



**OPCW**

**Technical Secretariat**

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Office of Special Projects

S/759/2009\*

16 April 2009

ENGLISH only

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**

**INVITATION**

**INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF  
NON-PROLIFERATION OBLIGATIONS:  
THE OPCW AS AN EXAMPLE OF EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE IN NATIONAL  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION  
JAHORINA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
22 AND 23 JUNE 2009**

1. On behalf of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General is pleased to invite States Parties and the Permanent Representations to the OPCW to participate in the “International Seminar on National Implementation of Non-Proliferation Obligations: the OPCW as an Example of Effective Assistance in National Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention”. Representatives from relevant international and regional organisations, the chemical industry, and academia are also invited to attend this seminar, which builds on the results and recommendations of the Second Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Second Review Conference”). The seminar will be held in Jahorina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 22 and 23 June 2009.
2. The Second Review Conference, in paragraph 9.10 of its report (RC-2/4, dated 18 April 2008) “noted with concern that, along with the continued threat of the possible use of chemical weapons by States under any circumstances, the international community also faces the increased danger of the use of chemical weapons by terrorists or other non-state actors”. In addition, while reaffirming the autonomous and independent status of the OPCW, the Review Conference also took cognisance of the resolutions of the United Nations on combating terrorism as they pertain to the work of the OPCW.
3. In addition, in paragraph 9.78 of the above-mentioned report (RC-2/4), the Second Review Conference “welcomed the efforts made by States Parties to assist each other upon request in their national implementation measures. It noted again the value of bilateral assistance and networking within and among regions, especially for States Parties with limited resources who may need particular assistance”, and “encouraged strengthened learning, communication, and mutual cooperation”.

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\* Reissued for technical reasons.



4. The Second Review Conference emphasised, inter alia, “how important it is that the OPCW coordinates its activities with those of other relevant international and regional organisations as appropriate, in order to build on existing competencies, develop synergies, and avoid duplication of efforts. The OPCW should further integrate itself as a partner in the establishment of international programme coordination mechanisms in the field of international cooperation, assistance, and capacity building related to the peaceful uses of chemistry” (subparagraph 9.116(g) of RC-2/4).
5. The Second Review Conference also re-emphasised the importance of the provisions of Article XI in regard to the economic and technological development of States Parties, and recalled that the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI is essential for the realisation of the object and purpose of the Convention.
6. The Second Review Conference underlined the importance of the involvement of all stakeholders, including the chemical industry and the scientific community, in the promotion of the goals of the Convention and its effective implementation on the national level.
7. The Review Conference encouraged the OPCW to continue to develop relations and partnerships as appropriate with relevant regional and international organisations, including international organisations related to chemical safety, chemical-industry associations, the private sector, and civil society.
8. It is in the context of paragraphs 2 to 7 above that the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) is holding this seminar, the overall objective of which is the development by States Parties of a comprehensive national strategy aimed at improving national capacities in the field of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and counter-terrorism. The draft objectives and the programme of the seminar are annexed to this Note.
9. The seminar will also offer a platform for discussion of the practical issues relating to the contributions that relevant industries and academia can make towards the achievement of the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. An opportunity will also be provided for the OPCW to inform the participants of its activities in capacity building and in providing assistance at national and regional levels in the event of use or threat of use of chemical weapons or the release of toxic chemicals.
10. The programme will include relevant presentations on the available experience and expertise in Bosnia and Herzegovina, available international assistance that can be offered to this State Party, and issues related to regional cooperation. Practical training and exercises will also be conducted at one of the chemical plants, with the aim of improving safety and security standards in the States Parties that will be attending the seminar.
11. As a contribution to this seminar, the Government authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina intend to establish a national team composed of experts from relevant ministries and agencies. After the seminar has concluded, this team, with international support, will continue functioning as a national implementation unit in regard to non-proliferation issues.

12. Participants are encouraged to make presentations on the various topics that will be covered during the seminar and are expected to participate actively in discussions. The provisional programme for the seminar is included as Annex 1.
13. The Secretariat is not able to sponsor participation in the seminar.
14. The participants are also requested to make their own travel arrangements and obtain any visas required (including transit visas) before travelling to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Steering Committee in Bosnia and Herzegovina, upon request, will also undertake necessary arrangements related to the accommodation in Jahorina, Bosnia and Herzegovina.
15. The seminar will be conducted in English. All participants are therefore expected to have a good working knowledge of this language, both written and oral.
16. Participants are requested to fax the registration form (annexed to this Note) directly to the Foreign Ministry of Bosnia and Herzegovina (fax number: +387 33 472 188). Any further information can be obtained from the following contact persons:  
  
Mr Branimir Mandic, Assistant Minister for Multilateral Relations, Head of the Steering Committee  
Telephone: +387 33 281 107  
E-mail: [branimir.mandic@mvp.gov.ba](mailto:branimir.mandic@mvp.gov.ba)  
  
Mr Momir Brajic, Head of the Department for NATO and PfP, Minister-Counsellor,  
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E-mail: [momir.brajic@mvp.gov.ba](mailto:momir.brajic@mvp.gov.ba)  
  
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Mr Igor Babic, Third Secretary  
Telephone: +387 33 281 280  
E-mail: [igor.babic@mvp.gov.ba](mailto:igor.babic@mvp.gov.ba)
17. Mr Krzysztof Paturej, Director of Special Projects at the OPCW, will be responsible for the overall coordination of the Secretariat's support to the seminar (telephone: +31 (0)70 416 3077; e-mail: [paturej@opcw.org](mailto:paturej@opcw.org)). The contact person at the Secretariat is Mr Irakli Beridze, Special Projects Officer, who can be reached at +31 (0)70 416 3073.

Annexes (English only):

- Annex 1: Provisional Programme  
Annex 2: Registration Form

## Annex 1

# INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF NON-PROLIFERATION OBLIGATIONS: THE OPCW AS AN EXAMPLE OF EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE IN NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION JAHORINA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA 22 AND 23 JUNE 2009

## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

**22 JUNE 2009**

**09:00 – 13:30            PLENARY SESSION**

**Opening of the seminar** – Address by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Statements** by the representatives of international organisations and governments

**Keynote presentations covering the following topics:**

- Exchange of experience and practical knowledge built at the international “best practice” and experience-sharing approach; this will be demonstrated by highlighting the OPCW’s efforts through the action plan on national implementation and support activities of OPCW Member States and the Technical Secretariat.
- New challenges concerning the rise in relevance of non-state actors; in this context, the imperative to prevent terrorists from acquiring WMD or related materials is of particular interest. Thus, the critical importance of national implementation of international disarmament and non-proliferation treaties shall be highlighted.
- Cooperation between governments and relevant international organisations and different international stakeholders; the goal is to underscore the need to build synergies between different actors in order to improve their capabilities to response for requests for assistance in improving national standards and practices against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism.
- National practices and capabilities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the field of fighting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism.
- Regional mechanisms and activities against proliferation and weapons of mass destruction terrorism.

**15:30 – 18:00**      **WORKING SESSION A: Bosnia and Herzegovina experience and expertise in the realm of fighting WMD proliferation and WMD-related terrorism; available international assistance in this regard**

**Keynote presentations:**

- National implementation in Bosnia and Herzegovina of CWC obligations
- National implementation in Bosnia and Herzegovina of the NPT/BTWC/1540 Resolution obligations
- National implementation in Bosnia and Herzegovina of export-control obligations
- International assistance, including from the EU, OPCW, and NGOs in implementation by Bosnia and Herzegovina of non-proliferation and WMD counter-terrorism obligations

**Discussion:**

- National problems and available expertise (technical, legal, safety and security-related) with regard to supporting development of national non-proliferation mechanisms
- Development of national programmes for participation in international exchanges in the sphere of assistance and protection against WMD, and technological exchange and cooperation
- Sharing information on the potential international programmes on assistance, best practices, and exchanges of experience

**23 JUNE 2009**

**09:30 – 13:30**      **WORKING SESSION B: Experience of the international organisations, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders (industry and scientific community) related to the provision of assistance**

**Keynote presentations:**

- The work of UN Security Council Committee Established Pursuant to Resolution 1540
- International assistance programmes in the sphere of nuclear and biological activities (the International Atomic Energy Agency; the BTWC Implementation Unit), export controls
- The role of the UN in promoting disarmament and non-proliferation

- The role of industry and scientific communities in developing national standards and policies
- International cooperation in preventing illegal trade and smuggling of WMD materials through borders
- The role of NGOs in promoting WMD non-proliferation and counter-terrorism measures

**15:00 – 18:00            PLENARY SESSION (CONCLUSION)**

**Discussion:**

- Development of cooperative activities between authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, governments, and relevant international organisations and interested partners with a view to improve non-proliferation policies and practices
- Development of Bosnia and Herzegovina's capabilities for requests for assistance in improving national standards and practices against proliferation and weapons of mass destruction terrorism.

## Annex 2

**INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF  
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**REGISTRATION FORM**

Please fax the completed form **by 29 May 2009** to the Steering Committee in  
Bosnia and Herzegovina (fax number: +387 33 472 188)

**Important note: By submitting this form, you entitle the Steering Committee  
to make all appropriate hotel reservations for you!**

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|----------------------------------|
| <b>Family name<sup>1</sup>:</b>  |
| <b>First name(s):</b>            |
| <b>Title:</b>                    |
| <b>Number of passport or ID:</b> |
| <b>Country:</b>                  |
| <b>Organisation:</b>             |
| <b>Function:</b>                 |
| <b>E-mail:</b>                   |
| <b>Telephone:</b>                |
| <b>Fax:</b>                      |
| <b>Office address:</b>           |
| <b>Place and dates of:</b>       |
| <b>Arrival:</b>                  |
| <b>Departure:</b>                |

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<sup>1</sup> To avoid any travel-related difficulties, please give your family and first names exactly as they appear in your passport.