provided with an update on the current standards, policies, and best practices in occupational safety and chemical hazards. The training programme was attended by 13 chemistry experts from seven OPCW Member States: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Peru.

Induction workshop for the project “Building a Network of Spanish-Speaking Laboratories for the Analysis of Chemicals Related to the Chemical Weapons Convention”, online, 7 – 9 October 2024

37. The Secretariat, together with the Laboratory for the Verification of Chemical Weapons of the National Institute of Aerospace Technology (Spain), conducted this online induction workshop with five laboratories in GRULAC States Parties (Argentina, Colombia, Peru (2), and Uruguay) selected to participate in the project, which was sponsored by voluntary contributions from Spain. The objective of this online induction workshop was to provide information and to identify and explore the capacity of the selected institutions in terms of preparation for upcoming proficiency testing. The project aimed to improve skills in the analysis of Convention-related chemicals for those laboratories interested in gaining OPCW designation status.

Workshop on the general aspects of chemical safety and security in laboratories, Milan, Italy, 8 – 11 October 2024

38. The Secretariat and the Institute of Chemical Sciences and Technologies “Giulio Natta” of the Italian National Research Council co-organised a workshop on the general aspects of chemical safety and security in laboratories. The workshop was designed for specialised personnel, such as safety coordinators and environmental health and safety and/or security managers, as well as representatives of related policymaking institutions from OPCW Member States. Through the workshop, participants were provided with an update on current standards, policies, know-how, and best practices in chemical safety and security, at both research laboratories and small industrial production sites. The workshop was attended by 20 participants from 20 Member States: Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

Regional seminar on the Chemical Weapons Convention and chemical safety and security management for Member States of the OPCW in the Asia region, online, 15 October 2024

39. The Secretariat organised an online regional seminar on the Convention and chemical safety and security management for Member States of the OPCW in the Asia region. The aim of the seminar was to promote a chemical safety and security management culture in the chemical industry and to prevent the misuse of dual-use chemicals in the Asia region. The seminar promoted the exchange of best practices in chemical safety and security, boosting the expertise of industry professionals, and enhancing the capabilities of National Authorities and associations in OPCW Member States. This initiative ultimately contributed to a safer and more secure environment for the public. The regional seminar was attended by 31 participants representing 10 Member States: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

Launch event: “Indicative Guidelines for Safe and Secure Transport of Hazardous Chemicals by Road”, hybrid format, 16 October 2024

40. The Secretariat organised a launch event of the Indicative Guidelines for Safe and Secure Transport of Hazardous Chemicals by Road, which was held in a hybrid format. The guidelines were developed as a result of two OPCW workshops on the chemical safety and security tools development programme by participating experts in the fields of chemical safety and security management. The Indicative Guidelines aim to provide accessible tools and guidance for safe and secure transport of hazardous chemicals for States Parties with limited resources, or small and medium-sized enterprises. The guidelines showcase the best practices in safe and secure transport across the globe. The launch event was attended by 56 participants from 43 OPCW Member States: Albania, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belarus, Burundi, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, the Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, the Netherlands, Panama, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, the Philippines, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), and Viet Nam.

Forum on peaceful uses of chemistry: Global Conference on the Role of Artificial Intelligence in Advancing the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, Rabat, Morocco, 22 – 24 October 2024

41. The Secretariat organised the “Global Conference on the Role of Artificial Intelligence in Advancing the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention” in Rabat, Morocco. The conference was jointly organised by the Government of Morocco and the Secretariat, with voluntary contributions from OPCW Member States, including China, France, Germany, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The conference aimed to explore the transformative role of artificial intelligence (AI) within the framework of the Convention. Leading AI specialists, scientists, industry experts, and policymakers discussed and shared knowledge about the impact of AI on chemistry and its industrial applications, while exploring the potential opportunities as well as the risks the technology may pose to humanity, including the

perspectives of chemical safety and security, counterterrorism, and disarmament. In so doing, the conference fostered a deeper understanding of the implications of AI for international security, and informed policy frameworks aligned with the peaceful and ethical application of AI in the chemical sciences. The conference was attended by 190 participants representing Albania, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Iraq, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the United States of America, along with delegates from the European Union, the International Criminal Police Organization, and the United Nations (UNICRI and UNODA).

Course on chemical safety and security management in laboratories for States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 29 October – 1 November 2024

42. The Secretariat organised a course on chemical safety and security management in laboratories for GRULAC States Parties with support from the National Authority of Argentina and the National Institute of Industrial Technology. The workshop assisted personnel working on the application of occupational safety measures in chemical, biochemical, microbiological, and other relevant laboratories (involving the use of chemicals) in broadening their knowledge of laboratory safety and security. The course was attended by 18 participants from the following nine Member States: Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

Seoul workshop on the peaceful development and use of chemistry for Asian Member States, Seoul, the Republic of Korea, 12 – 14 November 2024

43. The Secretariat organised the Seoul workshop on the peaceful development and use of chemistry for Member States of the OPCW in the Asia region. The workshop aimed to promote the peaceful use of chemistry and chemical safety and security management within the context of the chemical industry in the Asia region. In so doing, the workshop hosted a number of international and local experts to provide training in the application of chemical safety and security in an industrial context, such as process safety management, emergency preparedness, and supply chain security management while providing a platform for participants to share best practices. The event was fully funded by the Republic of Korea. The course was attended by 25 participants from 15 Member States: Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates, and Viet Nam. Additionally, six local participants from the Republic of Korea took part in the workshop.

Review and evaluation workshop of the components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of Article XI, hybrid format, 19 November 2024

44. The Secretariat organised the ninth edition of the review and evaluation workshop of the components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of Article XI (C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011) in a hybrid format. The workshop aimed to

provide a forum for discussion and exchange of views among States Parties and relevant stakeholders to further the full implementation of Article XI of the Convention. During the workshop, the Secretariat and panel experts disseminated information on the OPCW's current international cooperation programmes under the three strategic areas of focus under Article XI, namely: integrated chemicals management; enhancing laboratory capabilities; and promoting chemical knowledge. The Secretariat briefed States Parties on its sustained efforts to strengthen and advance capacity-building programmes in all thematic areas. Following the plenary sessions, the participants engaged in thematic breakout groups—on the three thematic focus areas—supported by co-facilitators and experts, to share ideas and discuss lessons learned and best practices. The workshop was attended by 60 representatives from 42 OPCW Member States: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, the Gambia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Panama, the Philippines, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Course for analytical chemists from laboratories supporting customs services, OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology, Pijnacker-Nootdorp, the Netherlands, 19 – 22 November 2024

45. The Secretariat organised a course at the OPCW ChemTech Centre for analytical chemists from laboratories supporting customs services. The course was co-funded by a voluntary contribution from Germany for the participation of African chemists, and received in-kind assistance from China in the form of human resources for training. The course assisted qualified analytical chemists from laboratories that support, or plan to support, customs services or offices in acquiring further experience and practical knowledge of the analysis of chemicals related to the Convention. In addition, the course facilitated the adoption of good laboratory practices for the implementation of the Convention. The course was attended by 12 participants from 12 Member States: Argentina, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Ghana, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Nigeria, the Philippines, Romania, and Uganda.

Regional seminar on the Chemical Weapons Convention and chemical safety and security management for Member States of the OPCW in the Eastern Europe region, online, 12 December 2024

46. The Secretariat organised an online regional seminar on the Convention and chemical safety and security management for Member States of the OPCW in the Eastern Europe region on 12 December 2024. The aim of the seminar was to support chemical safety and security management in the chemical industry in the region. The seminar delivered essential tools for assessing, mitigating, and responding to chemical accident risks, and preventing the misuse of dual-use chemicals in the region. It also raised awareness of the impact of emerging technologies and AI on the implementation of the Convention. The seminar was attended by nine participants from five OPCW Member States: Croatia, the Czech Republic, Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

Laboratory equipment maintenance course for OPCW Member States in the Africa region, Wrocław, Poland, 9 – 13 December 2024

47. The Secretariat organised a laboratory equipment maintenance course for OPCW Member States in the Africa region from 9 to 13 December 2024 in Wrocław, Poland. The course was co-organised by the OPCW and Wrocław University of Science and Technology, with support from the National Authority of Poland. The course was co-funded by voluntary contributions from Germany and the European Union. The course assisted qualified personnel in acquiring the experience and practical knowledge needed to develop the capacity to perform basic preventive and curative maintenance of laboratory equipment, and to facilitate the adoption of good practices in the area of preventive equipment maintenance at analytical chemistry laboratories. The course was attended by seven participants from seven OPCW Member States: Algeria, Botswana, Ghana, Libya, Malawi, Namibia, and the United Republic of Tanzania

Programme for Support of Research Projects and Conference Support Programme

48. Under the Programme for Support of Research Projects, the Secretariat continued to extend its support to small-scale research projects in OPCW Member States to promote the development of scientific and technical knowledge in chemistry for peaceful purposes relevant to the Convention. During the reporting period, 20 research projects directly funded by the OPCW were ongoing.
49. Under the Conference Support Programme, five international events in the area of peaceful uses of chemistry were supported. In total, 19 participants were sponsored.