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Reducing chemical threats and enhancing chemical safety and security

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"Improving chemical safety and security cooperation with Africa; Prospects for economic cooperation under the Kenyan Program and chemss2015"

The importance of chemical industries in many emerging economies is on the rise. To ensure that safety and security is kept at the forefront, all sectors of the chemical industry should understand and adopt the best practices and strict procedures in this field. Enhancing safety and security in the areas of commercial production, transportation and use of chemicals and biochemical materials is becoming ever more important.

Over the years many international programs have been developed to strengthen the African nations' security and potential to respond to growing threat of terrorism as well as to increase their capacity to deal with toxic chemicals and wastes in safe and secured manner.

At the same time for majority of African nations a significant challenge has emerged: how to integrate the receiving assistance and related capacity building activities into a coherent national potential, able to create, from one side, affective mechanisms and tools in the peaceful uses of chemistry, including chemical safety and security. From the other side, there is an urgent need to build synergies between national activities and develop them into coherent international programs in the area of chemical safety and security.

The safe management of chemicals and CBRN security are primary concern for Kenya as for the developing and emerging economies. Lack of proper provisions and practical solution in chemical management and security seriously hampers sustainable economic growth, deter chances of reducing poverty margins and leave their habitat contaminated with toxic substances.

Let me stress the importance and the relevance of the chemical safety and security for Kenya and the developing countries and emerging economies from the perspective of development, disarmament, non-proliferation and efforts against terrorism. The active stance in the area of chemical safety and security is an important condition to increase national capacity in prevention, preparedness and response against misuse of toxic chemicals and enhance chemical safety and security in the peaceful uses of chemistry.

The important initiative to develop and implement the **Kenyan program on chemical safety and security** fully responds to these challenges. This unique initiative is an important project to assist in the development, enhance national security of Kenya, promote regional and international security, and to support the national implementation of the Convention and the international cooperation, as well as the implementation of the UNSC resolution 1540.

The Kenyan program serves as a platform for excellence and cooperation in peaceful uses of chemistry and offer education and training for professionals from developing countries in chemical safety and security. The program is open to support the development of chemical safety and security standards and practices in broad areas of peaceful uses of chemistry in Africa, including chemical industry, research, education, laboratories and trade and transportation of toxic chemicals.

The introduction of chemical safety and security in Kenya and in Africa includes a process of national capacity building, best practices exchanges and the cooperation among the professionals from the government, industry, academia, science and NGO's. The Kenyan program implements in practice principles of sustainability, continuity and modern management in the peaceful uses of chemistry and promote economic and trade cooperation. As the development of the Kenyan program has proved, the critical areas for enhancing peaceful chemical activities and preventing misuse of toxic chemicals are introducing border and customs controls, and control of transportation and transit of toxic chemicals and their use at small and medium companies (SMI). Therefore the issue of introducing the relevant national and industry chemical safety and security measures, with an emphasis on the development of the effective border and customs controls, and control of transportation and transit of toxic chemicals, should become a priority for the governments and require the intensification of the international support efforts.

The recent experience and research conducted within the Kenyan program have also proved that for the effective border and customs controls, and control of transportation and transit of toxic chemicals in Kenya, there is a need to establish cooperation and share experience among the relevant institutions and officials in the countries of East Africa.

Based on these considerations the African partners and the leaders of the global summit on chemical safety and security (Kielce, 16-18 November, 2015) agreed to conduct at the first day of the summit an African Forum on Chemical Safety and Security. The forum will present to the world community the Kenyan program. The Forum will present the potential for capacity building in other African countries to enhance their chemical safety and security. We expect many African participants in the global summit and at the African Forum. These unique events offer a real opportunity to familiarize with the recent developments and risk factors in the chemical activities which play a role in the growth of proliferation and terrorism threats, identify best approaches to support the development of national CBRN policies, explore the benefits of introducing the sustainable training and education in the chemical

domain, and get acquainted with the state of art in chemical safety and security technologies and products.

The global summit and accompanying Fair create a great opportunity to present the modern technologies and products to support the introduction of chemical safety and security in a quickly developing chemical market in Africa. Polish-African Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security (ICCSS) joined efforts to engage the providers of modern technologies in enhancing chemical safety and security in Africa.

I thank you.