In accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 67/44 of 3 December 2012, the Secretary-General is requested to “compile a report on measures already taken by international organisations on issues relating to the linkage between the fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction … and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eight session.”

The Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is pleased to provide the following information:

I – Executive Summary

At the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Third Review Conference”), the States Parties declared their “[d]etermination to increase their efforts to guard against the possible hostile use of toxic chemicals by non-State actors such as terrorists” (paragraph 9.11 of RC-3/3, dated 19 April 2013.)

At the same time, the Third Review Conference, “while reaffirming the autonomous and independent status of the OPCW, while bearing in mind that the OPCW is not an anti-terrorism organisation, took cognisance of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on combating terrorism” and “underscored the need to explore further cooperation on this issue and build on existing work with relevant international organisations and international bodies that deal with the potential threats of chemical terrorism” (paragraph 9.145 of RC-3/3.)

Moreover, the Third Review Conference, “in the light of the possibility of the use of chemical weapons against States Parties to the Convention through threat by actions or activities of any State … as well as the threat of the possibility of the use of chemical weapons by non-State actors including terrorists, welcomed the measures taken by the Secretariat to strengthen its ability to respond promptly to requests for assistance made under Article X and to investigate the alleged use of chemical weapons” (paragraph 9.115 of RC-3/3.)

The OPCW, within the clear boundaries of its mandate, continued to contribute to the international community’s efforts in these areas. This has been undertaken both through the promotion of the Chemical Weapons Convention’s full implementation, as agreed by the OPCW Executive Council in 2001 (EC-XXVII/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2001), and in the context of the Organisation’s cooperation with the United Nations.

The Organization continued to verify the destruction of existing stockpiles of chemical weapons, with nearly 80% of all declared stockpiles eliminated to date. At the same time, over 2,400 inspections were carried out at industrial facilities around the world since the Convention entered into force. The Organisation also continued to provide a large number of targeted activities that aim at promoting the Convention’s
universality and full and effective implementation, building national and regional capacities in the area of preparedness and response in case of use or threat of use of chemical weapons as well as in the area of the peaceful uses of chemistry, including in cooperation with different national and international partners.

In particular, the OPCW continued to contribute to the United Nations’ efforts towards implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and to promote the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

II – Full Submission

Decisions of the OPCW Policy-Making Organs

The activities carried out in the area of global anti-terrorism efforts by the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW are based on the approach in the decision adopted by the OPCW Executive Council at its Twenty-Seventh Session, entitled “The OPCW’s Contribution to Global Anti-Terrorism Efforts”, that “the full and effective implementation of the Convention is in itself a contribution to global anti-terrorist efforts” (paragraph 1 of EC-XXVII/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2001.) With this decision, the Council also established an Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism to “examine further the OPCW’s contribution to global anti-terrorist efforts” (paragraph 3 of EC-XXVII/DEC.5.)

At the First Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the First Review Conference”), the States Parties, “recognising the role of the United Nations in the global fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations”, stressed that “the full and effective implementation of all provisions of the Convention is in itself as important contribution to this fight” and that “universality of the Convention, in conjunction with its full and effective implementation, helps to prevent access to chemical weapons by terrorists” (paragraph 5 of RC-1/3, dated 9 May 2003.)

The First Review Conference also noted with concern that, “along with the continued threat of possible use of chemical weapons by States, the international community faces a growing danger of the use of chemical weapons by terrorists” (paragraph 7.10 of the RC-1/5, dated 9 May 2003.)

The Second Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Second Review Conference”) noted the increased danger of the use of chemical weapons by terrorists

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1 In the same decision, the Council stressed that “at this stage, the contribution to global anti-terrorist efforts in the context of the Chemical Weapons Convention should focus on the following main areas:
   (a) promotion of universal adherence to the Convention;
   (b) full implementation of the legislative measures required by Article VII;
   (c) full implementation of the provisions of Articles IV and V related to the destruction of chemical weapons;
   (d) full implementation of the provisions of Article VI related to activities not prohibited by the Convention; and
   (e) ability of the OPCW to respond to the assistance and protection provisions under Article X” (paragraph 2 of EC-XXVII/DEC.5.)
or other non-State actors, recalled the 2001 decision of the Executive Council concerning the OPCW’s contribution to global anti-terrorist efforts, affirmed its continuing relevance and took note of the work of the OPCW Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (paragraphs 9.10 and 9.137 of RC-2/4, dated 18 April 2008.)

At the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Third Review Conference”), the States Parties declared their “[d]etermination to increase their efforts to guard against the possible hostile use of toxic chemicals by non-State actors such as terrorists” (paragraph 9.11 of RC-3/3, dated 19 April 2013.)

They also noted with concern that, along with the threat of possible production, acquisition and use of chemical weapons by States, the international community faces the danger of production, acquisition and use of chemical weapons by non-State actors, including terrorists (paragraph 9.27 of RC-3/3.) The Third Review Conference further noted the relevance of the above-mentioned Council decision of 2001 and further encouraged the OEWG to continue to fulfil its mandate (paragraph 9.146 of RC-3/3.)

At the same time, the Third Review Conference, “while reaffirming the autonomous and independent status of the OPCW, while bearing in mind that the OPCW is not an anti-terrorism organisation, took cognisance of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on combating terrorism and, with a view to enabling States Parties that seek international cooperation in the context of their national, regional, and subregional efforts, underscored the need to explore further cooperation on this issue and build on existing work with relevant international organisations and international bodies that deal with the potential threats of chemical terrorism” (paragraph 9.145 of RC-3/3, dated 19 April 2013.)

Moreover, the Third Review Conference, “in the light of the possibility of the use of chemical weapons against States Parties to the Convention through threat by actions or activities of any State as described by paragraph 8 of Article X as well as the threat of the possibility of the use of chemical weapons by non-State actors including terrorists, welcomed the measures taken by the Secretariat to strengthen its ability to respond promptly to requests for assistance made under Article X and to investigate the alleged use of chemical weapons” (paragraph 9.115 of RC-3/3.)

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2 The Second Review Conference further defined areas of concern; it noted “the possibility of the use of chemical weapons, as defined by the Convention, by non-state actors such as terrorists” and “underlined the importance of the implementation of Article X in this regard by the States Parties and the Secretariat” (paragraph 9.95 of RC-2/4.) Furthermore, the Second Review Conference “reaffirmed the autonomous and independent status of the OPCW and took cognisance of the resolutions of the United Nations on combating terrorism. The Second Review Conference, in this regard, invited States Parties to consult and cooperate both bilaterally and regionally on ways to prevent terrorists from acquiring and/or using chemical weapons” (paragraph 137 of RC-2/4.) In addition, the Second Review Conference “reaffirmed concerns expressed at the First Review Conference that chemical facilities may become subject to attacks or other incidents that could lead to the release or theft of toxic chemicals. The Second Review Conference welcomed the fact that some States Parties had taken measures to minimise such risks and encouraged States Parties to exchange experiences and discuss related issues” (paragraph 9.94 of RC-2/4.)
On 25 April 2013, the Secretariat issued a note by the Director-General on the “Status of the Contribution of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to Global Anti-terrorism Efforts” (EC-72/DG.7.) The note covers the period from 8 February 2012 to 25 April 2013 and provides information on the activities of the Technical Secretariat pursuant to the decisions on the contribution of the Organization to global anti-terrorism efforts.

1. Activities of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism

In its twelve years of work, the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism, within its mandate, has promoted the exchange of information and experience among the States Parties and the Secretariat in the area of anti-terrorism and in triggering discussions and debate, including with international and national experts. This work has been appreciated by the States Parties and acknowledged by the Executive Council.

Discussions in the Group have also allowed for a comprehensive review of the work of the Secretariat relevant to anti-terrorism efforts, thus contributing to promoting transparency on this issue, building the confidence of the Member States in the conformity of the Secretariat’s activities in this area with relevant decisions by the Policy-Making Organs, as well as raising awareness about the contribution of the Secretariat and the Organisation towards enhancing the security of the Member States, their nationals, and of the international community as a whole. States Parties have had also an opportunity to present their activities and approaches in this area and share good practices and national experiences.

Various delegations, experts, and representatives from international and regional organisations have addressed the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism. At the same time, the Group has been regularly briefed by the Director-General and representatives from the Secretariat on the activities of the Secretariat in the field of anti-terrorism, including its contacts with international, regional, and subregional organisations, and specialised agencies.

During 2012, the Group held two meetings, on 14 June and on 13 November 2012, which provided opportunities for a comprehensive review of the work of the Secretariat in its efforts against terrorism and for promoting discussions on specific issues among States Parties.

2. Status of participation in the Convention and of national implementation measures

As at 31 May 2013, there were 188 States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention. Somalia deposited its instrument of accession to the Convention on 29 May 2013 and will become the 189th State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention 30 days after such deposit.

Article VII of the Convention requires States Parties to adopt the necessary measures to implement their obligations under the Convention, including prohibiting natural and legal persons anywhere on their territory or in any other place under their jurisdiction from undertaking any activity prohibited to a State Party under the Convention, including enacting penal legislation with respect to such activity. Article
VII also requires States Parties to establish a National Authority to serve as the national focal point for effective liaison with the OPCW and other States Parties.

3. Activities by the Technical Secretariat

2.1 Implementation Support

In 2003, the Conference of the States Parties, at its Eighth Session, adopted a Plan of Action on implementation of Article VII obligations (C-8/DEC.16, dated 23 October 2003) which, together with subsequent decisions, require the Technical Secretariat to provide intensified and sustained support to States Parties in their national implementation efforts.

The Secretariat supports States Parties in their national implementation of the CWC through diverse assistance programmes, including support related to national implementing measures. Since the adoption of the Plan of Action, the Secretariat responded to 347 requests for legislative assistance, of which 13 in 2012. Inter alia, six regional and sub-regional training courses for customs authorities, 10 basic, regional and training courses for representatives of national authorities, an annual and various regional meetings of national authorities as well as the first internship programme for legal professionals have been carried out in 2012. The Secretariat, in cooperation with the government of Poland, also organised an international conference on chemical safety and chemical security in November 2012, as well as, together with the government of the United States of America, a workshop for the National Authority of Yemen on chemical safety and chemical security. 934 participants took part in the implementation support activities organised by the Secretariat during 2012.

2.2 Assistance and protection against chemical weapons

During 2012, a number of national, regional, and international assistance-and-protection events have been conducted in order to establish or enlarge national chemical-emergency programmes and to train first responders and other specialised units. These events include national training, at the request of a State Party, in preparation for high-profile mass-gathering events; international training in chemical-safety management; regional training in chemical emergencies. An international training event for instructors involved in the response to a chemical weapons incident was prepared and hosted in The Hague. Subregional projects in assistance and protection against chemical weapons aimed at increasing the knowledge of first responders and creating subregional cooperation and networking have been built up in Africa and Latin America.4

3 Article VIII(38)(e) of the Convention, provides that the Technical Secretariat shall “[p]rovide technical assistance and technical evaluation to States Parties in the implementation of the provisions of [the] Convention …” As regards the Secretariat’s activities in support of the implementation of Article VII of the Convention, other relevant decisions of the Conference of States Parties are: C-9/DEC.4, dated 30 November 2004, C-10/DEC.16. dated 11 November 2005, C-11/DEC.4, dated 6 December 2006, C-12/DEC.9, dated 9 November 2007, C-13/DEC.7, dated 5 December 2008, and C-14/DEC.12, dated 4 December 2009.

4 The following events were held during 2012 in the area of assistance and protection against chemical weapons for a total of 565 participants: Regional Workshop on the Implementation of the CWC, Croatia, 21-23 February 2012; Swiss Exercise Course, Switzerland, 19-23 March 2012; National
The capacity-building activities in the area of assistance and protection activities raise awareness of the importance of enhanced engagement, and strengthened contact with key stakeholders of the Convention, and support States Parties in responding in a more effective way to the misuse of toxic chemicals. A detailed account and description of the activities undertaken by the Technical Secretariat in this area is contained in the Report by the Director–General on the status of implementation of Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 December 2012 (EC-72/DG.1, dated 25 March 2013.)

2.3 International Cooperation for the peaceful uses of chemistry

The Organisation continued to provide several programmes also in the area of promoting the peaceful uses of chemistry, in the framework of the Associate Programme, the Conference Support Programme, the Internship Support Programme, the Support for Research Projects, Industry Outreach Workshops, Analytical Skills Development Courses, the Laboratory Assistance Programme and the Regional Article XI Workshops for the Asian group and the Latin American and Caribbean group (GRULAC) of countries. During 2012, a total of 523 participants took part in those activities.

2.4 Contacts with other organisations and agencies

In the context of the activities described above, the Secretariat continued to maintain channels of communication with a number of regional, subregional, and international organisations and agencies in the field of anti-terrorism pursuant to and within relevant mandates and with a view to exchanging information, knowledge, and expertise as needed, and coordinating programme activities that relate to action against terrorism, as appropriate.

2.5 Cooperation with the United Nations

Assistance and Protection Training Course, Sri Lanka, 2-6 April 2012; Planning meeting of Sub-region Project for Central America, Honduras., 11-13 April 2012; First Advanced Regional Assistance and Protection Course on Chemical Emergency Response, Argentina, 16-20 April 2012; Specialised Training Course in Preparation to G20 Summit, Mexico, 16-20 April 2012; International Course on Emergency Medical Assistance, Ukraine, 7-11 May 2012; First International Advanced Course on Assistance and Protection, China, 14-18 May 2012; Advanced Assistance and Protection Training Course, Czech Republic, 21-25 May 2012; 8th Assistance and Protection Course, Serbia, 4-8 June 2012; Planning meeting for the Subregion of Southern African Project, Namibia, 7-8 June 2012; 8th International Assistance and Protection Course, Republic of Korea, 25-29 June 2012; Swiss Basic Course, Switzerland, 25-29 June 2012; Refresher Training for the Caribbean Sub-Regional Team, Barbados, 16-20 July 2012; Regional Assistance and Protection Course on Chemical Emergency Response (CAPEQ-3), Brazil, 6-10 August 2012; Basic Protection Course for West African States Parties, Serbia, 3-7 September 2012; International Assistance and Protection Training Course, Finland 10-14 September 2012; First Regional Assistance and Protection Course for Instructors from African States, South Africa, 10-21 September 2012; Second International Assistance and Protection Course, Pakistan, 1-5 October 2012; Annual Assistance Coordination Workshop, Montenegro, 10-12 October 2012; Advanced Laboratory Skills Training Course, Slovakia 15-25, October 2012; International Training the Trainers, OPCW, Netherlands, 12-16 November 2012; Swiss Laboratory Course, Switzerland, 19-23 November 2012; Protection Network Meeting, OPCW, Netherlands, 11-13 December 2012; and Course on Sampling and Analysis, Czestochowa, Poland, 14-25 May 2012.
The cooperation between the Secretariat and the United Nations in the area of anti-terrorism is founded on the Relationship Agreement signed in 2000, which formalises a close working relationship between the two organisations, whilst at the same time specifically recognising the independent status of the OPCW.

The yearly United Nations General Assembly resolution entitled “Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction” states that “[t]he full and effective implementation of all provisions of the Convention, including those on national implementation (Article VII) and assistance and protection against chemical weapons (Article X), constitutes an important contribution to the efforts of the United Nations in the global fight against terrorism in all its form and manifestations” (paragraph 5 of A/RES/67/54, dated 3 December 2012.)

The Secretariat, at the request of the United Nations, also provided its yearly input to the United Nations General Assembly resolution on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.


Resolution 1540 (2004) established an obligation for all United Nations Member States to adopt effective and appropriate legal and administrative measures to prevent non-State actors from gaining access to, and engaging in, activities involving nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. As regards chemical weapons, these obligations are consistent with those enshrined in the Convention. These include, but are not limited to, the national implementation measures that States Parties to the Convention have undertaken to implement their treaty obligations in accordance with Article VII. The activities of the OPCW in this area are fully consistent with the provisions of Resolution 1540 (2004), particularly its operative paragraph 7.

During the reporting period, the Secretariat contributed to events promoted by the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs, the 1540 Committee of the United Nations Security Council, and relevant host States to promote the implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004).

2.4.2 Activities related to the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force

The OPCW has been a member of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) since its creation in 2005, and has played a role in the elaboration, development, and implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as adopted by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/288 (2006). The OPCW participates in the work of the CTITF and co-chairs, together with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Working Group on Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction Attacks.

In 2011, the Secretariat participated in the preparation of a report entitled “Interagency Coordination in the Event of a Terrorist Attack Using Chemical or Biological Weapons or Materials”, produced by the Working Group on Preventing
and Responding to WMD2 Terrorist Attacks of the CTITF. The report includes a series of recommendations aimed at improving the international response to chemical and/or biological incidents.

In December 2012, the Secretariat participated in the annual CTITF inter-agency coordination meeting, which was aimed at discussing the work conducted under the CTITF mandate and the contribution by participating agencies, as well as providing an update on future projects and initiatives. In the margins of the meeting and in a teleconference held in January 2013, the Working Group on Preventing and Responding to WMD Terrorist Attacks began considering proposals for specific, practical-oriented initiatives to address some of the recommendations from the 2011 report, in close cooperation with relevant partners, as well as under the auspices of and with funding from the CTITF.

3. Chemical safety and chemical security

The Secretariat has continued to conduct activities in the area of chemical safety and chemical security, including those relevant to strengthening safety and security at chemical plant sites:

(a) The Secretariat continued its chemical-safety-and-security management programme, which began in 2009;
(b) On 7 and 8 June 2012, the Secretariat convened an experts’ meeting on chemical safety and security to explore the potential role of the OPCW in this field. The meeting was attended by 20 experts from various professional backgrounds in both chemical safety and security, representing a wide range of views, as well as staff members of the Secretariat. The experts’ discussions brought forth valuable ideas and recommendations, which are incorporated in the “Informal Summary by the Technical Secretariat”, which was made available to OPCW Member States; and
(c) On 8 and 9 November 2012, an international meeting on chemical safety and security was conducted in Tarnów, Poland. The meeting confirmed the value of the OPCW’s steady and careful engagement to support national capacity-building against misuse of toxic chemicals and the safety and security of facilities and of transportation of chemicals.

Since the Second Review Conference, chemical safety and chemical security have increasingly drawn the attention of States Parties. The OPCW Conference on International Cooperation and Chemical Safety and Security held in 2011 underscored the critical importance of the use of chemistry for exclusively peaceful purposes and served to further strengthen support for the Convention. The decision of the Conference of the States Parties on the implementation of Article XI also refers, inter alia, to concrete measures to be undertaken by States Parties and the Secretariat for promoting chemical safety and chemical security (subparagraph 2(a)(i) of C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011).

The Third Review Conference encouraged the States Parties and the Secretariat to “promote the OPCW’s role as a platform for voluntary consultation and cooperation among States Parties in the areas of chemical safety and security, including through
the exchanges of information and best practices, and to support national capacity building, upon request” (paragraph 131(k) of RC-3/3.)

4. **G8 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction**

The Secretariat was also invited, together with other relevant international and regional organisations, to participate as an observer in meetings of the G8 Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction in the context of the Global Partnership’s dialogue with international organisations.

The possibility to participate in the meetings of the Global Partnership represented an important occasion for the Secretariat to present members with an overview of its activities aimed at promoting the implementation of the Convention and its contribution to preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons, and to the global efforts against terrorism. A Chemical Security Sub-Working Group (CSWG), chaired by Poland and Ukraine, was established within the Global Partnership, which reiterates the importance attached to the prevention of the misuse of toxic chemicals. While operating within the remit of its mandate, the Secretariat will participate in the meetings of the CSWG as an observer.