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5 October 2017

ENGLISH and SPANISH only

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR A REGIONAL WORKSHOP  
ON CHEMISTRY FOR SAFETY, SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
FOR GRULAC MEMBER STATES  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA  
11 AND 12 DECEMBER 2017**

1. On behalf of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General is pleased to invite Member States from the GRULAC<sup>1</sup> region to submit nominations for a regional workshop on chemistry for safety, security and environmental protection, to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 11 and 12 December 2017.
2. The workshop will be carried out in cooperation with the International Foundation for Science (IFS), the National Authority of Argentina, the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET), the National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI) and La Plata University of Argentina.
3. Since 1998, and jointly with the IFS, the OPCW has been providing support to a number of research projects through a long-term cooperation agreement with the IFS. Within the same framework, the OPCW and IFS have been also organising joint regional workshops to summarise the success of the funded research and to advance knowledge transfer and cooperation in specific fields of chemistry. It was proposed that the 2017 workshop would focus on the developments in chemistry for safety, security and environmental protection and would target the GRULAC Member States, where such topics were highly present among the OPCW funded research projects.
4. In line with the above, the main thematic topics of the workshop will comprise the following:
  - (a) green and sustainable chemistry techniques for safety and security at chemical sites;
  - (b) renewable bio-based resources for chemicals production (biofuels and biorefineries); and
  - (c) remediation and clean-up of polluted sites.

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<sup>1</sup> GRULAC = Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.



5. The workshop is intended to bring together representatives and experts from scientific communities, including the former grantees of the OPCW Research Projects Support Programme who performed research on the abovementioned topics, and representatives from chemical industry, international organisations, governments and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).
6. The workshop aims to discuss and exchange views and experiences on the application of innovations in science and technology (S&T), including employment of green and sustainable chemistry methods, to foster safe and secure practices, for both humans and the environment, in the various areas of activities employing chemicals, including production, processing, disposal, handling, storing and transportation of chemicals. The specific objectives will be:
  - (a) to update participants and share knowledge on the emerging S&T trends in the applications of chemistry for safety, security and environmental protection;
  - (b) to highlight recent relevant research developments and technological advances in the area in the GRULAC region;
  - (c) to foster cooperation among the S&T community, between S&T and industry, and between scientists and other stakeholders in the OPCW Member States of the GRULAC region to promote relevant developments in S&T;
  - (d) to facilitate a forum for discussion amongst a broad range of stakeholders on current trends, needs, challenges and opportunities in the area; and
  - (e) to highlight the achievements of the OPCW funded research projects in the area and to discuss further opportunities to promote similar activities in the framework of dedicated programmes of the OPCW and other institutions, as well as to support and enhance related capacity of technical institutions.
7. The workshop will not aim at reaching consensus on definitions, future steps or action plans nor will it search to broaden the discussions that take place in other multilateral environmental fora.
8. The workshop will be conducted in Spanish with no translation services provided.

#### **Admission requirements and selection procedure**

9. The workshop is open to:
  - (a) Representatives of National Authorities of OPCW Member States;
  - (b) Representatives of academia and research institutions from GRULAC Member States involved in scientific research on relevant topics;
  - (c) Representatives from the private sector, including chemical industry and industry associations from OPCW Member States; and
  - (d) Representatives from NGOs and international organisations.

10. Member States are welcome to nominate for participation both sponsored and non-sponsored participants who meet the admission requirements indicated in paragraphs 5 and 8 above.
11. Member States are also encouraged to nominate female candidates, as well as candidates among the former grantees of the OPCW Research Projects Support Programme who performed research on the relevant topics.
12. All applications must be endorsed by the National Authority or Permanent Representation of the nominating Member State.
13. The participants will be selected by the Secretariat further to an internal evaluation based on their qualifications and experience. Once selected, candidates will be notified by the Secretariat.
14. Participants will be requested to prepare presentations within the context of the topics of the workshop listed in paragraph 4.

### **Sponsorship and travel arrangements**

15. The Secretariat expects to sponsor 15 participants for the workshop.
16. For sponsored 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. Sponsored participants who do not intend to use the accommodation arranged by the Secretariat are requested to indicate that as soon as possible, so that the Secretariat does not incur hotel cancellation fees. In any case, the Secretariat will not cover the costs of any accommodation that it has not arranged.
17. The Secretariat will not pay for medical assistance. Therefore, participants should be fit to travel. All participants taking prescribed medication should arrive with supplies sufficient for the duration of the event.
18. When making travel arrangement for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. The Secretariat will purchase tickets and send them to the participants. Participants will be allowed to purchase tickets locally only if this leads to further savings for the Secretariat and if the Secretariat authorises it. Sponsored participants shall bear all costs resulting from any changes they make once the Secretariat has purchased the tickets. Non-sponsored participants will be requested to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements, although the Secretariat can, if necessary, arrange accommodation. In order for the Secretariat to keep costs to a minimum, sponsored participants are expected to arrive **no earlier than Sunday, 10 December 2017** and to depart **no later than Wednesday 13 December 2017**.
19. Participants are requested to obtain any necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Buenos Aires. The Secretariat will cover the costs of these visas by reimbursing sponsored participants upon production of original receipts.

### **Application procedure**

20. Candidates are invited to fill out the form that is included as Annex 1 to this Note.

21. Applications that are incomplete or improperly filled out cannot be considered. Nomination forms must be accompanied by the following:
  - (a) a photocopy of the personal identification pages of the candidate's passport;
  - (b) an up-to-date curriculum vitae;
  - (c) a one-page statement of purpose;
  - (d) a one-page abstract of the proposed presentation at the workshop; and
  - (e) an endorsement from the National Authority of the candidate's country using the form that is included as Annex 2 to this Note.
  
22. Applications should be submitted to the Secretariat, via the respective Member State's National Authority or Permanent Representation to the OPCW, **no later than Tuesday, 21 November 2017**. Once endorsed, the Permanent Representation should then send the application to the Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands. Applications may also be sent by email to [icb@opcw.org](mailto:icb@opcw.org) indicating "GRULAC Workshop on Chemistry for Safety, Security and Environmental Protection 2017" in the subject line of the message.
  
23. Additional information may be obtained from Mr Sergey Zinoviev, Senior International Cooperation Officer, tel: +31 (0)70 416 3611; email: [icb@opcw.org](mailto:icb@opcw.org)

Annex 1: Nomination Form

Annex 2: National Authority Endorsement Form

## Annex 1

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON CHEMISTRY FOR SAFETY, SECURITY AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR GRULAC MEMBER STATES  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA  
11 AND 12 DECEMBER 2017**

**NOMINATION FORM**

Please submit the completed form by **21 November 2017** to:  
The Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW  
Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands  
Email: [icb@opcw.org](mailto:icb@opcw.org)

**Please type or use BLOCK LETTERS**

Family name of nominee <sup>1</sup>			
Gender	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>	
First name(s) <sup>1</sup>			
Date of birth	Day	Month	Year
Citizenship			
Passport number			
Date of issue	Day	Month	Year
Date of expiry	Day	Month	Year
Place of issue			
Areas of expertise (attach a curriculum vitae and a description of the candidate's practical experience)			
Employer			
Position			
Contact address (please do not give a post office box number)	Street		
	Number	Postcode	
	City		
	Country		
Email address			
Telephone numbers, including country and city codes	Home		
	Work		
	Mobile		
Fax numbers, including country and city codes	Home		
	Work		
Is sponsorship a condition of participation?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you require a visa to travel to Argentina?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	

<sup>1</sup>

Please give the first and family names exactly as they appear in the nominee's passport.

Have you received a grant from the OPCW, or the OPCW and the IFS (joint funding), to perform scientific research?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, please provide the project title:
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**Annex 2****REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON CHEMISTRY FOR SAFETY, SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR GRULAC MEMBER STATES  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA  
11 AND 12 DECEMBER 2017****ENDORSEMENT BY THE NATIONAL AUTHORITY**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Head/Chief Coordinator of the National Authority of the State Party of \_\_\_\_\_, on behalf of the Government of \_\_\_\_\_, hereby endorse the nomination of \_\_\_\_\_, holding the position/designation of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Office/Division/Branch of \_\_\_\_\_, as indicated in the attached nomination form, for participation in the “Workshop on Chemistry for Safety, Security and Environmental Protection for GRULAC Member States”, to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 11 and 12 December 2017.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Designation: \_\_\_\_\_

Official seal of the organisation:

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