



### NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

#### **TRAINING OPPORTUNITY: ASSER INSTITUTE PROGRAMME ON DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS 19 – 23 SEPTEMBER 2022**

1. Registration is open for the “Annual Training Programme on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction”, to be held from 19 to 23 September 2022 in The Hague, the Netherlands. This training programme is organised by the Asser Institute for International Law, in collaboration with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).
2. The training programme is designed for early- to mid-career professionals and provides a comprehensive overview of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), striking a balance between the legal, scientific, diplomatic, and geopolitical issues relating to the broad spectrum of WMD in a contemporary world. The training programme will provide clear insights into the functioning of the four international WMD treaty organisations, and illustrates the main challenges each currently faces.
3. The Technical Secretariat encourages Permanent Representations and their National Authorities to promote the training programme among potentially interested groups. It would benefit individuals working for government entities such as national export control bodies, National Authorities for the implementation of the Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions, and national nuclear (energy) agencies. Professionals working for non-governmental organisations such as think tanks addressing concerns related to WMD and for research centres in related disciplines, as well as newly arrived diplomats in The Hague, are especially encouraged to register.
4. Member States are encouraged to consider sponsoring the participation of outstanding national applicants who have demonstrated an interest in disarmament and non-proliferation, and who can be expected to make a significant professional contribution in this area.
5. The OPCW, with support from the European Union, will offer a limited number of scholarships for outstanding civil society applicants. The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs will offer a limited number of scholarships for applicants who are a national of and working in at least one of the countries with low- and lower middle-income economies according to the World Bank list of economies. For updates and details on how to apply for a scholarship, see the Asser Institute website or contact the Asser Institute directly via email ([educationtraining@asser.nl](mailto:educationtraining@asser.nl)).



6. The specific objectives are to provide participants with:
  - (a) hands-on knowledge of the diplomatic, legal, and technical aspects of disarmament and non-proliferation across nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons;
  - (b) insight into the work of seasoned WMD professionals; and
  - (c) unique networking opportunities with speakers and participants from diverse backgrounds.
7. The training programme's interdisciplinary content is delivered by specialised academics from institutes in the Netherlands and abroad, together with experienced practitioners and officials from the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the OPCW. The programme's blend of academic and practical knowledge and its comprehensive scope have been well received by participants and will be continued in 2022.
8. The provisional programme is attached as the Annex to this Note.
9. The Asser Institute is a not-for-profit, inter-university institute that focuses on the broad field of international law. It is based in The Hague and is partly supported with funding from the Government of the Netherlands. The OPCW collaborates with the Institute in designing the agenda, providing senior staff as speakers, mobilising the participation and support of other WMD-related international organisations, and promoting participation by OPCW stakeholders.
10. Register for the training programme and/or apply for the scholarship via the Asser Institute website (<https://www.asser.nl/education-events/events/?id=4248>). A link can also be accessed through the OPCW website. Interested applicants should submit the form directly to the Asser Institute as soon as possible.
11. Additional information about the training programme may be obtained from the Asser Institute via email ([educationtraining@asser.nl](mailto:educationtraining@asser.nl)).

Annex: Provisional Programme

## Annex

**ASSER INSTITUTE PROGRAMME ON DISARMAMENT AND  
NON-PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION  
THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS  
19 – 23 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME<sup>1</sup>**

Time	Event
<b>Day 1 – General WMD Issues; Nuclear Weapons</b>	
<i>Monday, 19 September</i>	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:30	Opening and round of introductions
09:30 – 10:30	Keynote address
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
10:45 – 11:45	Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) from a Geo-Political Perspective
11:45 – 12:45	International Law and the Use of Force
12:45 – 13:45	<i>Lunch</i>
13:45 – 14:45	The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)
14:45 – 15:00	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
15:00 – 16:00	The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty
16:00 – 16:15	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
16:15 – 17:15	The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)
18:00	<i>Opening dinner</i>

<b>Day 2 – Nuclear Weapons</b>	
<i>Tuesday, 20 September</i>	
09:00 – 10:00	Nuclear Safeguards
10:00 – 10:15	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
10:15 – 11:15	The Future of Nuclear Arms Control and Strategic Stability
11:15 – 12:15	Weapons of Mass Distortion: Exploring the Intersection Between Emerging Technologies and Nuclear Stability
12:15 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Transport to the Technical University (TU) Delft Nuclear Research Reactor</i>
14:00 – 17:30	Field visit: TU Delft Nuclear Research Reactor
17:30 – 18:30	<i>Transport from TU Delft Nuclear Research Reactor to the Asser Institute</i>

<sup>1</sup> Please note that the programme may be subject to change.

<b>Day 3 – Biological and Chemical Weapons; Export Controls</b> <i>Wednesday, 21 September</i>	
09:00 – 10:30	The Biological Weapons Convention
10.30 – 10.45	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
10:45 – 12:30	Scientific and Technological Developments: Biological and Chemical Disarmament in a Technologically Evolving World
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:45	Export Control Regimes
14:45 – 15:00	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
15:00 – 17:30	Simulation exercise on arms control

<b>Day 4 – Chemical Weapons</b> <i>Thursday, 22 September</i>	
09:00 – 09:30	<i>Welcome at the OPCW building, small tour through main halls</i>
09:30 – 10:30	The Chemical Weapons Convention
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
10:45 – 11:45	The Chemical Weapons Convention’s Mechanism of Verification: From Declarations to Inspections
11:45 – 12:45	Chemical Terrorism: Threat and Response
12:45 – 13:45	<i>Lunch</i>
13:45 – 14:30	Upholding the Chemical Weapons Convention: The Work of the OPCW Investigation and Identification Team (IIT)
14:30 – 15:15	<i>Transport from OPCW HQ to the OPCW Laboratory and Equipment Store</i>
15:15 – 17:00	Field visit: OPCW Laboratory and Equipment Store in Rijswijk
17:00 – 17:45	<i>Transport from the OPCW Laboratory and Equipment Store to the Asser Institute</i>

<b>Day 5 – Current Challenges</b> <i>Friday, 23 September</i>	
09:00 – 10:00	Unsubstantiated Claims of Chemical and Biological Weapon Use in International Armed Conflicts
10:00 – 10:15	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
10:15 – 11:15	Non-Proliferation Case Study: the DPRK Nuclear Issue
11:15 – 12:15	TBD
12:15 – 13:15	<i>Lunch</i>
13:15 – 15:15	The Future of WMD Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (panel discussion)