



S/1717/2019

12 February 2019

ENGLISH and FRENCH only

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE SEVENTEENTH REGIONAL MEETING
OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES OF STATES PARTIES IN AFRICA
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
12 – 14 JUNE 2019**

1. On behalf of the Government of Ethiopia, the African Union Commission, and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General wishes to invite National Authorities to nominate representatives to attend the Seventeenth Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Africa, which will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 12 to 14 June 2019.
2. At its Eighth Session, the Conference of the States Parties adopted a plan of action regarding the implementation of obligations under Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) (C-8/DEC.16, dated 24 October 2003). The Third Review Conference¹ highlighted the need for a comprehensive approach to national implementation in line with each State Party’s constitutional requirements, to filling gaps in national implementation, and to ensuring that national implementation measures are consistent with the provisions of the Convention. The Review Conference also encouraged the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) to explore innovative methods of providing assistance on tailor-made approaches as a potential means to further advance the implementation of Article VII.
3. This regional meeting of National Authorities, to be held from 12 to 14 June 2019, will serve as a forum in which the States Parties in the region will discuss the needs and priorities in implementation of the Convention at the national, subregional, and regional levels. The inputs from the participants and outcomes of the discussions will be considered when designing the fifth phase of the OPCW’s Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Africa Programme”). Apart from representatives of National Authorities and the African Union, the meeting will be open to interested international organisations and potential donors that may have a role in supporting the OPCW’s Africa Programme.

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



4. The last day of the meeting will serve as a forum in which the representatives of National Authorities will discuss various national implementation issues by analysing their experiences with regard to benefiting from international assistance programmes and by presenting good practices in organising national capacity-building events with the funding and support provided by national governments. In addition, the Secretariat also plans to present a new version of the national implementation framework and to seek feedback on it from National Authorities.
5. The objectives for the meeting are to:
 - (a) discuss the national, subregional, and regional needs and priorities of the African States Parties in the implementation of the Convention;
 - (b) discuss and identify opportunities for practical support from and cooperation with the African Union, its institutions, and its Regional Economic Communities;
 - (c) discuss possible support from international organisations and donors for national implementation of the Convention;
 - (d) discuss the experiences of National Authorities and other national stakeholders in participation in OPCW assistance programmes, as well as in organising national capacity-building and awareness-raising events related to national implementation of the Convention;
 - (e) discuss an updated version of the national implementation framework for the Convention; and
 - (f) hold bilateral meetings with the representatives of National Authorities on issues pertaining to national implementation, including progress with the adoption of national implementing legislation.
6. The expected results of the meeting include:
 - (a) improved understanding of the needs and priorities of the African States Parties, as well as opportunities for cooperation with the African Union and its structures;
 - (b) identification of assistance and funding opportunities that could be integrated into the fifth phase of the OPCW's Africa Programme;
 - (c) increased awareness of the benefits and results of participation in OPCW capacity-building programmes as well as awareness of good practices in the implementation of national capacity-building programmes by States Parties; and
 - (d) the collection of feedback on the design of a national implementation framework for the Convention and review of the national implementation status of the States Parties.

7. The provisional programme for the regional meeting is included as Annex 1 to this Note.
8. The Secretariat will sponsor one representative of the National Authority from each State Party. States Parties may consider submitting self-funded nominations. However, in order to ensure effectiveness of the deliberations, a maximum of two nominations for non-sponsored participants may be submitted. Each nomination should specify whether sponsorship is a condition of the nominee's participation.
9. National Authority representatives nominated to participate in the regional meeting should provide the Secretariat with a brief overview of their national needs and priorities. Such an overview should include justification for each need and priority, as well as an analysis of the assistance received in the past from the OPCW and other international and regional organisations. National Authority representatives will be requested to prepare and deliver presentations during the regional meeting.
10. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat 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. Sponsored participants who do not intend to use the accommodation arranged by the Secretariat are requested to indicate this as soon as possible to prevent the Secretariat from incurring hotel cancellation fees. In any case, the Secretariat will not cover the costs of any accommodation that it has not arranged.
11. When making travel arrangements 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 is authorised by and leads to further savings for the Secretariat. Sponsored participants must bear all costs resulting from any changes they make once the Secretariat has purchased their tickets. Non-sponsored participants will be requested to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. In order to keep costs to a minimum, sponsored participants are expected to arrive **no earlier than Tuesday, 11 June 2019** and to depart **no later than Saturday, 15 June 2019**.
12. Participants are requested to obtain any necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Ethiopia. When applying for any required entry visas, they should present the Embassy or Consulate of Ethiopia with a copy of their acceptance letter from the OPCW.
13. The meetings will be conducted in English and French. All participants are therefore expected to have a good oral and written command of English or French.
14. Interested National Authority representatives are invited to register their nomination online **no later than 12 April 2019** through Eventus—the OPCW event management system (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>). Please note that all questions marked with an asterisk (*) must be answered in order for the candidate to be eligible to apply for this event. Interested applicants who, for technical reasons, are unable to submit their application online via Eventus are requested to send the nomination form (Annex 2) and endorsement form (Annex 3) via email to ipb@opcw.org with a reference to “Seventeenth Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Africa” in the subject line of the message. **Each nomination must be accompanied by an**

endorsement form (Annex 3) from the candidate's respective National Authority. National Authorities are kindly requested to note that the Secretariat will not accept any nominations after the final nomination submission deadline.

15. Additional information about this regional meeting may be obtained from the Implementation Support Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the OPCW. The contact persons are Mr Pavlo Byalyk (Email: pavlo.byalyk@opcw.org; Tel: +31 (0) 70 416 3376) and Mr Alberto Fernandez (Email: alberto.fernandez@opcw.org; Tel: +31 (0) 70 416 3850).

Annexes:

- Annex 1: Provisional Programme
- Annex 2: Nomination Form
- Annex 3: Endorsement Form

Annex 1
SEVENTEENTH REGIONAL MEETING
OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES OF STATES PARTIES IN AFRICA
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
12 – 14 JUNE 2019

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
<i>Wednesday, 12 June 2019</i>	
09:30 – 10:30	Opening remarks and group photograph
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:00 – 11:45	Presentation on the African Union's disarmament and non-proliferation framework and its contribution to the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention
11:45 – 12:30	Overview of the status of the fourth phase of the OPCW's Africa Programme and introduction to a discussion on the needs and priorities of the fifth phase of the programme
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	National presentations by States Parties on the needs and suggested priorities of the fifth phase of the Africa Programme
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:00 – 17:30	National presentations by States Parties on the needs and suggested priorities for the fifth phase of the Africa Programme (continued)
<i>Thursday, 13 June 2019</i>	
09:30 – 11:00	Presentations by international partners on their vision of needs and priorities related to the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in Africa and the design of the OPCW's Africa Programme
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:30 – 13:00	Group discussions within subregions on the needs and priorities of the fifth phase of the OPCW's Africa Programme
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30 – 15:30	Preparation of the presentations by the breakout groups
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:00 – 17:30	Presentations by breakout groups
<i>Friday, 14 June 2019</i>	
09:30 – 10:30	Presentations by National Authorities on their experience in participation in OPCW capacity-building programmes
10:30 – 11:00	Presentation of the updated version of the Chemical Weapons Convention national implementation framework
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:30 – 13:00	Presentation by National Authorities on their good practices in organising national capacity-building events
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	Bilateral meetings and evaluation of the event
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:00 – 17:00	Closing ceremony

Annex 2

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NOMINATION FORM

Please type or use BLOCK LETTERS

Family name of nominee*			
First name(s)*			
Date of birth	Day	Month	Year
Citizenship			
Gender**	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>	
Passport number			
Date of issue	Day	Month	Year
Date of expiry	Day	Month	Year
Place of issue			
Job title			
Employer			
Email address			
Airport of departure			
Telephone numbers, including country and city codes	Home		
	Work		
	Mobile		
Is sponsorship required?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Emergency contact: name, telephone number and email address			
Signature of applicant	Date		

* The first and family names should be listed exactly as they appear in the nominee's passport.

** For these and all similar items, please tick the appropriate box.

Annex 3

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ENDORSEMENT BY THE NATIONAL AUTHORITY

This form must be signed, duly sealed, and uploaded when submitting your application electronically (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>)

Please type or use BLOCK LETTERS

I, _____, Head/Chief Coordinator of the National Authority of the State Party of _____, on behalf of the Government of _____, hereby endorse the nomination of Mr/Ms _____, holding the position/designation of _____ in the Office/Division/Branch of _____, as indicated in the attached nomination form, for participation in the Seventeenth Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Africa, to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 12 to 14 June 2019.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Official seal of the Organisation: