



NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR YOUTH
ON PEACEFUL USES OF CHEMISTRY
RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL
2 – 5 OCTOBER 2023**

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

1. The Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) wishes to inform Member States that it will organise an education training programme on peaceful uses of chemistry for youth in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 2 to 5 October 2023.
2. The programme aims to raise awareness among youth about the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), the importance of chemical safety and security management, key concepts and historical events associated with the use, misuse, and abuse of dual-use chemicals, and the benefits of the peaceful uses of chemistry. It is open to young people between the ages of 18 and 24 years, especially university students in chemistry, chemical engineering, or other relevant chemistry-related scientific fields, who are keen to pursue a career in chemistry or chemical disarmament, or who are expected to assume related research roles in chemistry within a university or an academic institution.
3. The training programme will accommodate a limited number of participants from Member States of the OPCW with economies that are developing or in transition. It will consist of a global segment on the first day, and a regional segment exclusively for the Member States of the Latin America and the Caribbean Group (GRULAC) on the remaining three days. The training will be conducted in hybrid mode throughout the first day, with participants from the GRULAC Member States attending in person and those from other regions attending online. Over the remaining three days, the training will be reserved exclusively for participants from GRULAC attending in person.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

4. The training programme will focus on tailored presentations and interactive sessions, including table-top exercises and group work addressing various aspects of concern relevant to the peaceful uses of chemistry. An educational field trip to a chemical plant or similar site will also be organised. The training aims to offer an opportunity for youth to gain awareness of the Convention, deepen their understanding of ethics in chemistry, and appreciate the crucial role of chemical safety and security management. Additionally, participants will gain valuable knowledge and insights into the benefits



of the peaceful uses of chemistry. The programme will also help participants liaise, network, build, and foster professional relationships, and eventually support ongoing efforts towards the prohibition of chemical weapons.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

5. The regional, in-person segment of the training is open to youth who are:
 - (a) citizens of OPCW Member States in the GRULAC region;
 - (b) between the ages of 18 and 24;
 - (c) pursuing a university education in chemistry, chemical engineering, or other chemistry-related scientific fields; and
 - (d) interested in pursuing a career in chemistry or chemical disarmament, or are expected to assume research roles in chemistry within a university or academic institution.
6. For the global part of the training, online participants will be selected from the eligible and endorsed applications received from outside the GRULAC region. The admission requirements for the global (online) segment of the training are similar to the requirements for in-person participants described in paragraph 5 above, with the exception of subparagraph (a).
7. All programme activities will be conducted in English, and only limited interpretation services in Spanish will be made available for the regional segment (on the final three days). Participants are therefore expected to have a good command of the English language, both written and oral.
8. Member States and National Authorities are strongly encouraged to support and endorse applications by suitable female candidates for the programme. Member States are also welcome to nominate participants for whom sponsorship is not required.

SPONSORSHIP

9. Only a limited number of participants from the GRULAC Member States attending the training in person will be sponsored. For sponsored, in-person participants, the Secretariat will cover the costs of travel and medical insurance and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover meals and sundry expenses. The Secretariat will also arrange and pay for the accommodation of sponsored participants.
10. The Secretariat will not pay for medical assistance. Therefore, participants should be fit for travel. All participants taking prescribed medication should arrive with supplies sufficient for the duration of the event.
11. The Secretariat will cover participants' costs related to COVID-19 PCR testing should this be required for their international travel to and from the training to their home country.

12. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. It will purchase tickets and send them to the participants. Participants are required to arrive **no earlier than Sunday, 1 October 2023 and to depart no later than Friday, 6 October 2023**. The agreement of the Secretariat is required for making any changes to the arrival and departure dates. The Secretariat will not cover for any expenses unrelated to the training or that result from changes to travel arrangements that have not been authorised. Sponsored participants must bear all costs resulting from changes they make, including cancellations, once the Secretariat has purchased tickets. Participants who have not been sponsored are requested to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.
13. Participants are requested to ensure and obtain any necessary visas, including transit visas, as may be needed, before travelling for the training to Brazil. When applying for an entry visa, they should present a copy of the acceptance letter from the OPCW to the Embassy or Consulate of Brazil.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

14. Interested candidates, for both online and in-person participation, are invited to submit their applications through Eventus, the OPCW event management system (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>). Applicants must first create an account and then register for the event.
15. Only nominations endorsed by the National Authority or Permanent Representation of the candidate'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 or Permanent Representation. A passport and an up-to-date curriculum vitae must be uploaded during the online registration process. Nominees must also indicate their career or research interests and work experience, if any, in their curricula vitae to highlight their career plans. **Only selected candidates will be notified by the Secretariat.**
16. Applications must be submitted to the Secretariat **no later than Monday, 3 July 2023**. Additional information may be obtained from the International Cooperation Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division. The contact persons are Mr Saurabh Bhandari, Programme Officer (Tel: +31 (0)70 416 3489; Email: saurabh.bhandari@opcw.org) and Ms Julia Gonzalez, Senior Project Assistant (Tel: +31 (0)70 416 3239; Email: julia.gonzalez@opcw.org).