



S/2039/2022

21 March 2022

ENGLISH and FRENCH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE TWENTIETH REGIONAL MEETING
OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES OF STATES PARTIES IN AFRICA
(ONLINE)
31 MAY – 2 JUNE 2022**

1. On behalf of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General wishes to invite African National Authorities to nominate representatives to attend the Twentieth Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Africa, which will be held online from 31 May to 2 June 2022.
2. This regional meeting of National Authorities will serve as a forum for States Parties to discuss needs, priorities, actions taken, and best practices in relation to the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) at the national, subregional, and regional levels. Participants will also discuss the capacity-building support provided within the framework of the fifth phase of the OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Africa Programme”), as well as the needs and priorities of the sixth phase of the Africa Programme.
3. The purpose of the meeting is to facilitate the exchange of information and views on:
 - (a) OPCW capacity-building activities in the Africa region;
 - (b) tools available in support of the timely and accurate submission of declarations, as well as updated information about OPCW inspections;
 - (c) policy-related issues, including the process of preparation for the Fifth Review Conference;¹
 - (d) OPCW approaches to broaden the geographic representation among OPCW staff and the role of National Authorities in this respect; and
 - (e) the outcome of the needs assessment survey conducted in preparation for the sixth phase of the Africa Programme (2023 – 2025).

¹ The Fifth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.



4. The expected results of the meeting include: ensuring that participants are provided with relevant and updated information on the status of the implementation of the Convention in the region; enhancing participants' understanding of potential follow-up actions and best practices of States Parties in relation to the implementation of the Convention; and further strengthening participants' understanding of specific issues related to Articles VI, VII, X, and XI of the Convention and the respective support provided by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat"). In addition, the participants and the Secretariat will exchange views on the sixth phase of the Africa Programme.
5. The provisional programme for the regional meeting is included as an Annex to this Note.
6. The National Authority of each State Party is requested to nominate up to two delegates for participation in the regional meeting.
7. The meeting will be conducted in English and French, with interpretation services available. Participants are therefore expected to have good oral and written command of either English or French.
8. Interested National Authority representatives are invited to register online **between 16 April and 4 May 2022 (the latest)** through Eventus, the OPCW event management system (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>). Each application must be endorsed digitally on the Eventus platform by the nominee's respective National Authority.
9. National Authorities that wish for their nominee(s) to make a presentation at the meeting should inform the Secretariat about the presentation's specific thematic area. Ideally, presentations should be limited to seven minutes and highlight best practices, as well as challenges encountered in relation to the implementation of the Convention. In addition, specific actions taken by a State Party as a result of attending or participating in the Secretariat's capacity-building events (in particular those within the framework of the Africa Programme) could be brought to the attention of the meeting participants.
10. Furthermore, National Authorities may express their interest in bilateral consultation with the Secretariat on specific issues related to national implementation of the Convention.
11. Information on national presentations and bilateral consultations should be conveyed by the respective nominee(s) to Mr Solomon Haile, the Programme Manager in charge of organising the regional meeting.
12. Additional information about this regional meeting may be obtained from the Implementation Support Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the OPCW. The contact persons are Mr Solomon Haile (solomon.haile@opcw.org) and Ms Olukemi Adenuga (olukemi.adenuga@opcw.org).

Annex: Provisional Programme

Annex

**TWENTIETH REGIONAL MEETING OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES
OF STATES PARTIES IN AFRICA
(ONLINE)**

31 MAY – 2 JUNE 2022

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Agenda Item
<i>Tuesday, 31 May 2022</i>	
13:00 – 13:10	Opening remarks
13:10 – 13:20	Overview of the meeting’s programme and objectives
13:20 – 13:30	Follow-up on issues raised at previous regional and annual meetings
13:30 – 13:45	Presentation: “Update on capacity-building activities in the Africa region”, followed by Q&A
13:45 – 14:30	Presentation: “Updates regarding Article VI declarations and related projects”, followed by Q&A
14:30 – 14:45	Presentation: “Update on OPCW inspections and related issues”, followed by Q&A
14:45 – 15:00	Presentation: “Overview of policy-related issues”, followed by Q&A
<i>Wednesday, 1 June 2022</i>	
13:00 – 13:30	Presentation: “Broadening the geographic representation among OPCW staff and the role of National Authorities”, followed by Q&A
13:30 – 15:00	Outcome of the needs assessment survey conducted in preparation of the sixth phase of the Africa Programme (2023 – 2025) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation: “Updated Overview of the Needs and Priorities of African Member States in relation to the Convention in anticipation of the sixth phase of the Africa Programme” • Presentations by National Authorities • Discussions
<i>Thursday, 2 June 2022</i>	
13:00 – 13:10	Recap of previous day
13:10 – 14:30	Continued: Outcome of the needs assessment survey conducted in preparation for the sixth phase of the Africa Programme (2023 – 2025) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation: “Follow-up of OPCW capacity-building activities under the Africa Programme” • Presentations by National Authorities • Discussions
14:30 – 14:50	Presentation: “Preparation for the Fifth Review Conference”, followed by Q&A
14:50 – 15:00	Conclusions and closing remarks