



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

Office of Special Projects
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NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**INVITATION
TO THE OPCW INDUSTRY AND PROTECTION FORUM
1 AND 2 NOVEMBER 2007**

1. In a Note last year on preparations for the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) (S/578/2006, dated 20 June 2006), the Director-General announced that the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) would be organising an Industry and Protection Forum that would take place in the second half of 2007. The Secretariat has since been working with representatives of the chemical industry, governments, and academic institutions on plans for the Forum, at which participants can discuss such topics as the implementation of the Convention with particular regard to the chemical industry, and how to enhance the safety and security of chemical plants and the transport of chemicals.
2. In the present Note, the Director-General is pleased to provide further details on the Forum and to invite representatives of the chemical industry, National Authorities, national institutions, laboratories, and the scientific and academic communities to attend.
3. The Forum will take place on 1 and 2 November 2007 at the World Forum Convention Center (WFCC) in The Hague, the Netherlands.
4. Financial support for the Forum is being provided under European Union (EU) Joint Action 2007/185/CFSP, dated 19 March 2007, in support of OPCW activities in the framework of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.
5. Support has also been provided by the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC) and the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA).

Overall objectives of the Industry and Protection Forum

6. The Forum will promote the implementation of the Convention and awareness of its requirements, and will discuss practical experience with its implementation. It will also help foster international cooperation in key areas relevant to the Convention. It will also:



- (a) contribute to building synergies and strengthening collaboration among the chemical industry, the OPCW, National Authorities, relevant international organisations and national institutions, and laboratories;
 - (b) discuss how the OPCW can adapt to the new security environment and the changing nature of the chemical industry, and how it can help enhance the safety and security of chemical plants and the transport of chemicals; and
 - (c) promote the universality of the Convention, with invitations being sent to representatives of the chemical industry in signatory States.
7. Participants will also discuss the possible establishment of a platform for consultation and cooperation among governments, the chemical industry, and the OPCW. Such a platform could also be used, as needed, to launch and coordinate future events and activities that are planned under the auspices of the Forum.
 8. The proceedings of the Forum, including papers and summaries of discussions, will be published.
 9. All activities during the Forum will be conducted in English, and no interpretation services will be provided. Participants should therefore have a good command of English.

Subject areas the Forum will cover

10. The Forum will include three workshops that will be run in two parallel sessions, as set out hereunder. There will be one workshop in session A, and two in session B.

Session A

Workshop 1: Issues surrounding verification and implementation that are of relevance to the chemical industry, including sampling and analysis

11. Participants in this workshop will discuss measures the chemical industry is taking with regard to controls on the trade in dual-use chemicals, as well as steps that governments are taking to prevent the proliferation of chemical weapons, including those steps required under the Convention. Participants will also discuss the evolution of the verification regime under the Convention in relation to the chemical industry, and will consider such topics as the results of a CEFIC project on the use of Chemical Abstracts Service registry numbers.
12. The workshop will also discuss industry inspections, and in particular the use of sampling and analysis during such inspections. It will allow experts in sampling and analysis and verification, and specialists from the chemical industry, to discuss a range of topics related to sampling and analysis during industry inspections, including the following:
 - (a) what lessons have been learned from sampling and analysis;
 - (b) the approach the OPCW takes to sampling and analysis;

- (c) the protection of confidential company information in the context of sampling and analysis, including through the use of specialised OPCW software;
- (d) the need to build confidence on the part of the chemical industry in this aspect of sampling and analysis;
- (e) other practical and logistical aspects of sampling and analysis; and
- (f) future requirements and plans.

Session B

Workshop 2: Assistance and protection

13. This workshop will discuss issues related to the development of effective local, national, regional, and international mechanisms to respond to emergencies resulting from the use or threat of use of chemical weapons. It will focus in particular on capacity-building, and will provide an opportunity to assess the practical experiences of other international agencies and States Parties that have been involved in such capacity-building. Based on these considerations, it will draw conclusions for future work.

Workshop 3: Safety and security at chemical plants

14. Strengthening the safety and security of chemical plants and preventing the intentional release of toxic chemicals throughout the supply chain are core responsibilities of the chemical industry, which it carries out as part of its efforts to prevent the misuse of toxic chemicals. This workshop will provide a forum where States Parties and the chemical industry can exchange ideas about the safety and security of chemical plants. It will help to raise awareness of and disseminate best industry practices, and will promote the exchange of ideas and expertise. Participants will also discuss the experience gained in the implementation of the ICCA Responsible Care[®] Global Charter, the role of a company's trade compliance officer, and the experience gained by other international agencies.

Further information

15. The provisional programme for the Forum will be issued in due course.
16. Further information on the programme may be obtained from the Chairperson of the Forum Organising and Programme Committee, Mr Krzysztof Paturej, who is also Director of the Office of Special Projects in the Secretariat. He can be reached by e-mail at paturej@opcw.org.

Exhibition of equipment

17. A non-commercial exhibition of equipment of various kinds will be held at the WFCC throughout the Forum. It will include:
- (a) equipment used by the Secretariat and States Parties in connection with verification and sampling and analysis;

- (b) protection equipment used by National Authorities and international and national agencies; and
 - (c) safety equipment used by the chemical industry.
18. Aside from the Secretariat, exhibitors may include National Authorities, international and national agencies and laboratories, the ICCA (exhibiting its Responsible Care[®] Global Charter), and other interested parties.
19. Prospective exhibitors are invited to contact Mr Krzysztof Paturej by sending an e-mail to paturej@opcw.org.

Registration

20. Those wishing to participate in the Forum are invited to complete the registration form that is annexed hereto, and which can also be downloaded from the OPCW Web site (www.opcw.org).
21. Completed forms should be addressed to the Office of Special Projects, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands. They may also be submitted by fax to +31 (0)70 416 3499, or by e-mail to osp@opcw.org. They must be received by the Secretariat **no later than 15 September 2007**.

Sponsorship, and travel and accommodation

22. The Secretariat will use funds from the OPCW Tenth Anniversary Trust Fund to sponsor the attendance at the Forum of a limited number of participants from States Parties whose economies are developing.
23. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the costs of travel, meals, and medical insurance, and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses. The Secretariat will also arrange and pay for accommodation for sponsored participants. Sponsored participants who do not intend to use this accommodation are requested to indicate that as soon as possible, so that the Secretariat does not incur hotel cancellation fees.
24. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most-economical options. It will purchase tickets and send them to participants. Participants will be allowed to purchase tickets locally only if this leads to further savings and if the Secretariat authorises it. The Secretariat's agreement is required for any changes to arrival and departure dates. Any expenses unrelated to the Forum or that result from changes to travel arrangements that have not been authorised will not be covered. Sponsored participants shall bear all costs resulting from changes they make, including cancellations, once tickets have been purchased.
25. Participants are requested to obtain any necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to the Netherlands.

26. Participants who have not been sponsored are advised to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. However, it should be noted that the Secretariat has arranged a special group rate with the Golden Tulip Bel Air Hotel (www.goldentulipbelairhotel.nl) for participants in the Forum. Details will be sent to registered participants in due course.

Inquiries and contact information

27. Inquiries about the Forum, including as regards registration, should be addressed to Mr Irakli Beridze, Special Projects Officer, at +31 (0)70 416 3073, or to Ms Dorith van Iterson-Hazewijer at +31 (0)70 416 3874. The Office of Special Projects can also be reached by fax at +31 (0)70 416 3499, or by e-mail at osp@opcw.org.
28. Inquiries may also be made of the Forum project manager, Dr Ralf Trapp, at ralf.trapp@gmail.com.

Annex:

Registration Form

Annex

**OPCW INDUSTRY AND PROTECTION FORUM
1 AND 2 NOVEMBER 2007**

REGISTRATION FORM

Please submit the completed form **by 15 September 2007** to:
Office of Special Projects, OPCW
Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands
Fax: +31 (0)70 416 3499; e-mail: osp@opcw.org.

Please type or use BLOCK LETTERS.

1.	Family name		
2.	First name(s)		
3.	Date of birth	Day	Month Year
4.	Citizenship		
5.	Gender	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>
6.	Passport number		
7.	Date of issue	Day	Month Year
8.	Expiry date	Day	Month Year
9.	Place of issue		
10.	Areas of expertise		
11.	Which workshop or workshops would you like to attend? (Please keep in mind that Sessions A and B will take place simultaneously.)	Session A: Workshop 1: Issues surrounding verification and implementation that are of relevance to the chemical industry, including sampling and analysis OR Session B Workshop 2: Assistance and protection Workshop 3: Safety and security at chemical plants	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
12.	Organisation		
13.	Contact address (Please do not give a post-office box number)	Street	
		Number	
		City	Post code
		Country	
14.	E-mail address		
15.	Telephone numbers, including country and city codes	Home	
		Work	
		Mobile	

16.	Fax numbers, including country and city codes	Home	
		Work	
17.	Is sponsorship a condition of participation?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

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