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NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**THE PROGRAMME TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION WITH AFRICA ON THE
CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

1. In his Note to the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) at its Sixty-Second Session (EC-62/DG.15, dated 30 September 2010), the Director-General stated that, in light of the positive experience to date of the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) with respect to the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Africa Programme”), the Secretariat intended to continue to implement the Africa Programme in a new (second) phase for another three-year period, commencing on 1 January 2011 and ending on 31 December 2013.
2. Since the commencement of the Africa Programme, the Director-General has reported to all the sessions of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter the “Conference”) on the new initiatives, activities, events, and progress made by the Secretariat in the delivery of the Africa Programme. As part of the assessment of the first phase of the Africa Programme, the Director-General submitted a Note to the Conference at its Fifteenth Session (C-15/DG.12, dated 10 November 2010), which contained a report on an in-depth assessment conducted by the Secretariat of the activities undertaken under the auspices of the Africa Programme since its inception. The Note also included a report on the delivery of the Africa Programme in 2010. The Conference took note, with appreciation, of the Note by the Director-General (paragraph 19 of C-15/5, dated 3 December 2010).
3. The Director-General reported on the delivery of the programme to the Council at its Sixty-Fourth (EC-64/DG.5, dated 6 April 2011), Sixty-Sixth (EC-66/DG.13 C-16/DG.14, dated 20 September 2011), and Seventieth Sessions (EC-70/DG.9 C-17/DG.10, dated 12 September 2012). The Director-General has also regularly apprised the Conference of the progress made under the auspices of the Africa Programme, with the aforementioned reports being submitted by the Council to the Sixteenth, Seventeenth, and Eighteenth Sessions of the Conference.
4. The Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention “[c]alled upon the Secretariat to continue implementing the OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention, and other appropriate programmes, as well as to provide feedback on a regular basis on the activities and progress made in this regard and, while emphasising the importance of regular budgetary funding for these



programmes, encouraged States Parties to make further voluntary contributions to support them” (subparagraph 9.131(n) of RC-3/3*, dated 19 April 2013).

5. In accordance with the purpose of the Africa Programme, the Secretariat, during the period under review, has undertaken a significant number of activities, interventions, events, and new initiatives, with the support of all the partners involved. A total number of 853 participants from 35 African States Parties took part in 32 events organised in the area of implementation support, with another 264 participants from 41 African States Parties taking part in 31 activities held in the area of assistance and protection. Furthermore, 453 participants from 34 African States Parties took part in the 37 events organised and supported in the area of international cooperation. These events have resulted in progress being made in the attainment of the objectives set under the auspices of the second phase of the Africa Programme and have further advanced the implementation of the provisions of the Convention in the region.
6. The Note setting up the Africa Programme (EC-50/DG.17, dated 26 September 2007) allocated a three-year period for its delivery and requested the Secretariat to establish a mechanism to assess the efficacy of the initiatives, activities, and events held under its auspices at the end of this period. The Secretariat has undertaken regular evaluations of the activities conducted under the auspices of the Africa Programme and, with the second phase due to end this year, it has conducted a final assessment of the Africa Programme in order to determine its efficacy.
7. This assessment report, which also addresses the delivery of the Africa Programme in 2013, is hereby forwarded to the Council as the Annex to this Note. It will thereafter be submitted to the Conference at its Eighteenth Session, in line with previous practice. In light of its experience with the second phase, the Secretariat intends to continue with the implementation of the Africa Programme and will evaluate the necessity of its further implementation at the end of the next phase.

Annex:

Report on the Assessment of the Efficacy of the Second Phase of the OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention

Annex

**REPORT ON THE ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFICACY OF THE SECOND PHASE
OF THE OPCW PROGRAMME TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION WITH
AFRICA ON THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

1. In his opening statement to the Council at its Forty-Eighth Session, the Director-General expressed his readiness “to explore ways in which a programme might be developed by the Secretariat ... to respond to the particular needs of Africa” (EC-48/DG.15, dated 13 March 2007), pending a decision by States Parties on the establishment of an OPCW Office in Africa and in view of the need for prompt action to accelerate and strengthen efforts both to achieve universality and to ensure the full implementation of the Convention in Africa. He tasked the Director of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division (ICA) with preparing a proposal in this regard and, in cooperation with the other Divisions in the Secretariat, the OPCW Africa Programme was developed.
2. The objectives of the second phase of the Africa Programme, as listed in the Note by the Director-General submitted to the Council at its Sixty-Fourth Session (EC-64/DG.5), are:
 - (a) the full and effective implementation of the Convention in Africa;
 - (b) increased participation by African States Parties in programmes and activities designed to promote the use of chemistry for peaceful purposes and to enhance national protective capacities; and
 - (c) the universality of the Convention in Africa.
3. The key aspects of the second phase of the Africa Programme are as follows:
 - (a) a two-pronged approach: broadening the scope of existing activities and increasing participation, as well as developing new initiatives;
 - (b) additional benefits from activities in the field of international cooperation and assistance;
 - (c) activities are funded, as appropriate, from the regular Programme and Budget of the OPCW, and further complemented through voluntary and in-kind contributions from States Parties and regional and subregional organisations;
 - (d) strengthening existing activities that promote the peaceful uses of chemistry and universal adherence to the Convention, and enhancing national capacities for the implementation of the Convention; and
 - (e) fostering increased interaction with relevant institutions in Africa, with a view to enhancing cooperation in promoting the use of chemistry for peaceful purposes and national, subregional, and regional capacity-building, as well as

creating awareness amongst relevant stakeholders regarding the requirements of the Convention.

4. The Africa Programme consists primarily of a number of activities developed and undertaken by the Secretariat to respond to the most urgent needs of the States Parties in the region in terms of their implementation of the Convention and to promote the universality of the Convention in the region. In addition to creating awareness amongst government institutions in States Parties in Africa, the Note on the establishment of the Africa Programme (EC-50/DG.17) also mandates outreach to civil society, non-governmental organisations, the media, and academic institutions to raise awareness of the Convention and its contribution to international peace and security in Africa.
5. Activities under the Africa Programme also take place with a view to accelerating and strengthening the national implementation efforts of States Parties. The Africa Programme has evolved to become the framework for the Secretariat's strategic direction, policy, and engagement with African States Parties as far as their implementation of the Convention is concerned.
6. The Secretariat has received a significant amount of voluntary funding for activities held under the auspices of the second phase of the Africa Programme and donors have funded activities in all areas of the programme objectives of the ICA. African States Parties have also provided voluntary and invaluable in-kind contributions. The total amount of voluntary contributions received under the second phase of the Africa Programme is EUR 1,165,140.17.

PROGRAMME DELIVERY REPORT FOR 2013

7. Since the submission of the Director-General's Note on the Africa Programme to the Conference at its Seventeenth Session (C-17/DG.10), progress continues to be recorded in the delivery of the Africa Programme.
8. During the period under review, the Secretariat continued to organise activities in accordance with the mandate and in the spirit of the Africa Programme. Tailor-made, focused support was provided to meet the most urgent needs of States Parties in Africa, thus enabling them to enhance their national capacities so as to effectively implement the provisions of the Convention. This was done in line with feedback, suggestions, comments, and input received from the principal stakeholders. It should be noted that the details of activities undertaken after 31 July 2013 are estimates and based on projections contained in the relevant project documents.
9. During the reporting period, the following initiatives and activities were realised under the Africa Programme:
 - (a) joint activities with regional and subregional institutions to increase awareness about the Convention in Africa. Other activities in this area include outreach to industry, civil society, the media, and academic institutions;

- (b) a capacity-building project on emergency response and delivery of assistance tailor-made for the West (anglophone), and Southern African subregions, aimed at upgrading emergency-response capabilities and fostering regional cooperation in assistance and protection;
 - (c) an increased number of participants from African States Parties taking part in ICA activities organised under the auspices of the Africa Programme. Efforts were also made to increase the number of participants from African States Parties in the regular programmes of the ICA. Activities and events in this category include two customs courses held solely for participants from African States Parties;
 - (d) in the field of international cooperation, activities included an support for integrated chemicals management through the Associate Programme. This flagship programme has continued to equip scientists and engineers from Africa with integrated experience in modern safety, production, and management practices in the chemical industry; and
 - (e) in the area of chemical analysis, the fourth annual basic analytical chemistry course for African States Parties was held in South Africa. African participants were also supported in two international analytical skills development courses at the Finnish Institute for the Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN) in Finland, and a gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) training workshop at the Institut National de Recherche et d'Analyse Physico-Chimique (INRAP) in Tunisia for francophone States Parties. Internships and conferences, many of which have been hosted in Africa, have also been supported. A course on natural products chemistry for African States Parties was held at the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, and a chemical safety course was given at the Bergische Universität Wuppertal in Germany.
10. To coordinate and facilitate the delivery of the programme of the ICA for 2013, the Director convened an "ICA Collaborators' Review Meeting" for all the relevant units of the Secretariat on 21 January 2013. A second meeting for representatives of Permanent Representations to the OPCW was held on 22 January 2013. Both meetings were intended to introduce the activities of the ICA for 2013. The session with the Permanent Representatives also impressed upon participants the need for and importance of providing the Secretariat with feedback on ICA activities. It was also emphasised that feedback, input, and suggestions assist the ICA in enhancing the delivery of its programmes.

Implementation support

11. During the reporting period, a total of 853 participants from 35 States Parties took part in the 32 activities organised by the Secretariat to support national implementation. Two States Parties¹ informed the Secretariat of the establishment of

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Cape Verde and Mauritania.

their National Authorities, while another six² informed the Secretariat that they had adopted national implementing legislation. Four³ States Parties reported that they had adopted decrees either on the functioning of the National Authority or on its establishment.

12. The Secretariat organised a workshop for stakeholders of the National Authority of Botswana on the draft Chemical Weapons Bill and a meeting with legal drafters in Gaborone, Botswana, from 26 to 28 February 2013. A technical-assistance visit (TAV) was also undertaken by a team from the Secretariat to Angola on 22 April 2013. The visit was to prepare Angola to accede to the Convention. During the meeting with stakeholders from relevant Angolan institutions, they were briefed on the role, responsibilities, and benefits of States Parties to the Convention and various other aspects of national implementation. One of the outcomes of the visit was the designation of focal points and contacts, and the preparation of a “roadmap” to give initial impetus to the process.
13. A regional training course for customs authorities of States Parties in Eastern Europe on the technical aspects of the transfers regime of the Convention was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 22 to 26 April 2013. A similar course, but on a subregional level, was held for States Parties in West, Central, and North Africa in Accra, Ghana, from 22 to 25 July 2013. Another one is planned for the States Parties in East and Southern Africa in Walvis Bay, Namibia, from 15 to 18 October 2013.
14. Two African States Parties, Togo and Côte d'Ivoire, benefitted from participation in two editions of the Secretariat's legal internship programme for legal drafters and representatives of National Authorities, which were held from 4 to 8 February and 21 to 25 May 2013, respectively. The programme, which facilitates the adoption of necessary legislation based on a results-oriented incremental approach, provides support to States Parties that are yet to start drafting national implementing legislation by equipping their legal drafters with the requisite skills and technical capacities to enable them to compile draft national implementing legislation and also to pursue its adoption.
15. Another initiative recently introduced by the Secretariat in which African States Parties have shown a high degree of interest is the National Authority mentorship programme, which facilitates exchanges between National Authorities. The programme promotes peer learning, management and skills enhancement, and interaction at the level of National Authority focal points, with a view to enhancing the functioning and effectiveness of the mentored National Authority. Since the pilot programme (between Algeria and Niger) in 2011, many African States Parties have communicated their desire to participate in the programme. Two of the mentorships in 2013 have been reserved for States Parties from the region.

² Central Africa Republic, Comoros, Congo, Gambia, Morocco, and Rwanda.

³ Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Guinea, and Mauritania.

16. The Secretariat held two basic courses for personnel of National Authorities at the OPCW Headquarters in The Hague, from 12 to 15 March 2013 and 16 to 20 September 2013. This course continues to be an important element in the Secretariat's efforts to ensure that all members of National Authorities have a sound understanding of the Convention, the ensuing rights and obligations, and the role that National Authorities play in the successful implementation of the Convention.
17. In collaboration with the African Union (AU) and the United States National Authority, the Secretariat jointly organised a seminar on non-proliferation and the implementation of the Convention in Africa from 23 to 26 April 2013 at the South African Revenue Service Academy in Pretoria, South Africa.
18. The event was attended by 33 senior officials from the ministries of defence and focal points of National Authorities of 16 States Parties. Also in attendance were the focal points for the Convention in the AU's Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RMs). These are the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Southern African Development Community (SADC), and the North Africa Regional Capability (NARC). The focal points for the Convention in the AU RECs/RMs play an important role in promoting and strengthening the effective implementation of the Convention at the subregional level.
19. The primary objective of the seminar was to establish a direct link and form a close partnership between representatives of the participating ministries of defence and the respective National Authorities, so as to generate additional synergy and foster closer cooperation between the two institutions to promote further the national implementation of the Convention.

Assistance and protection

20. In the area of assistance and protection, there have been many activities to strengthen capabilities in African States Parties and subregions. During the reporting period, a total of 264 participants from 41 African States Parties took part in the 31 activities organised by the Secretariat in the area of assistance and protection.
21. In April 2011, a planning meeting for the capacity-building project for English-speaking West African States Parties was held in Ghana, with the financial support of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The first activity under this project was a basic training course on assistance and protection against chemical weapons for English-speaking West African States Parties, which was held in Kruševac, Serbia, in September 2012, supported financially by the Government of Norway. Although participants were invited from all five States Parties in West Africa, participants from only three countries attended this training due to visa constraints.
22. The planning meeting of the capacity-building project for States Parties in Southern Africa was held in Namibia in June 2012. The first activity of this subregional project took place in Tshwane, South Africa, in September 2012 and was supported

financially by Norway. The assistance-and-protection course for instructors from Southern African States Parties was attended by participants from Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe and was aimed at establishing and developing emergency-response capabilities against an attack or a threat of attack with chemical weapons or involving toxic industrial chemicals by training instructors from national emergency-response agencies from countries of the subregion.

23. Six instructors from emergency-response agencies of African States Parties participated in the first OPCW assistance-and-protection training course for instructors, which was organised by the Secretariat in The Hague from 12 to 16 November 2012.

International cooperation

24. In the area of international cooperation, a total of 453 participants from 34 African States Parties took part in the 37 activities organised and supported by the Secretariat. The Secretariat has, through the implementation of Article XI and its associated programmes, assisted the scientific communities in African States Parties in building their national scientific and technical capacity in chemistry, chemical engineering, and allied disciplines.
25. In 2013, the flagship Associate Programme provided 10 places to personnel from Africa and continues to be a programme that attracts great interest and numerous applicants from African States Parties.
26. In the area of chemical analysis, the Secretariat has embarked on an integrated approach towards assisting States Parties in the development of their technical capabilities. The analytical-skills-development training courses supported by Finland and South Africa are particularly popular with the African States Parties because of their singular focus on specific and specialised chemical analytical techniques related to scheduled chemicals, their precursors, and their degradation products. The fourth analytical chemistry course, a regional course for Africa, was held in South Africa from 6 to 17 May 2013 and accommodated 13 participants. The two courses focusing on the use of GC–MS held in Finland in 2013 will have a total of 39 participants. The first course, which was dedicated to African participants (of which there were 19), was held at VERIFIN, Finland, in May and June 2013, and was funded under the European Union Council Decision 2012 on support for OPCW activities. The second course will take place in November 2013 with 20 participants, of whom approximately 30% to 50% will be from the African region. Two courses on the enhancement of laboratory skills are being held at VERIFIN in 2013, namely, a course on the use of liquid chromatography–mass spectrometry to analyse chemicals related to the Convention, and a course on laboratory quality management. Both will have four participants, two of whom are from the African region.
27. The Internship-Support Programme, which facilitates the sharing of scientific and technical information and also furthers professional growth, continues to be very popular. A total of nine internships are commencing during 2013, with five of these interns being from African States Parties. Two laboratories in African States Parties

(Botswana and South Africa) have already hosted two of the internships. Through a voluntary contribution, the Government of China supported two six-month internships under the Africa Programme. The contributions to the interns' research capacities and networking experiences, as well as the exposure to advanced techniques in the host laboratories, continue to be highly valued. The Programme for Support of Research Projects has seen an increased number of research proposals submitted by African scientists for direct funding by the Secretariat. In 2013, six projects were approved, one of which in the African region. Research projects have been supported in various areas of the peaceful application of chemistry, for example: exploring the therapeutic potential of Nigerian medicinal plants, the development of biosensors for the early detection of asphyxiants, and sampling and sample preparation methods for the removal of inorganic and organic pollutants in the environment. Other research projects for young scientists were sponsored jointly with the International Foundation for Science (IFS).

28. Two conferences supported by the Secretariat were held in Africa, and a total of four participants from African States Parties were supported in attending international conferences, whilst resource persons will be funded to attend future conferences held in Africa. A further two conferences and 15 participants from the African region are expected to be sponsored during the second half of 2013.
29. The industry-outreach initiative to support safety in chemicals management, which seeks to bring together chemical industry and safety experts from African States Parties, has provided a forum for participants to gain awareness and receive technical training in safety management. From 4 to 8 November 2013, through a contribution from Germany, 15 participants from African States Parties will participate in a course on chemical-safety management at the Bergische Universität Wuppertal in Germany.

Voluntary support to the Africa Programme in 2013

30. Assistance from States Parties and institutions to support activities held in African States Parties under the auspices of the Africa Programme has contributed significantly to the delivery of the Africa Programme. African States Parties have provided financial support and also in-kind contributions.
31. Contributions, both financial and in-kind, have enhanced the capacity of the Secretariat to deliver additional activities to African States Parties during the second phase of the Africa Programme. A substantial number of activities have been conducted under the Africa Programme, with funding from the above-mentioned European Union Council Decision 2012, which provides funds to support ICA activities under the Africa Programme. Some of the areas supported under the decision are bilateral TAVs, training for customs officials, the analytical-skills-development course, industry outreach in accordance with the Convention, and chemical-process safety. Other activities supported with funding from the European Union under the decision are in the area of outreach to States not Party to the Convention.

32. The Government of Norway funded two subregional projects for African States Parties, namely the planning meeting for Southern African States Parties and the basic training for the West African English-speaking subregional project in Serbia. The latter event was conducted with technical support from the Government of Serbia.
33. The Secretariat greatly appreciates the support, interest, and commitment that all donors to the Africa Programme continue to show and would like to acknowledge their contributions, which have had a positive impact on the progress made in the delivery of the Africa Programme.

ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFICACY OF THE SECOND PHASE OF THE AFRICA PROGRAMME

34. The Secretariat has undertaken regular evaluations of the activities conducted under the auspices of the second phase of the Africa Programme. With the second phase due to end this year, it has conducted a final assessment of the Africa Programme, in order to determine its efficacy.
35. Right from the commencement of the second phase of the Africa Programme, significant efforts were made by the ICA to put in place a mechanism to assess its efficacy. To this end, inter-branch collaboration within ICA was enhanced and existing monitoring and evaluation systems were reviewed and improved.

Assessment methodology

Evaluation tools: Implementation Support Branch questionnaires

36. For the assessment of its activities, the Implementation Support Branch (IPB) employs a questionnaire that is composed of several segments. The first part covers general questions relating to the conduct of activities and application of the skills, knowledge, and capacity gained from the event being assessed. The other parts relate to issues relating specifically to the nature and type of activity being assessed (for example, customs-related questions, declarations, legal issues, and so on).
37. This approach facilitates the measurement of common performance factors across all the activities being assessed. It also enables the measurement of specific aspects of the events, including their relevance and content. The approach also allows for a structured review of the entire portfolio of IPB activities that cover the whole range of the provisions of the Convention, and enables a more coherent overall analysis to be conducted.

Evaluation tools: Assistance and Protection Branch questionnaires

38. The Assistance and Protection Branch (APB) conducts four levels of evaluation for all of its courses. Levels one and two are conducted after completion of the course. A questionnaire is given to all participants to assess the participant's reaction and overall experience of the event, while observation and feedback from the APB representative and course organiser are used to assess the increase in knowledge. At four months and again at one year following completion of the course, the participants are sent

another questionnaire to assess their applied learning and on-the-job implementation, so as to evaluate the impact and results their training has achieved.

Evaluation tools: International Cooperation Branch questionnaires

39. The questionnaires utilised by the International Cooperation Branch (ICB) for the evaluation of the Associate Programme are highly developed. This is due to the scope and nature of ICB activities; for example, the Associate Programme is very complex, involving a number of different external partners, including those from industry and academia.
40. The evaluation forms (questionnaires) for the Associate Programme are divided into programme segments: the induction segment, intermediate segment, university segment, industry segment, and final segment. Participants are requested to make their individual assessment of each segment by filling out an evaluation form, which may or may not be signed by the participant. This form is handed in to the ICB before the next segment starts. The information is processed and presented in the evaluation meeting as statistical information with relevant comments/suggestions.
41. Additional assessment of the participants' performance is done by the university and tutor/mentors at the University of Surrey in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and in each industry location. These individual assessments provide valuable feedback regarding the performance of the participant, which is kept by the ICB and shared with others upon request (for example, for recruitment purposes). There is also a post-course follow-up questionnaire developed for the Associate Programme, which is filled out by the participants and the National Authorities one year after graduation. The ICB is currently updating the contact details and particulars of former participants in the programme.
42. Finally, at the end of each term of the Associate Programme (which lasts nine to 10 weeks), the ICB organises a special debriefing session with representatives of all supporters of the programme and representatives of States Parties. The conclusions of the session are of paramount importance to the preparation of the next term of the programme, thus enabling the ICB to respond to new challenges and the ever-growing demands of States Parties.
43. The questionnaire used in the Conference-Support Programme is a standardised conference evaluation form that is sent to the organisers along with a contract to support the sponsorship. Upon the conclusion of the event, the organisers are required to fill in and return the questionnaire, together with a conference report. The evaluation questionnaire consists of the following sections: basic organisational information of the event, substance of the event and OPCW sponsorship-related assessment.
44. The evaluation system forms for the analytical-skills-development course, filled out by participants at the end of the course, include intermediate and final tests and an evaluation questionnaire for the feedback session. Intermediate and final tests verify the acquired practical knowledge, while the questionnaire and a feedback meeting collect feedback on the course itself and the estimated benefit to participants.

45. The Programme for Support of Research Projects has a built-in mechanism of evaluation through the Research Review Committee. In addition, the OPCW, in collaboration with the IFS, has commissioned a study on OPCW-IFS research projects in Africa, which contains useful practical advice in the area of evaluation/assessment.
46. The Industry-Outreach Programme utilises a questionnaire for evaluation and programme development. The questions are designed to gain an insight into the success of the organisation of the event, the relevance and quality of its contents, and suggestions for future seminars of a similar nature. These questionnaires are distributed at the end of each event to be filled out by the participants.

ASSESSMENT OF THE DELIVERY OF ICA ACTIVITIES UNDER THE AFRICA PROGRAMME

47. The following outcomes have been realised from second phase of the delivery of the Africa Programme:
 - (a) increased awareness about the relevance and importance of the Convention, including rights, obligations and benefits;
 - (b) implementation of the provisions of Articles VII, X, and XI by an increased number of States Parties;
 - (c) an increase in the number of trained experts/instructors in the field of protection and emergency response;
 - (d) fostering of regional cooperation and establishing contacts;
 - (e) procurement of equipment; and
 - (f) increased participation of African participants.

Article VII-related activities: Implementation Support Branch

48. Most of the respondents surveyed were of the opinion that the activities carried out by the IPB under the Africa Programme were satisfactory or more than satisfactory. The next highest group indicated that the general objectives of the activities being assessed were fully or almost fully met. Participants further agreed that they had gained some additional knowledge that they would make use of in the future.
49. The lowest score was obtained in the questions that referred to participants' expectations in terms of coordination with their National Authority. Nevertheless, the majority of these respondents stated that their participation in IPB activities would result in an increased level of coordination with their National Authorities.

Article X-related activities: Assistance and Protection Branch

50. As a result of the implementation of the second phase of the Africa Programme between 2011 and 2013, and execution of projects and initiatives for a number of countries and subregions, the following results have been achieved:

- (a) training of a limited number of experts/ instructors at different levels;
 - (b) establishment of national core groups of first responders and instructors at subregional level;
 - (c) establishment of contacts between experts from relevant agencies in neighbouring countries and the exchange of information and experience;
 - (d) raising awareness concerning the assistance-and-protection provisions of the Convention and benefits provided by the OPCW; and
 - (e) an increase in the number of declarations under paragraph 4 of Article X regarding national protection programmes.
51. One of the purposes of the subregional projects is to train trainers who could organise similar training courses for their relevant ministries and agencies and thereby disseminate the knowledge and skills obtained throughout the project activities. This is discussed and explained to all involved countries at the beginning of all projects. After two to three years of implementation of projects in Africa for three subregions, however, there is still no evidence that such training courses have been organised.
52. These activities were mostly carried out with the existing financial, human, and technical APB resources. A number of States Parties were contacted for possible support with funds, expertise, and equipment. The European Union and the governments of Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland provided financial and in-kind support for implementing projects and activities.
53. Each activity is evaluated upon its completion by the participants and by experts, and at the end of each project a final evaluation meeting is held with the participation of all involved parties (the Secretariat, donors, supporting countries, and beneficiary countries) to evaluate the project and to discuss the results, achievements, and lessons learned. The final evaluation meetings result in recommendations and proposals that are further considered and reflected in future planning.

Article XI-related activities: International Cooperation Branch

Associate Programme

54. During the period under review, special effort was made to encourage qualified candidates from the African region to apply and participate in the Associate Programme. This was done through communications to the Permanent Representations and National Authorities, as well as during regional meetings of National Authorities and the National Authorities days, and was also emphasised during presentations at various other events and workshops at which participants from the region were present.

55. As a result of the coordinated action between the ICB and the other Branches in the ICA, the number of applications from African scientists has increased each year, allowing the ICB to select the most qualified personnel for a place in the programme.
56. It is worthwhile mentioning that, during the period under review, three scientists and experts from African States Parties that had previously not benefited from the Associate Programme (namely, Eritrea, Namibia, and Seychelles) have since been included in the Associate Programme.

Conference-Support Programme

57. The major focus of the Conference-Support Programme during the implementation of the Africa Programme has been to provide financial support for the organisation of conferences, workshops, and seminars on special topics relevant to the Convention, and to facilitate the exchange of scientific and technical information in the world, with an additional focus on the African region. During the period under review, 49 African participants were supported, and eight conferences taking place in Africa were sponsored.

Internship-Support Programme

58. During the period from 2011 through 2013, under the Internship-Support Programme the focus of implementation of the Africa Programme has been to increase the number of sponsored participants from African States Parties. To further facilitate a wider spread of the programme in the African region, China and the Netherlands have provided voluntary contributions in support of internships for the Africa Programme.
59. There is continuous evaluation of the Internship-Support Programme. Evaluation reports are received from the supervisor at the hosting institution, as well as a report by the intern. The evaluation reports have been very positive and have added to the knowledge and understanding of the interns participating in the programme. Building of skills and capabilities in areas relating to the peaceful application of chemistry has also been demonstrated in the reports received. In addition, the Internship-Support Programme has achieved the proposed outputs outlined in the internship proposal and developed scientific links between the host institutions and the institutions of the interns.

Programme for Support of Research Projects

60. During the period under review, the Secretariat's support for research projects has been maintained in the area of the peaceful application of chemistry. The Programme for Support of Research Projects has seen an increased number of research proposals submitted by African scientists for direct funding by the Secretariat, and research projects have been supported in various areas of the peaceful application of chemistry (for example, in exploring the therapeutic potential of Nigerian medicinal plants, the development of biosensors for the early detection of asphyxiants, and sampling and sample preparation methods for the removal of inorganic and organic pollutants in the environment). Other research projects for young scientists have been sponsored jointly with the IFS. All the research projects are problem-oriented and based on

solving local or regional problems, where the results can be applied to local or regional scenarios. Many of them promote south-south collaboration between researchers.

61. All research project reports up to 2009 were bound in hard copy and placed in the OPCW Library as reference material. Reports from 2009 to 2013 are still being collected and collated and will be made available once this process is finalised. More importantly, the support provided has enabled some researchers to publish their results in peer-reviewed journals, many of which have wide international circulation.
62. Increased support for regional research networks to encourage regional collaboration could increase the effectiveness of the Programme for Support of Research Projects. This would enable research to be handled more efficiently, avoid duplication of effort, and result in better-targeted research topics, thus having greater regional impact.

Laboratory-Assistance Programme

63. The Laboratory-Assistance Programme has targeted analytical laboratories in Africa that already have an adequate infrastructure but which could benefit from an increased level of technical competence to promote economic and technological development. Networks of research laboratories are being developed to mutually reinforce each other's work and support other laboratories in the region. Assistance has been provided through TAVs, seminars, training workshops, and donations of equipment. The effectiveness and relevance of the Laboratory-Assistance Programme could be enhanced with TAVs to requesting laboratories. This affords the opportunity to fully appreciate the constraints of the laboratories and to design tailor-made activities and solutions that will meet the requirements of specific laboratories (within the programme guidelines). For the Laboratory-Assistance Programme to be effective, follow-up activities are required. These could be training of personnel (where more personnel require training), laboratory audits (where follow-up on issues of good laboratory practice might be required), or updates on progress for accreditation processes.

Analytical-skills-development course

64. The aim of the analytical-skills-development course has been to assist qualified analytical chemists from States Parties in the following areas:
 - (a) acquiring further experience and practical knowledge;
 - (b) facilitating the analysis of chemicals related to national implementation of the Convention;
 - (c) enhancing national capacities in these States Parties by offering training in analytical chemistry to personnel from industry, academic institutions, and government laboratories;
 - (d) facilitating the adoption of good laboratory practices; and

- (e) broadening the pool of human resources from which National Authorities and the Secretariat can draw in the future.

- 65. A built-in evaluation system, which includes intermediate and final tests, an evaluation questionnaire, and a final feedback session, is used to assess the effectiveness of the course. Intermediate and final tests verify the practical knowledge acquired, while the questionnaire and the feedback meeting collect feedback on both the course itself and its estimated benefit to participants.

Equipment-Exchange Programme

- 66. The major focus of the Equipment-Exchange Programme in respect of the implementation of the Africa Programme has been to facilitate the transfer of used but functional equipment from institutions in industrialised countries to publicly funded laboratories and other academic institutions in developing countries, with a major focus on the African region. Positive feedback has been received from beneficiaries in terms of both the equipment received and the training sponsored by the Secretariat.

Industry outreach

- 67. The industry outreach initiative to support safety in chemicals management, which seeks to bring together chemical industry and safety experts from African States Parties, has provided a forum for participants to gain awareness and receive technical training in safety management. This is a new initiative that was started in 2009 in The Hague. The programme is being utilised to promote chemical-safety-and-security management in the region, which is expected to attract more investment in the chemical-industry sector.
- 68. Throughout its second phase, the Africa Programme has continued to grow from strength to strength. Progress has been correspondingly made in the attainment of the objectives set out for the second phase of the Programme, further advancing the implementation of the provisions of the Convention in the region. In light of its experience with the Africa Programme thus far, the Secretariat intends to continue its implementation in a third phase, upon completion of which the Secretariat will evaluate the necessity for further implementation.