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ENGLISH only

### NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

#### INVITATION TO ATTEND AN ONLINE PRESENTATION ON THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

##### INTRODUCTION

1. The OPCW Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) would like to inform States Parties that it will hold an online information event on Thursday, 4 May 2023 to brief OPCW States Parties on the broad range of services and opportunities offered by the International Cooperation and Assistance Division (ICA) in support of States Parties’ efforts to meet their obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”).
2. The International Cooperation and Assistance Programme (ICA) offers a range of capacity-building, skills-development, and knowledge-sharing opportunities in support of States Parties’ efforts towards achieving the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention. They are focused on facilitating the implementation of national obligations, promoting the peaceful uses of chemistry, and enhancing protection and response capabilities against the use, or threat of use, of chemical weapons, in accordance with the Convention. The ICA comprises three branches: the Implementation Support Branch, the Assistance and Protection Branch, and the International Cooperation Branch (ICB), which play a distinct supporting role for Articles VII, X, and XI of the Convention, respectively. By working collaboratively through these three branches, the ICA strives to provide integrated support to States Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention, and in promoting the peaceful and secure uses of chemistry.
3. The Implementation Support Branch assists the States Parties in establishing and strengthening national implementation measures, including the development of legislative and regulatory frameworks, in accordance with Article VII of the Convention. This branch offers tailored support, including technical advice, capacity-building initiatives, and sharing best practices.
4. The Assistance and Protection Branch provides States Parties with expert advice and programmes to develop and improve their emergency response capacity against the use or threat of use of chemical weapons under Article X of the Convention. It provides specialised training, equipment, and expertise to help States Parties prepare for and respond to chemical incidents, ensuring timely assistance and protection.



5. The ICB is responsible for supporting the economic and technological development of States Parties, in line with Article XI of the Convention. Among its other tasks, the ICB focuses on developing and implementing wide-ranging international cooperation and capacity-building programmes and customised and analytical trainings, including specialised laboratory and proficiency trainings, scientific grants, and research fellowships.
6. The inauguration of the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre), presents an excellent opportunity for the ICA to enhance the technical support and assistance it provides. By utilising and leveraging the state-of-the-art training and laboratory facilities available at the new premises, the ICA aims to provide even greater benefits to States Parties.
7. While this information event aims to increase awareness of the comprehensive portfolio of programmes and assistance offered by the ICA, it will focus on the ICB's offerings, including the specialised and customised trainings designed to advance and strengthen chemical safety and security management in OPCW States Parties. It will provide information on expert training programmes aimed at developing analytical skills for the analysis of chemicals relevant to the Convention, specialised technical support offered to build upon and maintain the technical capabilities of analytical chemistry laboratories, opportunities for research grants, fellowships, and technical services that support the exchange of information and foster the peaceful uses of chemistry. Attendees can also expect to learn about the application process for the ICA's expansive portfolio of technical assistance programmes and opportunities.
8. This event is designed for National Authorities and Permanent Representations to the OPCW, as well as interested institutions and professionals in the chemical industry and academia, as endorsed by their respective National Authorities or Permanent Representations to the OPCW. It will take place online via MS Teams on **Thursday, 4 May 2023, from 13:00 CET to 18:00 CET** and will be delivered live by the ICA team from the ChemTech Centre in Nootdorp, the Netherlands.
9. National Authorities and Permanent Representations to the OPCW are strongly encouraged to nominate representatives to participate in the event. They are especially encouraged to support and endorse the participation of suitable female representatives and delegates for the event.

## **REGISTRATION**

10. Those interested in participating are requested to register for the event through Eventus, the OPCW's online event management system (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>), by **Friday, 28 April 2023**. Applicants must first create an account and then register for the event. It is important that the participants reconfirm their email address and contact number for registration purposes.
11. Only applicants endorsed by the National Authority or the Permanent Representation of the applicant's country to the OPCW will be considered, and will receive an online MS Teams link, closer to the event date.
12. The deadline for receipt of endorsed online application in Eventus is **Friday, 28 April 2023**. Additional information, if needed, may be obtained from the International Cooperation and Assistance Division or via email ([icb.events@opcw.org](mailto:icb.events@opcw.org)).