

SEMINAR ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR CHEMICAL SAFETY AND SECURITY

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OPCW's role in chemical safety and security

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Introduction: Enhancing safety and security at chemical plants – new task and opportunity for the OPCW

1. Strengthening safety and security at chemical plant sites is an important task in preventing the hostile use of chemicals. With the rapid development of chemical industry production and bio-agents, as well as biochemistry, and their spread to new areas of the world, the enhancement of security in the area of legitimate production, transportation, and use of chemicals and bio-agents is assuming much greater importance.

2. As the leading international organization devoted to preventing the hostile use of toxic chemicals, and with close ties to the chemical industry, the OPCW is well-placed to serve as a meeting ground for governments and industry to discuss chemical security. The OPCW will further develop its role as a platform for raising awareness, disseminating best practices, training and promoting the exchange of ideas and expertise, to support the safe and secure production, transportation and storage of chemicals.

3. Enhancing a chemical security culture will provide greater assurances that the national chemical security systems can accomplish their functions of preventing, detecting and responding to theft, sabotage, unauthorized access, and illegal transfer of chemical materials from their associated facilities and transports.

4. In partnership with the ICCA, CEFIC, EU, national governments, and national chemical associations, the OPCW is developing its role as a platform of support for global cooperation in decreasing the chemical threat by promoting awareness of chemical security and safety, training, exchange of best practices and fostering cooperation between chemical professionals.

5. There are certain boundaries identified, beyond which the OPCW activities should not expand. In the process of development of its engagement in the chemical safety and security the shall avoid:

- a. developing an OPCW independent role;
- b. developing within the Secretariat an expertise on CSS issues;

- c. including chemical CSS in inspection and verification activities;
- d. developing OPCW regulatory measures;
- e. developing legal guidance on chemical safety and security issues.

The OPCW as a platform to enhance safety and security at chemical plants

6. The OPCW as a platform for enhancing security at chemical plants will primarily be addressed to States Parties with economies in development or transition. It will bring together National Authorities and government officials from other relevant ministries and agencies, representatives of the chemical industry and scientific communities, international organisations, agencies and relevant NGOs.

7. The overall objective is to improve States Parties' capability in the prevention of, preparedness for and response to the misuse of toxic chemicals and to provide guidance and assistance to help them establish a chemical security culture. An effective chemical security culture can result in a significant increase in the effectiveness of the security of chemical materials and associated facilities and transport. The detailed objectives include: Supporting governments and chemical industry associations of beneficiary States Parties in raising awareness and improving chemical security and safety by adopting best practices; Increasing chemical security and safety by fostering cooperation among National Authorities, chemical industry and academia; and Keeping States Parties fully abreast of developments in the sphere of chemical security and safety best practices.

8. OPCW will continue to develop relations and partnerships, as appropriate, with relevant regional and international organisations, including international organisations related to chemical safety, chemical industry associations, and the private sector and civil society, in order to promote awareness of the objectives and purposes of the Convention.

9. OPCW will involve different agencies engaged in developing and implementing measures to strengthen security at chemical facilities, as well as representatives from chemical industry trade associations and from international organisations capable of providing advice in the area of facility and transportation security.

10. Among the expected results of the OPCW engagement are:

- a) Increased awareness of beneficiaries of requirements and best practices in chemical safety and security;
- b) Dissemination of best practices in chemical safety and security among beneficiary States Parties and their industry associations and other stakeholders;

- c) A Concept paper for possible follow-up measures involving National Authorities, scientists, laboratory managers, and chemical industry on best practices in chemical security and chemical safety with support of training materials; and
- d) Publications on chemical safety and security for National Authorities, scientists, laboratory managers, and chemical industry on best practices in chemical security and chemical safety.

Proposed Plan of Activities to develop OPCW as a platform to enhance safety and security at chemical plants

11. Analysis: In the first phase, an analysis will be developed on the possible roles and functions of the OPCW and its synergies with the interested parties in the field of chemical security. The partners will interact with the project team and render support for the assessment of current best practices as well as the development/identification of methodologies and tools for situation and needs assessments, and effective awareness raising measures to be implemented with the involvement of all stakeholders.

12. International event to discuss and disseminate best practices in chemical safety and security: The OPCW event is intended to foster the discussion and analysis of practical issues and experiences related to the enhancement of security at chemical facilities. The results achieved during the awareness raising programme will be distributed to all participants in the event. CEFIC, ICCA and States Parties with practical experience will share information on their best practices with other participants. The experience of other international partners in promoting chemical security, and more broadly speaking to help States to enhance their capacity with regard to prevention and preparedness for threats related to weapons of mass destruction and related materials, will be made available to the beneficiaries. The event will also identify opportunities and requirements for follow-up measures to further the process of enhancing chemical security, and for developing the OPCW as a platform for exchanges on this matter.

13. Development of follow-up measures: A practical result of the project will be a series of practical proposals for how the OPCW can be further developed as a platform for cooperation and coordination in the area of chemical security. That will include proposals for how such a platform can be used in the future to provide assistance to and expertise among National Authorities, scientists, laboratory managers, and chemical industry on best practices in chemical security and chemical safety. These proposals will be reviewed together with National Authorities and stakeholders from chemical industry and chemical research/education, and are intended for use by the OPCW in future capacity building programmes.

14. Support for the national and international activities to enhance safety and security at chemical plants and transportation of chemicals: the establishment of the international centre on Chemical Security and Safety in Tarnow is a step forward to support the international efforts in the area of safety and security at chemical plants.

The centre will promote development of a global safety and security culture, what constitutes part of the international security. What makes the concept of the centre attractive is readiness to develop standardised and certified approaches which will promote globally high standards and best practices. OPCW will actively support the development of the centre.