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**NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

**OPENING STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES  
AT ITS NINETEENTH SESSION**

Madam Chairperson,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

1. I welcome all delegations to the Nineteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.
2. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the incoming Chairperson of the Conference, Ambassador Vesela Korać of Croatia. I am sure that your rich diplomatic experience will serve you well in leading this session of the Conference to a successful conclusion. To assist you in this endeavour, you can count on the full support of the Technical Secretariat.
3. I take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for the work done by your predecessor, Ambassador Sa'ad Abdul Majeed Ibrahim Al-Ali of Iraq. He has acquitted himself with distinction over what has continued to be a challenging time for the Organisation. I would also like to acknowledge Ambassador Alvaro Moerzinger of Uruguay for his able guidance of the Executive Council over what has been an extraordinarily busy period. My appreciation likewise extends to his predecessor, Ambassador Olexander Horin of Ukraine.
4. We shall welcome today H.E. Mr Bert Koenders, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, our host country. I acknowledge also Ms Angela Kane, United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, who is attending the Conference session on behalf of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-moon.
5. I also look forward to welcoming tomorrow H.E. Mr Thant Kyaw, Deputy Foreign Minister of Myanmar, and welcome other representatives of States not yet Party.
6. Since the last session of the Conference, this Organisation has recorded truly remarkable achievements in the mission to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons.



7. Owing to the generous in-kind and financial contributions of more than 30 States Parties and the European Union, the Technical Secretariat has been able to verify the destruction of 98% of chemical weapons declared by the Syrian Arab Republic, including all Category 1 chemicals, and we were able to do so in less than one year. The Russian Federation and the United States of America have played a key role in co-sponsoring this process.
8. It is also worth recalling that these achievements were made possible by the strong consensus-based approach of States Parties, which has been a long-established hallmark of our collective efforts to implement the Chemical Weapons Convention. For its part, the Technical Secretariat has at all times sought to preserve an impartial, business-like and responsible approach. I will ensure that it continues in this vein.
9. I take this opportunity to thank the United Nations for its vital security and logistical support, through the OPCW-UN Joint Mission as well as ongoing cooperation from the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). I acknowledge the continued cooperation extended by the Syrian Government. I also recognise the personal courage and commitment of Technical Secretariat staff who deployed to the Syrian Arab Republic in often dangerous circumstances.
10. To assist me in carrying out the OPCW mandate for eliminating the Syrian Arab Republic's chemical weapons programme, I have appointed Ambassador José Artur Medeiros of Brazil, as Special Adviser on Syria. He visited Damascus on 22 and 23 November in this capacity and will continue to liaise with senior Syrian officials, including through periodic visits.
11. Contracts with commercial entities, which will undertake the destruction of 12 declared chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) were finalised last week. Destruction of the first of these facilities is expected to be completed by the end of December. The Technical Secretariat will work with UNOPS and the Syrian Government to facilitate destruction activities in line with agreed time frames.
12. Over the past year, the Secretariat and Syrian authorities have also continued consultations on outstanding issues regarding Syria's declaration. As a result, Syria declared an additional CWPF and three additional research and development facilities to the Secretariat. These consultations, the most recent of which took place last month in Damascus, will continue into next year.
13. All of us continue to be disturbed by persistent allegations of use of toxic chemicals as weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic. To date, the Fact-Finding Mission I established in April has issued two reports. The second report, provided in September, concluded with a high degree of confidence that chlorine was used as a weapon in three villages in northern Syria. The work of the Fact-Finding Mission will continue.
14. Destruction of stockpiles elsewhere has continued apace. To date, 61,445 metric tonnes, or 87%, of declared Category 1 chemical weapons have been destroyed under verification by the Secretariat. Notably, Libya completed destruction of all of its Category 1 chemical weapons in January. The United States of America continues to work towards a target date of September 2023 for destroying remaining stocks. The Russian Federation advised the Executive Council on 6 October in an addendum to its

destruction plan (EC-68/P/NAT.1/Add.1, dated 6 October 2014) that it would complete destruction by December 2020.

15. The destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China has continued this year at the mobile facility in Shijiazhuang. Preparations are under way for the commencement of destruction operations at Wuhan and Haerbaling.
16. While the Syria mission has been an important preoccupation for the Organisation over the past year, we have not lost sight of our regular business and other strategic imperatives. The latter relate to better positioning of the Organisation, as our main focus gradually moves from the destruction of stockpiles to preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons.
17. Recent events have cast the threat from non-State actors into stark relief. The OPCW can play a useful role in countering the threat of proliferation to terrorist groups. Over the past year, the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism met three times, and the OPCW has engaged in efforts guided by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to improve inter-agency operability on preventing and responding to terrorist attacks.
18. To guide our efforts as we recalibrate priorities, the Secretariat has commenced drafting a paper that provides a strategic perspective of our work. It will outline key targets that may be pursued over the medium to longer term in core areas such as verification, capacity development, and engagement with relevant stakeholders. Importantly, the paper will enable us to formulate interim goals in these different areas, as well as in organisational governance, including as a basis for devising a staffing plan by mid-2015.
19. As we arm ourselves with a more comprehensive strategic vision of the work ahead, there are more immediate steps we can take to enhance our core verification and monitoring activities.
20. The Secretariat has been seized of the need to better harness new communication tools to improve the efficiency of our information exchange. Receiving information in real time is crucial, if we are to react in an effective way.
21. In July 2014, the Secretariat launched a new communication tool designed to enhance our responsiveness in this respect—the secure information exchange system, or SIX. The SIX system provides a direct, electronic channel for the secure exchange of confidential information between the Secretariat and States Parties. I commend those States Parties that have already started using the system, and urge others to do likewise.
22. The Secretariat has continued to enhance our international cooperation and assistance activities by fine-tuning our programmes in response to feedback from States Parties, expanding our range of e-learning tools, and focusing on regions where need is greatest. I firmly believe that international cooperation and assistance is a vital tool for extending the OPCW's reach through the exercise of soft power. It is helping States Parties help themselves to meet their Convention obligations, protect their populations, and build their chemical analytical capacity to their broader economic benefit.

23. The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) held its Twenty-First Session in June. Two of its temporary working groups (TWGs)—on the science and technology dimensions of verification, and on education and outreach—held their respective meetings. Additionally, an introductory presentation on “Science for Diplomats” was delivered at that session, and there have been two substantive Science for Diplomats side events at Executive Council sessions since then. Another event on the science of chemical production in the bioeconomy will be held this Friday, 5 December at 13:30 in the Europe Room of the World Forum, which I encourage delegations to attend.
24. At the same time, we have significantly expanded our education and outreach efforts as a means of broadening our community of stakeholders.
25. A vital overarching contribution in this regard has been made by the SAB’s TWG on education and outreach, which I established in 2012 in response to wide recognition of poor awareness of the Convention in the scientific community, academia, and industry. The TWG has now completed its work and issued a final report of its key findings. Among these, the report recommends—rightly, to my mind—mainstreaming education and outreach as a core activity for the OPCW. It also recommends establishing a separate advisory body to sustain efforts in this regard.
26. The Secretariat has continued its collaboration with scientific communities around the world—notably, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC). I welcome IUPAC’s president, Mr Mark Cesa, who is attending this Conference session.
27. In this regard, Germany has advanced a proposal for better informing the scientific community of our mutual obligations to defend against the misuse of chemistry through a Hippocratic Oath for scientists. I look forward to our discussion on this proposal.
28. As part of our broader education and outreach efforts, the Secretariat has also revised and updated the Public Diplomacy Strategy. The strategy will guide our ongoing efforts to sustain the high profile that the OPCW has enjoyed over the past year, as well as the efforts to channel it towards broadening support for our work.
29. To improve our internal efficiency, the Executive Council has recommended that the Conference approve a strategy for implementing a new enterprise-resource-planning (ERP) system (EC-77/DG.15, dated 12 September 2014). The strategy includes a proposal for funding the new system—in part, through savings that will arise from a reduction in the size of the Working Capital Fund and surpluses. The new ERP system will provide an opportunity to streamline outdated and cumbersome administrative processes that have taken root in the Secretariat over the past 17 years. The Technical Secretariat will keep the Executive Council informed of progress towards implementation of the new ERP system.
30. I have received several high-level visitors to the OPCW over the past year, and have undertaken a number of visits to States Parties, as well as participated in various international conferences. The Deputy Director-General and I have had numerous occasions to address increasingly diverse communities, including science museum CEOs and business administration students, backed by expanded use of social media by the OPCW. This has served to significantly broaden our reach.

31. As a key platform for effective implementation of the Convention, we have also deepened our engagement with industry, including through regular consultations with national and regional industry associations on possible initiatives, as outlined in the Note I issued in October (C-19/DG.14, dated 3 October 2014). Dr Hubert Mandery of the International Council of Chemical Associations has been invited to share his views during this session.
32. The resolution on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention was adopted unanimously by the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on 3 November, and a related resolution on cooperation between the United Nations and the OPCW was passed by the General Assembly on 11 November. The resolutions were introduced, respectively, by the delegations of Poland and the Netherlands, whose efforts I would like to acknowledge here.
33. We have been able to record welcome progress on universality in the wake of reinvigorated outreach efforts tailored to the six States still not Party to the Convention.
34. Myanmar has engaged closely with the OPCW in a range of training and assistance activities and is in the process of seeking its parliament's ratification of the Convention. We have also stepped up our contacts with Angola in the lead-up to its accession to the United Nations Security Council for a two-year term in January 2015, and we have expanded second-track engagement with Egypt and Israel through seminars held in August and November.
35. It is imperative that we use the opportunity presented by heightened international interest in chemical disarmament following the Syria mission to persuade the six States still outside the Convention to join without delay and without preconditions.
36. The centenary anniversary in April 2015 of the first large-scale use of chemical weapons at Ieper, Belgium, should serve to focus our efforts—not only on achieving universal adherence to the Convention, but also widening support for our ongoing mission to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons. As you have been advised, the Secretariat is making preparations for a commemorative meeting of States Parties on 21 April 2015 in Ieper.
37. In early July I presented the Draft Programme and Budget for 2015 to Member States. This document was subsequently discussed in a series of productive budget facilitations, which were conducted from late July through September. The facilitation process resulted in a number of changes to accommodate views and suggestions made by States Parties. The final outcome was a budget proposal that was endorsed by the Executive Council at its Seventy-Seventh Session in October. The Draft Programme and Budget for 2015, which totals EUR 69.3 million and represents a 5% reduction against the 2014 budget, has subsequently been submitted for the approval of the Conference this week.
38. In order to ensure capacity-building and transfer of knowledge in the Inspectorate Division, I have followed closely and appreciated the Executive Council's continued consideration at its last meeting of the issue of the rehiring of former inspectors. This is to be considered further by the Council at its next meeting, later this week (EC-74/DEC/CRP.4/Rev.5, dated 28 November 2014). Once approved, it will help

the Secretariat to sustain important expertise and capabilities for an effective verification regime.

39. I look forward today, at the end of our deliberations, to presenting, with Mr Van Aartsen, the Mayor of The Hague, the inaugural OPCW-The Hague Award to Dr Robert Mathews of Australia and the Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN). As you will recall, this award was established as a way of preserving the legacy of the awarding of the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize to the OPCW, with generous contributions also from the City of The Hague.
40. Madam Chairperson, my report to the Conference at its Nineteenth Session is detailed. The full text of my statement will be circulated to delegations as an official document.

### **Chemical demilitarisation and verification**

41. As at 30 November 2014, a total of 70,493 metric tonnes (MTs) of Category 1 chemical weapons had been declared by the possessor States. Of this amount, 61,445 MTs, or 87.2%, of those Category 1 chemical weapons had been destroyed under verification by the Secretariat. The aggregate amount destroyed includes 2,914 MTs that have been withdrawn from Category 1 chemical weapons stockpiles pursuant to Article VI of the Convention and subparagraph 2(d) of Part VI of the Verification Annex for purposes not prohibited under the Convention.
42. A State Party, Albania, India, and Libya have already completed the destruction of their declared Category 1 chemical weapons stockpiles. Category 1 chemical weapons declared by the Syrian Arab Republic have also been destroyed.
43. In total, 2,032 MTs of Category 2 chemical weapons have been declared by the possessor States Parties, including the Syrian Arab Republic. The aggregate amount of Category 2 chemical weapons destroyed as at 30 November 2014 is 1,152 MTs, or 56.7%, of the total amount declared. Albania, India, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America have completed the destruction of all their declared Category 2 chemical weapons, whereas Libya has destroyed 40% of the amount it has declared.
44. Eighty-nine percent of the Category 2 chemical weapons declared by the Syrian Arab Republic have also been destroyed within or outside the territory of this State Party at commercial facilities or facilities provided as in-kind contributions by other States Parties. As for Category 3 chemical weapons, A State Party, India, Libya, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the United States of America have previously completed the destruction of these weapons.

### United States of America

45. The United States of America has destroyed 24,924 MTs, or 89.75%, of the total declared amount of Category 1 chemical weapons. According to its detailed plan for the destruction of chemical weapons remaining after 29 April 2012 (EC-68/NAT.2, dated 13 April 2012), the United States of America plans to complete the destruction of its remaining chemical weapons by September 2023. The United States of

America has also destroyed all of its Category 2 (0.010 MTs) and Category 3 chemical weapons.

46. In total, 11 chemical weapons destruction facilities (CWDFs) in this State Party have completed operations, while two others—at Pueblo and Blue Grass—are expected to start destruction in December 2015 and April 2020, respectively. The United States of America has informed the Secretariat that it has completed 86% of the construction of the Blue Grass Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant, where systemisation has reached 23%. Construction work at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) has been completed and systemisation at this facility has reached 63%.
47. The commencement of destruction operations utilising the Explosive Destruction System (EDS) at Pueblo is planned for the fourth quarter of 2014. A final engineering assessment of the EDS to confirm its readiness for the commencement of operations was carried out by an OPCW inspection team in the second half of September. The EDS will destroy chemical weapons deemed unsafe for destruction at the PCAPP, including leaking munitions and rejects.

#### Russian Federation

48. The Russian Federation has continued to carry out the destruction of its chemical weapons this year. As at 30 November 2014, the total amount of Category 1 chemical weapons verified as destroyed was 33,764 MTs, or 84.5% of the total amount declared. According to the addendum to its detailed plan for the destruction of chemical weapons remaining after 29 April 2012 (EC-68/P/NAT.1/Add.1), the Russian Federation plans to destroy the remaining amount of Category 1 chemical weapons by December 2020. The Russian Federation has also destroyed all of its Category 2 (10.616 MTs) and Category 3 chemical weapons.
49. All five CWDFs in the Russian Federation—at Kizner, Leonidovka, Maradykovsky, Pochev, and Shchuchye— have been operational in 2014.
50. In November 2014, the Secretariat performed the final engineering review of the third and last building—designated for the destruction of the remaining munitions of complex configuration—at the Shchuchye facility. The building's destruction equipment is in the final stages of calibration and will become operational in early February 2015. Bilateral discussions with the Russian Federation will soon take place in order to finalise the amendments to the facility agreement and the agreed plan for verification, after which destruction operations will begin.
51. According to the addendum to its detailed plan for the destruction of chemical weapons remaining after 29 April 2012 (EC-68/P/NAT.1/Add.1.), the Russian Federation plans to complete by December 2015 the destruction of Category 1 chemical weapons at four CWDFs, namely Leonidovka, Maradykovsky, Pochev, and Shchuchye. According to the same addendum, the Russian Federation further plans to complete the destruction of Category 1 chemical weapons at the Kizner CWDF not later than 31 December 2020.
52. At the invitation of the Russian Federation, a delegation of the Council visited the Kizner CWDF from 14 to 18 April 2014, pursuant to the decision of the Conference on the final extended deadline (C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011).

Libya

53. Libya has continued to demonstrate its commitment to destroy its remaining chemical weapons. On 2 May 2014, with the assistance of other States Parties, Libya completed the destruction of the remaining chemical munitions and polymerised sulfur mustard heel remaining in plastic canisters. Libya has now completed the destruction of all of its Category 1 chemical weapons (26.34 MTs). Libya has also destroyed 555.71 MTs, or 39.6%, of its declared stockpiles of Category 2 chemical weapons, as well as 100% of its Category 3 chemical weapons.
54. Given the current security situation in Libya, efforts are continuing to explore options for the disposal of the remaining chemical precursors, for which Libya is seeking the assistance of other States Parties.
55. In accordance with the “Detailed Plan for the Destruction of Chemical Weapons Remaining after the Final Extended Deadline of 29 April 2012 (as per C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011)” submitted by Libya (EC-68/NAT.4, dated 18 April 2012), the destruction of the remaining Category 2 chemical weapons is scheduled for completion by December 2016. As I have noted on previous occasions, any delays occasioned by the prevailing situation in Libya with respect to a decision regarding the destruction of the remaining Category 2 chemical weapons may have an impact on meeting the planned completion date.

Syrian Arab Republic

56. Intensive efforts have continued this year to verifiably eliminate the Syrian chemical weapons programme. Since 1 October 2014, with the conclusion of the OPCW-United Nations Joint Mission in Syria, the OPCW has taken over responsibility for this work, with the support of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).
57. The unprecedented international effort of removing Syria’s declared chemicals from its territory began on 7 January 2014 and was completed on 23 June. The destruction of those chemicals is now nearing completion, with 100% of the declared Category 1 chemicals and 88.8% of the Category 2 chemicals now destroyed, representing a combined total of 97.8% of Syria’s declared stockpile (including the isopropanol previously verified as destroyed on Syrian territory). Destruction has taken place at facilities selected through a commercial tender process and at facilities funded through in-kind contributions from some States Parties.
58. Part of Syria’s declared stockpiles were destroyed at sea, aboard the United States vessel MV Cape Ray, which completed the destruction of Syria’s sulfur mustard (HD) and DF stocks using a Field Deployable Hydrolysis System. These operations concluded on 18 August 2014.
59. All effluents produced as a result of hydrolysis of the declared chemicals DF and HD aboard the MV Cape Ray were subsequently delivered for disposal to Ekokem’s facility in Riihimäki, Finland (where 24.7% of the DF effluent has now been destroyed), and to the GEKA facility in Münster, Germany (where 33.3% of the HD effluent has now been destroyed).



60. In addition to the HD and DF hydrolysed aboard the MV Cape Ray, other declared Syrian chemicals have been destroyed at four facilities. Ekokem has completed the destruction of all Category 1 and 2 chemicals it received on 21 June and 20 July 2014. Veolia ES Technical Solutions, LLC in the United States of America has destroyed 64.9% of the chemicals it received. The Ellesmere Port High Temperature Incinerator in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has now completed the destruction of all Category 2 chemicals it received, while destruction activities at Mexichem UK Limited in relation to one Category 2 chemical are planned for early 2015. Ekokem and Veolia were selected through the tender process organised by the OPCW, while the other facilities, including the MV Cape Ray, were provided through in-kind contributions.

#### Iraq

61. Iraq has continued to keep the Secretariat and Member States informed of all steps being taken towards the assessment and destruction of its declared stockpiles of chemical weapons. In June 2014, Iraq requested the Secretariat to consider the draft destruction plan for the Al-Muthanna bunkers, submitted in November 2013, as the final version. Iraq informed the Executive Council that the bunkers captured by ISIS for a certain period were seized again by Government security forces.

#### Old and abandoned chemical weapons

62. The destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China has continued this year with the third phase of operations at the mobile destruction facility located in Shijiazhuang. Since operations started at Shijiazhuang and up until 26 September of this year, a total of 1,487 abandoned chemical weapons (ACWs) items have been verified as destroyed at this location. This quantity is in addition to the 35,681 items of ACWs previously destroyed at the Nanjing mobile destruction facility.
63. China and Japan continue to work together in preparing for the commencement of destruction operations at Wuhan. In Northern China, preparations continue towards the start of destruction operations in Haerbaling and, as part of these preparations, representatives of the Secretariat carried out an initial visit to the site in November.
64. In the last 12 months, eight inspections of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China have been conducted at seven locations in China. This figure includes verification at the Shijiazhuang trust storehouse of those items consolidated at that location for the purposes of destruction from six surrounding temporary storehouses.
65. Six inspections have also been conducted at five old chemical weapons sites in five States Parties, namely, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. While the destruction operations have made considerable progress in this regard, recoveries of significant quantities of old chemical weapons continue to be made.
66. In addition, the Secretariat carried out one inspection of chemical weapons declared by the Syrian Arab Republic as abandoned.

### Chemical weapons production facilities

67. The Syrian Arab Republic declared one additional CWPF in 2014, bringing the total number of such facilities to 97 in 14 States Parties. Of those, 56 have already been destroyed and 23 have been converted for purposes not prohibited under the Convention. Twelve States Parties have completed the destruction or conversion of all their declared CWPFs. All converted production facilities remain under systematic verification by the OPCW to ensure that they are fully consistent with the approved conversion requests.
68. As noted above, significant progress has been made with respect to the destruction and verification of the 12 declared CWPFs in the Syrian Arab Republic. The project's procurement and tendering phases have been completed, the two successful bidders selected, and the contracts negotiated and signed. Destruction is planned to begin at the end of this week.
69. In 2014, the Technical Secretariat has conducted systematic inspections at four converted CWPFs in the Russian Federation. The Secretariat is still awaiting the submission, by the Republic of Iraq, of the detailed plans for destruction of four CWPFs (Falluja I, II, III, and Al-Muthanna).
70. Following the decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.7, dated 16 February 2012) on the nature of continued verification measures at converted CWPFs 10 years after certification of their conversion, in 2014 the Secretariat has inspected three such CWPFs—two in the Russian Federation and one in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

### Declarations

71. Following a decision by the Council at its Fifty-First Session, (EC-51/DEC.1, dated 27 November 2007), the Secretariat has continued to publish status reports on the timely submission of declarations under Article VI of the Convention.
72. As at 31 October 2014, 186 States Parties had submitted their initial declarations in accordance with Articles III and VI of the Convention. Since the last session of the Conference, the Secretariat has received initial declarations from three States Parties: two States Parties under Articles III and VI and one State Party under Article VI. Three States Parties have not yet submitted their initial declarations under Articles III and VI, and an additional State Party has yet to submit its initial declaration under Article VI.
73. This year, the number of timely submissions of annual declarations on past activities (ADPAs) showed significant improvement compared to last year. As at 31 October 2014, a total of 96 States Parties had submitted ADPAs for 2013, including 11 nil declarations. Of the 85 States Parties that had submitted a declaration for declarable facilities or activities for ADPA 2013, 71 were on time in submitting at least part of their declarations, as compared to 56 for ADPA 2012. In other words, approximately 84% of these declarations, excluding nil declarations, were received on time as compared to 63% for ADPA 2012. The Secretariat has continued to engage with those States Parties that submit their declarations more than 30 days late, highlighting the problem to them and seeking improvements. Of the 19 States Parties

that submitted their ADPA for 2012 more than 30 days late, eight were on time for their ADPA 2013.

74. In relation to annual declarations of anticipated activities (ADAAs) for 2015, the timeliness of submissions showed no improvement in comparison to last year. The number of States Parties submitting Schedule 1 declarations by the deadline of 2 October decreased slightly. As at 31 October 2014, 22 States Parties had submitted ADAA 2015 for Schedule 1 facilities, excluding nil declarations. Of the 22 States Parties that had submitted a declaration for declarable facilities or activities, 18 States Parties (82%) submitted by the deadline, as compared to the 19 States Parties (86%) that submitted by the deadline last year. Regarding Schedule 2 and 3 declarations, 38 declarations (excluding nil declarations) of the anticipated 44 had been received as at the deadline of 1 November 2014. Overall, approximately 86% of Schedule 2 and 3 declarations were received on time, as compared to 80% for ADAA 2014.

Transfer discrepancies related to the import and export of Schedule 2 and Schedule 3 chemicals

75. As reported in the supplement to the Verification Implementation Report (VIR) for 2013 (EC-77/HP/DG.1, dated 12 September 2014), the Secretariat has improved transfer-discrepancy letters to further assist States Parties in resolving transfer discrepancies. In addition, the practical guidance for resolving transfer discrepancies in the Declarations Handbook 2013 has been translated and was made available in all six official languages this year. I would like to strongly encourage States Parties to resolve transfer discrepancies by making use of the guidance and improved transfer-discrepancy letters.

Survey on the implementation of Schedule 2A/2A\* low-concentration guidelines

76. All States Parties, irrespective of whether or not they have, or anticipate any activity related to Schedule 2A and 2A\* chemicals declarable under Article VI, are required to implement as soon as practicable the decision on that subject (C-14/DEC.4, dated 2 December 2009) that established guidelines on low-concentration limits for declarations of Schedule 2A and 2A\* chemicals.
77. The Secretariat is undertaking a fourth survey (S/1213/2014, dated 12 September 2014) in order to gather data for the fourth report on the status of implementation of decision C-14/DEC.4.
78. As at 31 October, 33 States Parties had informed the Secretariat that they had fully implemented this decision. I encourage all States Parties that have not yet implemented the decision to implement it and to inform the Secretariat of the status of implementation by completing the fourth survey by the deadline of 31 December 2014.

Aggregate national data trend analysis for Schedule 2 chemicals

79. The aggregate national data (AND) trend analysis project aims to analyse trends over the past five years in AND declarations in order to identify potential additional declarable activities involving Schedule 2 chemicals. In 2014, one State Party

declared three additional Schedule 2 plant sites on the basis of this analysis. The Secretariat continues to work with relevant States Parties on this matter.

#### Update of the Declarations Handbook

80. The Handbook on Chemicals, which is Appendix 2 to the Declarations Handbook, was updated in June 2014. The current version of the 2013 Declarations Handbook incorporates the updated Handbook.

#### Electronic processing

81. In January 2014, the Secretariat released version 3.0 of the electronic declaration tool for National Authorities (EDNA). The main feature of this version is the inclusion of a dedicated module for the declaration of Schedule 1 facilities and activities. Eight States Parties have already utilised the new module and have provided positive feedback. The Secretariat will continue to improve this important tool to respond to the needs of the National Authorities and the Secretariat.
82. The Secretariat has continued to provide training for electronic declarations. Two courses were held at the OPCW Headquarters from 12 to 15 March and from 16 to 20 September as part of the two basic courses for personnel of National Authorities. In addition, the Secretariat provided a two-day training course on electronic declarations and the use of the EDNA as part of the seventeenth training course on National Authorities and chemical databases organised by VERIFIN in Helsinki, Finland, from 12 to 23 August.
83. The electronic processing of declarations continued to register positive developments. The Secretariat received declarations from 48 States Parties for ADPA 2013 in electronic format, amounting to a total of 93% of the declared plant sites. In 2014, five States Parties used EDNA for the first time. The Technical Secretariat is also organising training sessions and presentations for EDNA and the SIX system in the margins of this session of the Conference; details are available in the OPCW Journal. I encourage you to contact the Secretariat should you require guidance or assistance on the electronic submission of declarations, or in order to request support and training regarding the use of the software.

#### Secure information exchange

84. I have already mentioned the SIX system. Seven States Parties have already registered for the system and have begun using it for the transmission of declarations and declaration-related documents.
85. A dedicated session on SIX was included in the programme of the Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the National Authorities in order to discuss the progress of this strategic initiative and to allow National Authorities the opportunity to share their experiences. I encourage States Parties to explore the utilisation of this optional communication mechanism and to approach the Secretariat with any questions they may have.

### **Industry verification**

86. The 2014 Programme and Budget reflected the third consecutive increase in the number of Article VI inspections. By mid-December, 241 inspections, including nine with sampling and analysis, are scheduled to be completed.
87. Efficiency gains resulting from a reduction in size of inspection teams and an increase in the number of sequential inspections have continued, leading to cost savings and a reduction in inspector time required. In particular, these efficiency gains have allowed for the successful implementation of the 2014 inspection plan in an environment of constrained resources as a result of the continuing work in the Syrian Arab Republic.
88. I welcome the engagement of States Parties in helping to further improve the Secretariat's efficiency in this area, particularly by increasing the acceptance of sequential inspections (which have been utilised in over 40% of inspections this year) and through consultations within the Industry Cluster and meetings of National Authorities, which have made possible the streamlining of inspection processes. For instance, the Industry Cluster is supporting the current development of more concise report templates, to reduce the time spent on both report writing and report review at plant sites.
89. With regard to progress towards full implementation of the provisions of the Convention under Article VI, a number of States Parties that approached the Secretariat to request technical assistance under paragraph 7 of Part IX of the Verification Annex, in order to compile their lists of declarable plant sites, have made excellent progress towards identifying additional declarable facilities. The Secretariat welcomes the initiative, efforts, and transparency demonstrated by these States Parties. The Secretariat would like to remind any other State Party that may require such technical assistance that the Industry Verification Branch of the Verification Division can be contacted for this purpose.
90. The revised methodology for selection of other chemical production facilities (OCPFs), as reported in S/1157/2014 (dated 10 February 2014), continued to show good results in terms of the relevance of sites selected for inspection. In order to use the declared information to even better effect in directing inspections to the most relevant sites, it was agreed in the Industry Cluster to refine the list of product group codes used to declare the main activities of plant sites and to reduce the probability of inspections being conducted at mixed plant sites already inspected under other regimes (S/1202/2014, dated 23 July 2014). The computer programme used to randomly select the sites for inspection was modified in order to apply these two modifications to the 2015 site selection process.

### Technical support from the OPCW Laboratory

91. The network of partner laboratories available for off-site analysis of samples remains strong, with 21 laboratories from 17 Member States having met the requisite criteria to become OPCW designated laboratories. Seventeen laboratories from an additional 14 Member States have participated in the proficiency testing programme this past year and are working towards designated status.

92. The analysis of biomedical samples, in support of investigations of alleged use, is a challenging task. A fourth exercise on biomedical sample analysis was conducted from February to July of this year with 21 laboratories, 13 from our group of designated laboratories and eight from laboratories focusing exclusively on biomedical samples, from 17 participating Member States. This complex exercise focused on direct analysis of long-lasting nerve agent-protein adducts in blood. Over half of the laboratories demonstrated that they have the skills and instruments required to perform this analysis. A fifth exercise will commence in February 2015. The goal of these exercises is to designate laboratories for the off-site analysis of biomedical samples.
93. *Analytical & Bioanalytical Chemistry*, one of the leading journals in the field, published a special issue in August 2014 entitled “Analysis of Chemicals Relevant to the Chemical Weapons Convention.” Containing a total of 18 peer-reviewed articles, it combined state-of-the-art research from our partner laboratories. Two senior analytical chemists from the OPCW Laboratory acted as guest editors of this special issue.
94. The Secretariat is committed to sharing knowledge, including the analysis of chemicals relevant to the Convention. To this end, we are building a multipurpose training laboratory within the Rijswijk facility. The multipurpose training facility will be used for training or cross-training external participants as well as for internal training. The laboratory will be equipped with several gas chromatography-mass spectrometry instruments and a liquid chromatograph-tandem mass spectrometer.

#### Verification policy and reporting

95. As in past years, the Secretariat has reported on verification activities during the year. Comprehensive summaries of verification activities in 2013 are contained in the VIR for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2013 (EC-73/HP/DG.1, dated 16 May 2014 and Corr.1, dated 8 July 2014). The unclassified summary of verification activities is also available (S/1207/2014\*, dated 8 August 2014).

#### Inspectorate training

96. Inspectorate training in 2014 focused on maintaining the mandatory qualifications required within the OPCW’s quality system for the conduct of inspection activities, as well as on preparing experienced inspectors and inspection team leaders to perform inspection duties for “non-routine” missions and contingency operations, such as challenge inspections and investigations of alleged use.
97. A new group of inspectors (Group N), comprising 16 inspectors from all four specialities, is being trained for deployment in mid-February 2015. The 13-week training programme, consisting of 19 general and specialist modules, started on 6 November and will end on 6 February. The new inspectors are currently undergoing a speciality training programme.
98. The 2014 Inspectorate Training Programme (ITP) commenced on 13 January and is expected to run through 19 December. The Inspectorate Division will complete 2,005 equivalent training days within the ITP subprogramme. Delivery of training by inspectors required 600 equivalent training days. The programme (excluding new

inspector training) consisted of 40 individual training courses, with a total of 49 calendar weeks involving training.

#### Medium-Term Plan

99. The Medium-Term Plan for the period from 2015 to 2019 (EC-77/S/1 C-19/S/1, dated 23 April 2014) was issued in April and presented to States Parties in May 2014. Since then, a review of strategic issues facing the Organisation has been conducted. Based on this review and on feedback received from States Parties, the Secretariat has begun drafting a paper, as I have mentioned, which will be presented to States Parties in due course.

#### Results-based management

100. The Secretariat's results-based management (RBM) roadmap has been implemented in 2014 with an emphasis on programming and budgeting, as well as monitoring and evaluation. This corresponds to the recommendations received from the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF). In 2015, our RBM work will concentrate on developing appropriate accountability and results frameworks for the Organisation and on augmenting the performance measurement system for staff to be more results-oriented.

#### Counter-terrorism and chemical security

101. This year, three meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism were convened and were chaired by H.E. Dr Nimota Nihinlola Akanbi, Ambassador of Nigeria. To date, the Group has addressed all seven recommendations put forward in February 2013 by its previous Chairperson, H.E. Professor Ruthie C. Rono of Kenya. By addressing these recommendations over the course of the two meetings in 2013, and the three aforementioned meetings in 2014, the Group explored the OPCW's contribution to counter-terrorism. In 2014, the Group heard from H.E. Mr Oh Joon, the Chairperson of the United Nations Security Council 1540 Committee; Mr Jehangir Khan, Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Task Force Office; national experts on chemical safety and security from Australia and India; and a security expert from G4S, an international private security firm. The Group also examined Articles VI and XI of the Convention in the context of its contribution to global counter-terrorism efforts.
102. The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force has approved a project initiated within its Working Group on Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction Terrorist Attacks. This project, which the OPCW co-chairs with the International Atomic Energy Agency, is focused on ensuring effective inter-agency interoperability, as well as coordinated and effective communication in the event of chemical and/or biological attacks. In 2014, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre approved initial funding of USD 150,000 for the first phase of the project, which is to begin in early 2015.

#### Scientific Advisory Board and science and technology

103. As I mentioned, the SAB held its Twenty-First Session in June. At its Twentieth Session, I requested the SAB to provide further advice on assistance and protection as

a follow-up to the report it produced on this matter following its Twentieth Session. The SAB is expected to provide a response during the course of 2015. In the margins of the Twenty-First Session of the SAB, the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson again engaged with States Parties; the presentation given at the event is available on the external server.

104. The end-of-mandate report of the TWG on convergence of chemistry and biology was made available on the public website. The findings of the TWG were presented in plenary by its Chairperson, Mr William Kane, at the 2014 Biological Weapons Convention Meeting of Experts in August and discussed at the science and technology break-out session of last week's Sixteenth Annual Meeting of National Authorities. This report has sparked much interest and has helped to facilitate productive engagement in both the scientific and security communities.
105. The TWG on verification held two meetings (its third and fourth) in 2014, where it continued to look across the broad range of scientific and technological developments that have potential applications in verification activities. In 2015, this TWG will meet twice more and focus its work on producing a substantive report on its findings.
106. The Secretariat has continued its collaboration with IUPAC and expanded its interaction with regional and national scientific societies, participating in a number of conferences and webcast symposiums. At a March 2015 meeting, the OPCW will be honoured by the Board of Directors of the American Chemical Society for its work in finding peaceful applications of chemical sciences worldwide.
107. Recognising the importance of scientific and technological developments in the context of implementation of the Convention and the advice of the SAB, the Secretariat continues to further develop policy advice from the recommendations that I made to the Third Review Conference<sup>1</sup> in relation to science and technology. The status of this work is as described in EC-77/DG.11 (dated 5 September 2014).
108. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new members of the SAB who have begun their terms during 2014, and would also like to thank the Governments of Australia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for their contributions to the SAB trust fund in 2014. Such contributions allow the SAB to continue providing important advice. I wish to express the hope that States Parties will respond favourably to my request for voluntary contributions to the SAB trust fund (S/1119/2013, dated 24 July 2013).

#### Education and outreach

109. On 22 and 23 September, the OPCW hosted a conference entitled "Education for Peace: New Pathways for Securing Chemical Disarmament". This event—the first of its kind organised by the OPCW—brought together some 120 experts from government, science, industry, academia, and civil society from more than 40 countries to exchange information on enhancing education and outreach activities and tools.

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<sup>1</sup> Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.



110. The fourth and final meeting of the TWG on education and outreach was held in September immediately following the Education for Peace event, in which the members of the TWG participated. The TWG's final report, the key recommendations of which I have mentioned, has recently been distributed. In an effort to keep up the momentum of activities put in motion by this TWG, I have initiated the establishment of an Outreach Coordination Task Force within the Secretariat.
111. During the course of 2014, the Secretariat has continued to develop educational tools and materials, in partnership with our SAB and TWG members, as well as through student projects at local universities in the Netherlands. These activities will be expanded in 2015, with OPCW and Convention-themed projects facilitated in several universities that would include OPCW co-authored publications in scientific journals. As I announced at the Education for Peace conference, many of these educational resources are now available via the OPCW website. We are working with other organisations to make these resources more widely known and available. An important part of this is translation into the other official languages of the OPCW, for which we sometimes require support from Member States.

#### Knowledge management

112. In order to implement the relevant recommendation of the Political Declaration of the Third Review Conference, the Secretariat started the preparatory work towards a standing, centralised OPCW knowledge-management capability that will capture, evaluate, analyse, retain and be prepared to disseminate, under control, the requisite knowledge resources related to chemical weapons disarmament and knowledge and expertise related to the implementation of the Convention.
113. It is envisaged that in 2015, the Secretariat will finalise and commence the implementation of a knowledge-management capability plan. This will have two follow-on effects: the identification and selection of a potential electronic mechanism for the accumulation of knowledge within the Technical Secretariat; and the identification and implementation of a quality-control mechanism for the materials that will be included in the knowledge database.

#### Follow-up to the Third Review Conference

114. The Secretariat remains seized of the importance of ensuring substantive action as a follow-up to the Third Review Conference, in concert with States Parties and other stakeholders. To this end, the Secretariat continues to update the Matrix of Actionable Items, while also taking into account official documents and non-papers that have been issued.
115. I have presented the matrix to States Parties as a guide for advancing the recommendations of the Third Review Conference. This issue, as agreed, remains on the agenda of the Council.

#### **International cooperation and assistance**

116. In 2014, international cooperation and assistance programmes have continued to provide States Parties with a structured and considered series of tailor-made training

courses, workshops, seminars, and events designed to enhance their capacities to implement all of their obligations under the Convention. These activities have been primarily structured around the three key areas of responsibility of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division (ICA), which are: effective implementation of the Convention under Article VII; assistance and protection under Article X; and international cooperation in the peaceful uses of chemistry under Article XI.

117. In the course of these programmes, the ICA has spent EUR 4,163,500 of regular budget funding to deliver 104 training courses, workshops, and seminars to benefit 2,272 participants from all regional groups. This outstanding effort has been supplemented by voluntary contributions from Australia, the European Union, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, the United States of America, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as by contributions in kind by every State Party that has hosted an OPCW ICA activity this year.
118. I would like to take the opportunity to sincerely thank every State Party that has provided additional assistance and voluntary contributions to the Secretariat for their generous support to the programme. I would also like to acknowledge and thank all those participants who have taken time to undertake the training offered by the OPCW and to encourage each of them to apply this new knowledge and experience to continually improve the implementation of the Convention in their home countries.

#### Implementation support

119. The Technical Secretariat has continued providing capacity-building support for effective national implementation. States Parties have benefited from tailor-made programmes in a wide range of activities. More than 30 regional and international courses and events were organised in 2014, with the participation of States Parties from all regions. The core objectives of these activities were the strengthening of the capability of the National Authorities to effectively implement and fulfil obligations under the Convention, the development and adoption of national legislation, and the creation of robust institutional capabilities.
120. The Annual Meeting and the regional meetings of National Authorities continued to be the vital forums for exchanging national experiences, lessons learned, and best practices among National Authorities. This year, the regional National Authorities meetings were hosted by Armenia (Eastern Europe), Kenya (Africa), India (Asia), and Chile (Latin America and the Caribbean). States not Party to the Convention, namely Angola and Myanmar, also participated as observers.
121. The Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the National Authorities was organised at the OPCW Headquarters, as in previous years, from 27 to 30 November, in the week before the Nineteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, and was well attended by States Parties. Representatives of States not Party and collaborative partner organisations were also invited to attend as observers.
122. Enhancing national capability for effective implementation of the transfers regime of the Convention remains a high priority for States Parties. The Secretariat organised six regional and subregional courses for customs authorities in Argentina, Montenegro, Qatar, Senegal, Singapore, and South Africa. Over 180 customs officials

participated in these well-received courses. The participants are also expected to transfer their knowledge and experiences to their peers back home, using the train-the-trainer skills acquired from the courses.

123. Other ongoing efforts for the improvement of capabilities of National Authorities in relevant areas included two basic courses and one advanced course for personnel of National Authorities involved in the implementation of the Convention, a training course for national escorts for inspections, and a course on Article VI declarations and the implementation of transfer provisions of the Convention.
124. The Secretariat continued to assist States Parties in the development and adoption of the necessary national legislation. Four internships for legal drafters were organised this year, with the participation of eight States Parties from the Africa, Asia, and GRULAC<sup>2</sup> regions. Since their inception in 2012, nine such internship programmes have been organised, benefitting 19 States Parties. Of these, two (Cabo Verde and Grenada) have passed legislation and three (Ecuador, Panama, and Paraguay) have submitted draft legislation to parliament. The Secretariat also launched a new electronic platform, the so-called Legislative Assistant Support Tool (LAST), to assist the States Parties in their national implementing legislation.
125. The Influential Visitors Programme was launched, to provide support for consideration and adoption of draft national legislation. It entails a programme to enhance understanding and awareness of the Convention by key decision makers and parliament members, for their effective involvement in and support of the approval processes.
126. As regards the annual report on national implementation of the Convention, the introduction of a new format has simplified the preparation and submission of the report by States Parties, making it more concise, comprehensive, and less paper consuming.
127. The National Authority mentorship/partnership programme has continued to be appreciated by States Parties, and an increasing number of proposals for support were received this year. While discussions and coordination regarding implementation of the programme have been ongoing between the Secretariat and interested States Parties, two mentorship/partnership projects between Malaysia and Sudan, and between Cuba and Paraguay, were successfully completed, and the one between Pakistan and Yemen is expected to be concluded by the end of the year. A number of additional mentorship/partnership projects are planned for 2015.
128. International cooperation and assistance to Africa continues and deserves special attention, as it provides discrete and direct support to States Parties in the region. Since the approval of the third phase of the OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Africa Programme) early this year, several activities have been implemented, including workshops and training courses in different thematic areas, with more than 350 officials from African States Parties having benefited.

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<sup>2</sup> GRULAC = Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

129. Other capacity-building and education-and-outreach activities included a subregional workshop for the Pacific Islands States Parties; national seminars on the Convention in Latvia and Mongolia; a regional workshop for cooperation and engagement of chemical industries in Doha, with a generous contribution from Qatar; and a regional meeting on education in the responsible application of knowledge of dual-use chemicals in Argentina. Efforts also continued for engaging a State not Party to the Convention: an awareness-raising workshop and industrial inspection mock exercise were conducted in Myanmar, with the cooperation and support of the National Authorities of Japan and Malaysia.

Assistance and protection

130. During the past 12 months, 32 capacity-building activities have been conducted by the Technical Secretariat in the field of assistance and protection, with the participation of 663 individuals from States Parties of all regions. The activities covered a broad range of subjects and skills sets including basic, advanced, and refresher levels of training, field and table-top exercises, as well as laboratory training and medical courses. Modest increases were registered this year in the number of States Parties reporting protection programmes, in the Voluntary Fund for Assistance, and in the number of offers of assistance. As at 31 November 2014, 75 States Parties had submitted information about their national protective programmes against the use of chemical weapons. The Voluntary Fund for Assistance stood at EUR 1,531,887, and a total of 45 States Parties had declared the kind of assistance that they might provide in the event of a request for assistance. I would like to encourage States Parties to review the status of their obligations under Article X, particularly those contained in paragraphs 4 and 7.
131. Within available resources and in accordance with paragraph 5 of Article X, the Secretariat continued to provide expert advice and to assist the States Parties in identifying how best to implement their programmes for the development and improvement of a protective capability against chemical weapons.
132. The Technical Secretariat organised and conducted international and regional assistance-and-protection training courses and capacity-building activities related to offers made under paragraph 7 of Article X jointly with the Governments of Argentina, Belarus, China, the Czech Republic, Finland, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, and Switzerland. I am grateful to each of these Member States, which hosted these events and provided in-kind contributions to assistance-and-protection programmes.
133. Following recommendations of the Third Review Conference aimed at making more efficient use of available resources and expertise in the regions and subregions, the Assistance and Protection Branch successfully introduced a tailored approach to training, consisting of a three-component cycle (basic, advanced, exercise) that was implemented in the Asia and GRULAC regions through pilot projects.
134. The training cycles were conducted in China, India, Pakistan, Qatar, and the Republic of Korea for the Asia region, and in Argentina, Brazil, and Chile for the GRULAC region. As a result, three reference teams of first responders were trained in these

regions this year. This practice was endorsed by many States Parties and will be pursued in 2015 along with the practice of exchange of instructors at the regional, subregional, and international levels.

135. Under the auspices of the Africa Programme and as part of a full-cycle project designed for francophone States Parties in Central Africa, a basic and an advanced training course in assistance and protection took place in Brazzaville, the Congo, in June. The participants will complete their training with a confirmatory exercise in Cameroon in mid-December. This project benefited from the technical support of the NBC-DEMUNEX Centre of Competence of the Swiss Army and the financial support of the European Union.
136. Furthermore, in August the Technical Secretariat conducted at its Headquarters the third international training course for instructors, which provided advanced training to a new international team of 19 first responders. The conduct of this kind of course is an integral part of the endeavours of the Secretariat to remain a repository of knowledge in the field of chemical weapons. Participants were exposed to the broadest range of expertise within the Technical Secretariat. Trainees will be able to use the knowledge obtained to provide training in turn to personnel in their home countries.
137. In cooperation with the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC) in Rakitje, Croatia, the Secretariat organised the eleventh annual seminar on the implementation of the Convention for States Parties of South Eastern Europe in March.
138. Operational and procedural issues of regional assistance coordination were addressed at a table-top exercise that took place for the first time in the GRULAC region, namely, in San José, Costa Rica. This exercise, held with the financial support of the European Union, took place in early November. Participants tested their skills and organisational processes in a scenario involving a major chemical incident. They also received information on regional coordination activities being undertaken by the Regional Office of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Panama City, and the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM).
139. In furtherance of the project to develop a regional emergency response capacity for chemical incidents within the English-speaking Caribbean subregion, the Secretariat, in conjunction with the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, convened a meeting of national emergency coordinators in Bridgetown, Barbados, in April. The meeting was held with the involvement and support of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency and CARICOM.
140. A regional workshop on assistance and protection against chemical weapons for representatives of States Parties in Asia was held from 8 to 10 April 2014 in Indonesia. The regional workshop was conducted in support of the OPCW programme to strengthen cooperation with Asia on the Chemical Weapons Convention and was designed for planners and managers responsible for protection programmes against chemical weapons and response to chemical emergencies.

141. A regional table-top exercise was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in October in order to provide training in planning and building a support team in civilian defence for chemical emergencies, as well as risk assessment and contingency planning for incidents involving toxic chemicals. This event was partially funded by the Government of New Zealand and financially and technically supported by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
142. Medical response to mitigate the impact of chemical attacks and accidental releases of toxic chemicals remains a priority of capacity-building endeavours by the OPCW in the area of assistance and protection. Accordingly, a first regional course on medical aspects of assistance and protection was successfully conducted in Havana, Cuba, in October. Other States Parties interested in holding such training in the future provided the relevant participants to attend this course.
143. Other courses, integrated into subregional projects, were held in South Africa for instructors from African States Parties, with financial support from Norway; in Portugal for Portuguese-speaking States Parties; and in Costa Rica for Central American States Parties, each conducted by the Technical Secretariat with the technical support of the host countries.
144. The eleventh meeting of the Protection Network took place in March 2014. The meeting focused on several Article X areas, such as recommendations on ways to increase protective capacity against chemical weapons; new technologies in the field of emergency response against chemical weapons; capacity-building matters; improvement of reporting methods for Article X obligations; and proposals to strengthen the work and contribution of the Network in respect of the implementation of Article X.
145. The fourteenth annual workshop to coordinate assistance and protection under Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention was jointly organised with the National Authority of Spain in July. With the participation of States Parties of all geographical regions, including donors and international organisations such as CARICOM and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, the workshop focused on general aspects of Article X, capacity building, and regional coordination issues. Recommendations were drawn to improve strategies for the full implementation of Article X of the Convention in a changing security environment.
146. The second meeting of Assistance and Protection Training Centres was organised in September in Slovakia. This meeting served as a forum for discussion between senior staff of the training centres of States Parties that provide training in cooperation with the Assistance and Protection Branch. The programme of the meeting focused mainly on an update on the implementation of certain recommendations of the first meeting, held in July 2013, and a review of relevant OPCW activities conducted over the course of the intervening period. Other issues discussed by the participants and the Technical Secretariat included further measures to improve the harmonisation of training curricula related to Article X, as well as future cooperation and exchanges between training centres to improve Article X programmes.

147. In line with the call for nominations of qualified experts (S/1126/2013, dated 23 September 2013), 12 experts from various relevant disciplines were selected and completed their first training at the National Institute for NBC Protection of the Czech Republic in the city of Příbram in November. The roster of qualified experts is available to the Secretariat in cases of requests for assistance or an investigation of alleged use.
148. In summary, the 32 capacity-building activities conducted by the Technical Secretariat in 2014 have allowed the OPCW to develop and enhance the skills of 663 individuals from States Parties of all regions in basic, advanced, laboratory, medical, and refresher levels and types of training, as well exercises and other similar activities.
149. In the context of the International Support Network for the Victims of Chemical Weapons and in accordance with decision C-16/DEC.13 (dated 2 December 2011), I announced that the OPCW would match the EUR 20,000 pledged by States Parties with funds from the Nobel Peace Prize award. Currently, this voluntary fund stands at EUR 40,000. I take this opportunity to encourage States Parties to make further contributions to the trust fund, which will facilitate the realisation of activities in support of victims of chemical weapons as set out in the decision of the Conference.
150. Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude once again to all States Parties and training institutions that supported assistance-and-protection activities this year.

#### International cooperation

151. In the field of international cooperation and based on the provisions of Article XI of the Convention, the Technical Secretariat has continued to offer and further develop a diverse range of programmes and activities aimed at the economic and technological development of the Member States using chemistry for peaceful purposes. Those activities focused on capacity building in the areas of analytical chemistry and chemical and process engineering, the promotion and exchange of chemistry-related knowledge, laboratory assistance and upgrading, transfer of equipment, and offering support to research projects, internships, and international scientific conferences, as well as workshops in the area of chemical safety and security.
152. In 2014, the Technical Secretariat organised 42 activities and provided financial support to 76 research projects. In total, more than 590 scientists and experts from governments, academia, and industry benefitted from these programmes.
153. In the area of integrated chemical management, I am pleased to report that the fifteenth edition of the Associate Programme was successfully conducted from 31 July to 3 October. This year, chemists and chemical engineers from 32 Member States have been trained and six Member States were represented for the first time.
154. Since its inception in the year 2000, a total of 361 participants from 114 States Parties have benefited from this flagship programme of the OPCW. Given the success of the programme, we continue to receive an increasing demand for participation. Therefore, for the next edition in 2015, the possibility of increasing the intake to 40 participants on a trial basis is being explored.

155. The Associate Programme Alumni Association continues to offer a forum featuring vibrant interaction between its members. A second virtual meeting of the Association was successfully conducted from 8 to 16 November under the theme “OPCW Associate Programme: Addressing pressing challenges”. In addition to insightful analysis and rich exchange, the meeting generated valuable recommendations for the future implementation of the programme, including interesting ideas to meet the current challenges.
156. In the area of chemical-knowledge promotion and exchange, the Secretariat supported 66 scientists and researchers under the Conference Support Programme, enabling them to participate in 12 scientific events. Five of these events were held in Africa and 41 sponsorships were offered to African nationals.
157. Under the Internship Support Programme, 12 internships have been undertaken in 2014. Analytical chemists and other scientists working in fields relevant to the implementation of the Convention, from Bangladesh (2), Burkina Faso (2), Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria (2), Serbia, South Africa, and Uganda participated in on-the-job training projects in advanced laboratories of 10 countries. These projects included one at the Spiez Laboratory, Switzerland, and two at VERIFIN, Finland, which have been organised on a regular basis for a number of years. It is worth mentioning that not only did the number of internships rise but the participation of African scientists and the component of South-South cooperation also increased in the Internship Programme compared to the last few years. Of the 12 internships mentioned above, eight participants came from African countries and three undertook training in other countries on their own continent.
158. The Programme for Support of Research Projects provided funding to 36 directly funded research projects in 2014. Of these, 18 projects have been successfully completed and 18 are currently ongoing. The ongoing projects include eight that started in 2014. In addition, the last meeting of the Review Committee has approved funding for five new directly funded projects, which will start in early 2015. The projects started in 2014 or those that will start soon are conducted by researchers from 10 States Parties with economies that are developing or in transition, and their topics cover various fields of the peaceful applications of chemistry.
159. In addition to the research projects directly funded by the Organisation, 40 new research projects received joint funding from the OPCW and the International Foundation for Science (IFS) in 2014. This number has increased compared to last year. Cooperation with other institutions such as the IFS is instrumental in improving the outreach and impact of the programme.
160. In the area of enhancing laboratory capabilities, the first workshop on Schedule 1 facilities, entitled “Schedule 1 Users Forum”, was conducted in Madrid, Spain, from 13 to 16 January 2014. The workshop was hosted by the Government of Spain in cooperation with the Technical Secretariat, under Article XI of the Convention, with a view to promoting international cooperation in the field of chemical activities, especially those not prohibited by the Convention. It was attended by 38 participants from all 17 OPCW Member States with Schedule 1 facilities. The workshop served as a forum for the personnel of Schedule 1 facilities to share their experiences and



concerns and to reach common positions and agreements. The agenda included an overview of activities carried out at Schedule 1 facilities and was designed to foster comprehensive discussion and analysis of all Schedule 1 facility-related issues, including declarations, verification, and international cooperation among facilities and laboratories.

161. In terms of the Analytical Skills Development Programme, five laboratory capacity-building courses were held at VERIFIN in 2014. Two of these were analytical skills development courses, the first of which was held from 30 May to 13 June with 19 participants from 19 Member States. The second course was an additional course funded under European Union Council Decision 2012, and took place from 7 to 21 November, with 20 participants from 18 Member States.
162. The three specialised analytical chemistry courses organised at VERIFIN in 2014 focused on nuclear magnetic resonance, laboratory quality management, and quantitative mass spectrometry to analyse chemicals related to the Convention. The courses hosted four, five, and eight participants, respectively, from 13 different Member States.
163. The analytical skills development courses were also offered in different languages, catering to different regions:
  - (a) for the GRULAC region (in Spanish), from 2 to 13 June at the Laboratorio de Verificación para las Armas Químicas, Instituto Tecnológico La Marañosa in Spain, with the participation of 16 participants from 12 countries;
  - (b) under the Africa Programme, from 12 to 23 May at Protechnik Laboratories in Pretoria, South Africa, accommodating 24 participants from 16 African Member States; and
  - (c) for the Middle East, from 19 to 30 October at the Ben Hayyan International Laboratories in Aqaba, Jordan, hosting 13 participants from eight Member States.
164. A regional course for analytical chemists from laboratories supporting customs services was held from 7 to 11 April 2014 in Warsaw, Poland, hosted by the Institute of Industrial Organic Chemistry. The course catered for 10 participants from customs laboratories in eight Member States from the Asia region.
165. A training course on natural products chemistry training was held at the Institute of Bioproduct Development, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia from 12 to 28 October for Member States from the Asia region. The course catered for 17 participants from 13 Member States.
166. Within the Laboratory Assistance Programme, a visit was undertaken to the laboratories of the Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology of the Gendarmerie Nationale in Algiers, Algeria, in order to assess the capacity for establishing a line for analysis of chemical weapons agents. The follow-up included a set of recommendations and proposals for staff training in order to build relevant capacity in the institute.

167. Under the Equipment Exchange Programme, 81 used laptops received from the Technical Secretariat were refurbished for transfer to States Parties qualifying as developing countries that had applied to receive such equipment in the past.
168. Industry outreach and chemical safety and security have also continued to evolve this year. From 18 to 20 March 2014, a chemical-safety-and-security management seminar was held in Durban, South Africa, funded under the EU Council Decision on support for OPCW activities. The seminar focused on chemical-industry outreach and industry-related aspects of the implementation of Article XI of the Convention. It aimed to support chemical safety-and-security management in the chemical industry in African Member States. Thirty participants from 20 African Member States participated.
169. A chemical-safety-and-security management seminar took place in Beijing, China, from 23 to 25 April 2014 for Member States of the OPCW that are also members of ASEAN<sup>3</sup> and SAARC.<sup>4</sup> Forty-six participants from 15 Member States and seven representatives from Myanmar participated in the seminar.
170. A workshop on the peaceful development and use of chemistry for Member States of the OPCW in the Asia region took place in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 15 to 17 October 2014. The workshop aimed to promote the use of chemistry related to the Convention and to enhance the national capacities for regional development, based on experiences of chemical technology and industrial development of the Republic of Korea. Twenty-seven participants from 17 States Parties took part in the workshop, which was organised with a generous voluntary contribution from the Republic of Korea.
171. In cooperation with the Bergische University of Wuppertal, Germany, the Technical Secretariat has successfully organised, from 3 to 7 November, the fifth edition of the chemical-safety management course for the Africa region. Participants from nine African States Parties benefitted from this training, which was once again supported through a generous voluntary contribution from the German Federal Foreign Office.
172. In response to a joint proposal submitted earlier this year by the Technical Secretariat and the Bergische University of Wuppertal, the German Federal Foreign Office also agreed to increase its financial contribution to fund an additional course on chemical safety management for Member States from Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. This new course was successfully organised for eight Member States from the aforementioned regions, in parallel with the course on the same subject for African States Parties. As part of the OPCW efforts to reach out to States not Party to the Convention, representatives of South Sudan and Myanmar have been invited to these courses. I wish to thank the Bergische University of Wuppertal and the Federal Government of Germany for increasing their support to the courses, making it possible to increase the number of participating Member States.
173. To enhance awareness of chemical security aspects, the Technical Secretariat, in cooperation with the United States Government, hosted a one-day symposium entitled

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<sup>3</sup> ASEAN = Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

<sup>4</sup> SAARC = South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

“Bridging International Gaps in Chemical Security”, held at OPCW Headquarters on 26 November 2014. The event was organised a day before the Sixteenth Annual Meeting of National Authorities. This symposium aimed to highlight the OPCW’s role in promoting chemical security in the context of implementation of Article XI of the Convention. The focus was on strengthening international cooperation on chemical security management at industries and on providing a platform for communication among the relevant stakeholders. A panel of experts discussed various issues and challenges related to chemical security, namely: chemical threats and prevention measures; capacity building in national chemical security legislation and law enforcement; large industry and chemical supply chain security; small-to-medium industry and chemical laboratory security; and the dissemination of the culture of chemical security.

174. A chemical security and safety workshop for the SAARC Member States will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 17 to 19 December to discuss regional cooperation issues of safety and security management.
175. To enhance the development of programmes and effectiveness of delivery, the Technical Secretariat held a two-and-a-half day workshop on Article XI of the Convention, which took place at the OPCW Headquarters from 11 to 13 June 2014. The event was the culmination of the process to identify priorities of regional needs that began with a decision by the Conference of the States Parties at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011). The workshop was attended by the participants of the previously held regional workshops on Article XI, held in China and Uruguay in 2012 and Hungary and Kenya in 2013. The participating experts worked together to discuss and formalise the final recommendations for regional and global implementation of Article XI. The recommendations were presented to the Article XI consultations for further consideration and will be used by the policy-making organs to guide future planning for the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI.
176. The OPCW continues to support the transfer of new technologies among its Member States in accordance with the provisions of Article XI. To take this into account, the OPCW organised the All-African Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Initiative, which was held at the University of Western Cape, South Africa, from 12 to 14 November and was attended by 40 participants from the African Member States. This initiative was supported by a generous voluntary contribution from the Government of Norway.

### **Universality and external relations**

177. The Conference has before it the “Annual Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention during the Period from 16 September 2013 to 15 August 2014” (EC-77/DG.18 C-19/DG.11, dated 15 September 2014).
178. Throughout the year, meetings were held with a number of representatives of States not Party to discuss their accession to the Convention at the earliest opportunity, including on the sidelines of events organised by the OPCW, as well as in capitals. Bilateral consultations have taken place with various senior officials from a number of

- States not Party, including Angola, Egypt, Israel, and Myanmar, to encourage these countries to join the Convention at an early date.
179. Additionally, the Secretariat organised a workshop in cooperation with the International Institute for Strategic Studies, entitled “Bringing the Chemical Weapons Convention into effect throughout the Middle East” in London, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and participated in a course on non-proliferation held in Yangon, Myanmar, in September and a round-table discussion on disarmament held in Tel Aviv, Israel, in November.
  180. In March this year, I addressed letters to Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the remaining six States not Party, urging their early accession to the Convention, and in September I wrote to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of a group of States Parties, including the Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council, to encourage them to increase their engagement of States not Party, as well as to share their perspectives on how this can be done most effectively.
  181. As in previous years, the Secretariat invited representatives of States not Party to participate in activities conducted by the OPCW and provided sponsorships for their participation as needed. In the last year, the Secretariat provided sponsorships to 16 representatives of Myanmar to attend OPCW-related events during the year.
  182. Representatives of Angola have also participated in OPCW-related events, most recently at the fourteenth induction workshop, held in October.
  183. Since the last session of the Conference, the Deputy Director-General and I have had the opportunity to visit several countries and attend meetings and conferences relevant to the implementation of the Convention.
  184. In the last 12 months I visited Italy, Libya, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Belarus, Georgia, Denmark, and Cuba. I also participated in the Executive Council visit to the Kizner CWDF in the Russia Federation and held bilateral meetings in Moscow.
  185. We received a number of high-level guests at the OPCW Headquarters, notably the President of France, H.E. Mr François Hollande; the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland, H.E. Mr Eamon Gilmore; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Benin, H.E. Mr Nassirou Bako-Arifari; the Chief of the Armed Forces of Switzerland, Commandant de Corps André Blattmann; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia, the Hon. Ms Julie Bishop; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy, H.E. Mrs Federica Mogherini; the Secretary of State of the United States of America, the Hon. Mr John Kerry; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr Sergey Lavrov; the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, H.E. Mr Aizaz Chaudhry; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iraq, H.E. Mr Hoshiyar Zebari; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, H.E. Mr Mongi Hamdi; and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Emigrants of Lebanon, H.E. Mr Gebran Bassil.
  186. During the Nuclear Security Summit in March, I was received by the President of the United States of America, H.E. Mr Barack Obama and the Prime Minister of Japan, H.E. Mr Shinzo Abe, in The Hague.

187. I addressed several international conferences, including the World Congress on CBRNe<sup>5</sup> Science and Consequence Management; the Annual Meeting of the Academic Council on the United Nations System; the Tenth Annual NATO<sup>6</sup> Conference on WMD<sup>7</sup> Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation; the European Union Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Conference held in Brussels, Belgium; the EuroScience Open Forum in Copenhagen, Denmark; and the ECSITE<sup>8</sup> annual conference held here in The Hague.
188. To engage with a broader base of stakeholders, I have given speeches at various academic events, universities, and research institutes in Argentina, Belarus, Brazil, Cuba, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Uruguay. During my stays in Belarus and Brazil, I also exchanged ideas with representatives of science and industry communities.
189. The Deputy Director-General attended the inauguration of a newly built CWDF at Kizner in the Russian Federation, at the end of last year. In 2014, the Deputy Director-General opened a regional meeting of National Authorities in Kenya where she had bilateral meetings with the Deputy President, H.E. Mr William Ruto, and a number of ministers. The Deputy Director-General also visited India, Mauritius, and Turkey.
190. In November, the Deputy Director-General travelled to Brussels, where she briefed Permanent Representatives to the OPCW who are not based in The Hague, as part of the Secretariat's efforts to keep Permanent Representatives based outside the Netherlands apprised of developments within the Organisation.
191. The Deputy Director-General also delivered lectures at universities in Kenya and Germany, as well as the TNO-EY-G4S Security and Crisis Management Forum held in The Hague.
192. On 30 September, the OPCW hosted the fourteenth induction workshop for diplomatic personnel involved in the work of the OPCW. This year's edition was attended by over 60 delegates, including 12 ambassadors, among whom was the Ambassador of Angola.

#### Committee on Relations with the Host Country

193. The Conference of the States Parties at its Eleventh Session adopted a decision (C-11/DEC.9, dated 7 December 2006) that established a Committee on Relations with the Host Country. The Conference has before it the report of this committee, which met on 3 March 2014, under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr Rajesh Nandan Prasad, Permanent Representative of India and Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Council, with a view to resolving any issues related to the implementation of the OPCW Headquarters Agreement (EC-75/HCC/1/Rev.1, C-19/HCC/1/Rev.1, dated 6 March 2014).

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<sup>5</sup> CBRNe = chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives.

<sup>6</sup> NATO = North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

<sup>7</sup> WMD = weapon(s) of mass destruction.

<sup>8</sup> ECSITE = European Network of Science Centres and Museums.

Media and public affairs

194. In line with the recommendation by the Third Review Conference to improve interaction with civil society organisations engaged in issues relevant to the Convention, the OPCW continues to attract high levels of participation by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the annual session of the Conference of the States Parties. Sixty-three NGOs were approved to participate in this Nineteenth Session, which will include a special plenary for NGOs to address delegates and a number of NGO side events.
195. The OPCW's international profile has remained at a level far above its historic norm according to the Meltwater News monitoring service, which recorded some 40,000 citations of the OPCW in news articles in 2014. This is fewer than the over 100,000 citations last year, but still 10 times as many as in 2012.
196. The Organisation has also seen continuous increases in traffic to its social media sites, with more than 8,000 followers today on Facebook and almost 9,000 on Twitter. The OPCW public website also underwent a substantial upgrade in 2014, including a redesigned homepage and standardised design template for all sections of the site, which have improved navigation and user experience.

**Administrative and financial matters**

197. The Secretariat has been successfully maintaining the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) as its official accounting principles to record financial transactions and produce the Financial Statements since 2011. I am pleased to inform the Conference that the External Auditor has placed another unqualified audit opinion on the OPCW's Financial Statements for the period that ended on 31 December 2013 (EC-77/DG.1 C-19/DG.4, dated 14 July 2014). However, post-IPSAS implementation challenges continue because of the increased volume of information required for IPSAS compliance and the limited possibilities for enhancement of the information-technology (IT) systems. In this regard, the Conference is requested to consider and adopt a draft decision on the implementation of an ERP system and establishment of a special fund for this purpose (C-19/DEC/CRP.2, dated 22 October 2014), together with a draft decision on funding arrangements by reduction of the Working Capital Fund (C-19/DEC/CRP.3, dated 22 October 2014) and another draft decision on the withholding of the distribution of the cash surplus for 2012 (C-19/DEC/CRP.4, dated 22 October 2014).
198. I wish to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to the External Auditor of Germany for the support and advice that he and his team have provided to the OPCW since 2009. The Federal Court of Auditors of Germany will finish its assignments as the External Auditor of the OPCW after completing its audit of the 2014 Financial Statements. The Conference is requested to appoint a new External Auditor for the period starting from 2015.
199. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that there are still unpaid outstanding 2014 assessed contributions. As at 28 November 2014, the collection level stood at 94.8 %, compared to 91.2% on the same date last year. As the financial year 2014 is about to end, funds for the 2014 assessed contributions that have not been received

cannot be utilised. I encourage States Parties that have not paid their outstanding contributions yet, to please do so at the earliest and in full.

200. I have continued to encourage States Parties in arrears that have lost their voting rights to consider entering into multi-year payment plans to settle their outstanding unpaid assessed contributions. Unfortunately, no State Party has submitted to the Technical Secretariat a request for the payment plan for the past three years.
201. As for the next financial year, once the Conference approves the proposed 2015 Programme and Budget, the Technical Secretariat will send 190 individual assessment letters to request each State Party to pay its share of the assessed contributions.
202. For the first time, a staff survey was carried out in the Technical Secretariat with a response rate of around 68%. The Director of Administration is working with the Staff Association to address issues that have been highlighted as a result of the survey.
203. In order to support our staff in a period of change and transition, the Secretariat has embarked on creating a support system for our staff that comprises mediation and the employment of a consultant staff welfare officer. The recruitment process is nearing its completion.

#### Confidentiality and security

204. The Office of Confidentiality and Security (OCS) has continued to provide a high standard of physical security to the OPCW for its staff, delegates, and visitors whilst reducing staffing levels within its Operations Section. Of note, it successfully provided enhanced security in support of the Nuclear Security Summit held in the International Zone in April 2014. The OCS Management Team has developed and delivered risk-based security assessments on many major OPCW operational changes, thus adding to and enhancing the risk-management approach introduced more widely into the OPCW over the past year or so.
205. The OCS has also provided significant administrative support throughout the year to the OPCW-United Nations Joint Mission and its successor, the OPCW Mission in Syria, including the security preparation and briefing of OPCW personnel deploying on mission to the Syrian Arab Republic.
206. In May 2014, the OCS provided secretarial support to the annual meeting of the Commission for the Settlement of Disputes Related to Confidentiality, known as the Confidentiality Commission, when an exercise using a mock case was held.
207. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the importance of protecting the confidentiality regime—this is a responsibility that is shared between the Technical Secretariat and all States Parties. Therefore, States Parties are requested to accord the highest priority to compliance with their obligations as outlined in Article 2.1 of Part IV of the OPCW Policy on Confidentiality.