



NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST REGIONAL MEETING
OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES OF STATES PARTIES IN AFRICA
HARARE, ZIMBABWE
25 – 27 JULY 2023**

1. On behalf of the OPCW, the Director-General wishes to invite African National Authorities to nominate representatives to attend the Twenty-First Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Africa, which will be held in Harare, Zimbabwe, from 25 to 27 July 2023.
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-development 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 Fifth Review Conference;¹
 - (d) developments related to the National Implementation Framework; and
 - (e) major elements of the sixth phase of the Africa Programme (2023 – 2025).
4. The expected results of the meeting include:
 - (a) ensuring that participants are provided with relevant and updated information on the status of the implementation of the Convention in the region;

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



- (b) enhancing participants' understanding of potential follow-up actions and best practices of States Parties in relation to the implementation of the Convention; and
 - (c) 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").
5. In addition, the participants and the Secretariat will discuss and agree upon needs and priorities of the sixth phase of the Africa Programme.
 6. The provisional programme for the regional meeting is included as the Annex to this Note.
 7. The National Authority of each State Party is requested to nominate one delegate for participation in the regional meeting. The Secretariat will sponsor one participant per State Party. The sponsorship will cover the costs of travel, hotel accommodation, meals, and medical insurance, in addition to a limited subsistence allowance to cover terminal and sundry expenses. States Parties and National Authorities are strongly encouraged to support and endorse nominations of female participants for this event.
 8. 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.
 9. Interested National Authority representatives are invited to register through Eventus, the OPCW event management system (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>) **before 17 May 2023**. Each application must be endorsed digitally on the Eventus platform by the nominee's respective National Authority.
 10. 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-development events (in particular those within the framework of the Africa Programme) could be brought to the attention of the meeting participants.
 11. Furthermore, National Authorities may express their interest in bilateral consultations with the Secretariat on specific issues related to national implementation of the Convention.
 12. 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.
 13. Additional information about the regional meeting may be obtained from the Implementation Support Branch. The contact persons are Solomon Haile (solomon.haile@opcw.org) and Victor Barros Correia (victor.barros-correia@opcw.org).

Annex

**TWENTY-FIRST REGIONAL MEETING OF
NATIONAL AUTHORITIES OF STATES PARTIES IN AFRICA
HARARE, ZIMBABWE
25 – 27 JULY 2023**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Agenda item
<i>Tuesday, 25 July 2023</i>	
	Opening remarks
	Overview of the meeting's programme and objectives
	Follow-up on issues raised during the previous regional and annual meetings
	Update on capacity-development activities in the Africa region, followed by Q&A
	Updates regarding Article VI declarations and related projects, followed by Q&A
	Updates on OPCW inspections and related issues, followed by Q&A
	Overview of policy-related issues, followed by Q&A
<i>Wednesday, 26 July 2023</i>	
	Progress in implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention: - National presentations - Good practices, challenges, and needs related to capacity development
	The role of the chemical industry (including on legislative processes)
	Overview of the sixth phase of the Africa Programme (2023–2025)
	Field visit to the Scientific and Industrial Research and Development Centre (SIRDC)
<i>Thursday, 27 July 2023</i>	
	Developments related to the National Implementation Framework
	Outcome of the Fifth Review Conference, followed by Q&A
	Next steps: discussion on post-meeting engagements
	Conclusions and closing remarks