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S/2131/2023  
9 February 2023  
ENGLISH only

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT****INVITATION TO APPLY FOR  
THE FORUM ON PEACEFUL USES OF CHEMISTRY  
23 – 25 MAY 2023****Purpose of the forum**

1. The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons wishes to inform Member States that a forum on the peaceful uses of chemistry is scheduled to take place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 23 to 25 May 2023. The forum aims to raise awareness among participants and enhance their knowledge and understanding of chemical safety and security management, with a particular focus on building a culture of chemical safety and security through expert presentations, sharing lessons learned, and best practices. The forum will also cover the area of green and sustainable chemistry as a framework for minimising the risk of harmful by-products and promoting the safety and sustainability of chemical products and processes through science and innovation.
2. The forum will be held in two segments: a hybrid global segment on the first day, and a regional in-person segment for the Asian region on the second and third days. On the first day, the forum will be open to all participants from across OPCW States Parties, with participants from the Asian region attending in person. The second and third days will be open exclusively to in-person participants attending in the Asian region.
3. Both the online and in-person segments of the forum are intended for chemists, chemical engineers, and other professionals in relevant fields from government, international, and regional organisations, as well as representatives from academia and industry with leadership responsibilities related to the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”).
4. The overall objective of the forum is to create a platform for sharing lessons learned and best practices in chemical safety and security management, in addition to learning about the policies adopted by States Parties to foster international cooperation. The forum will offer an introduction to the Convention, The Hague Ethical Guidelines, and discussions on multiple uses of chemistry, chemical risk assessment, chemical waste management, chemical arms control, and disarmament, as well as recent developments in green and sustainable chemistry that contribute to the objectives of the Convention.



5. The global online segment of the forum will accommodate a limited number of participants from States Parties with economies that are either developing or in transition. The regional in-person segment of the forum will accommodate no more than 15 participants from the Asian region.

#### **Admission requirements**

6. As mentioned, the global segment is open to participants from across OPCW States Parties, especially those with economies that are either developing or in transition. For the in-person regional segment, however, applications are invited from among OPCW States Parties in the Asian region. All applicants should:
  - (a) have at least five years of professional working experience in academia, science and technology institutions, the chemical industry, industry associations, or regulatory agencies in the field of chemical safety and security;
  - (b) have not attended similar events organised by the OPCW in the last three years; and
  - (c) have a good command of the English language, both written and oral.
7. The Secretariat strongly encourages applications from qualified female candidates.

#### **Sponsorship**

8. Sponsorship will be provided by the Secretariat to a limited number of participants (not more than 15 participants) from Asian Member States. Sponsorship will cover the costs of travel, medical insurance, and accommodation. Sponsored participants will also be provided with a limited subsistence allowance to cover meals and sundry expenses. Further details regarding accommodation and other logistical arrangements will be issued to all selected participants. Sponsored participants who do not intend to use the accommodation arranged by the Secretariat are requested to inform the Secretariat of such as soon as possible to avoid incurring hotel cancellation fees. The Secretariat will not cover the costs of any accommodation that it has not arranged.
9. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. It will purchase tickets and send them to participants. In order for the Secretariat to keep costs to a minimum, participants from the Asian region are expected to **arrive no earlier than Monday, 22 May 2023 and to depart no later than Friday, 26 May 2023**. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the forum or that result from changes to travel arrangements that it has not authorised. Sponsored participants must bear all costs resulting from changes they make, including cancellations, once the Secretariat has purchased tickets.
10. Participants are requested to obtain any necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Malaysia. When applying for an entry visa, participants should present the Embassy or Consulate of the Republic of Malaysia with a copy of the acceptance letter received from the OPCW. A visa support letter may also be issued if needed. The Secretariat will reimburse the costs of visa applications upon the production of original receipts.

11. The Secretariat will not pay for medical assistance. Therefore, participants should be fit to travel. All participants taking prescribed medication should arrive with sufficient supplies for the duration of the event.

#### **Selection procedure**

12. Applications will be carefully screened based on the criteria specified in paragraph 6 above.
13. All forum activities will be conducted in English, and no interpretation services of any kind will be provided.

#### **Application procedure**

14. Interested candidates are invited to submit their applications through Eventus, the OPCW event management system (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>) by the stipulated deadline of **Thursday, 23 March 2023**. Applicants may need to first create an account and then register for the event.
15. Only nominations endorsed by the National Authority or Permanent Representation of the applicant's country to the OPCW will be considered. Each application must be endorsed digitally on the Eventus platform by the nominee's respective National Authority and be accompanied by a curriculum vitae. A photocopy of the personal identification page of the applicant's passport is also requested. **Only selected candidates will be notified by the Secretariat.**
16. Applications must be submitted in Eventus **no later than Thursday, 23 March 2023. Incomplete or improperly filled out applications will not be considered.** Additional information may be obtained from the International Cooperation Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division. The focal point for this event is Mr Saurabh Bhandari, Programme Officer (Tel: +31 (0)70 416 3489; Email: [saurabh.bhandari@opcw.org](mailto:saurabh.bhandari@opcw.org)).

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