



NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FOR OFFICIALS
THE ASSER INSTITUTE'S TENTH ANNUAL TRAINING PROGRAMME
ON DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS
DESTRUCTION IN A CHANGING WORLD
THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS
30 SEPTEMBER – 4 OCTOBER 2019**

1. On behalf of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General wishes to bring to the attention of the Permanent Representations to the OPCW the opening of applications for the “Tenth Annual Training Programme on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction”, to be held at the Asser Institute for International Law in The Hague, the Netherlands, from 30 September to 4 October 2019.
2. Launched in 2010, the Training Programme has been jointly developed by the OPCW and the Asser Institute and provides a multidisciplinary education on nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and threats through a historic, legal, technical, diplomatic, and geopolitical framework.
3. The Training Programme is designed for early- to mid-career professionals working for government entities such as national export control bodies, National Authorities for the implementation of the Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions, and national nuclear (energy) agencies. The programme is also open to professionals working for non-governmental organisations such as think tanks addressing concerns related to weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and for research centres in related disciplines. Newly arrived diplomats in The Hague are especially encouraged to sign up for the Training Programme.
4. The challenges posed to international security by nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons are as urgent today as they were during the Cold War. There is an increasing demand for professionals in the field of WMD to tackle the challenges of today’s non-proliferation and disarmament agenda with a more integrated understanding of these issues.
5. The Training Programme provides clear insights into the functioning of the four international WMD treaty organisations, and illustrates the main challenges each currently faces. During this intensive, week-long programme, participants are provided with a comprehensive overview of WMD, starting with a historical overview of arms control concepts and approaches. The Training Programme seeks to strike a



balance between the legal, scientific, diplomatic, and geopolitical issues relating to the broad spectrum of WMD in a contemporary world.

6. The 2019 Training Programme offers an integrated approach to WMD. It will address the non-proliferation and disarmament efforts made separately and cooperatively with respect to chemical, nuclear, and biological weapons, with more cross-cutting aspects discussed during high-level panels.
7. The specific objectives are to provide participants with:
 - (a) hands-on knowledge of the diplomatic, legal, and technical aspects of disarmament and non-proliferation across nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and threats;
 - (b) insight into the work of seasoned WMD professionals; and
 - (c) unique networking opportunities with speakers and participants from diverse backgrounds.
8. The Training Programme's interdisciplinary content is delivered by specialised academics from institutes in the Netherlands and abroad, together with experienced practitioners and officials from the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the OPCW. The programme's blend of academic and practical knowledge and its comprehensive scope have been well received by participants and will be continued in 2019.
9. Classwork during the 2019 Training Programme will be supplemented by field visits to the OPCW Laboratory in Rijswijk and to the nuclear research reactor at the Delft University of Technology. The field visits offer participants direct experience in chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear preparedness, and in the way international treaties on WMD are implemented at the international and national levels.
10. The provisional programme is attached as the Annex to this Note.
11. The registration fee is EUR 1,495. This fee includes lectures, study materials, study visits, water/tea/coffee and lunch during working days, one reception, and an opening dinner. It does not cover international travel costs, domestic travel to and from airports, accommodation, insurance, or other expenses.
12. The Asser Institute is seeking support to provide a limited number of full scholarships for outstanding applicants from developing countries or countries with economies in transition who wish to participate in the 2019 programme. For updates and details, contact the Asser Institute directly at educationtraining@asser.nl.

13. The Asser Institute is a not-for-profit, inter-university institute that focuses on the broad field of international law. It is based in The Hague and is partly supported with funding from the Government of the Netherlands. The OPCW collaborates with the Institute in designing the agenda, providing senior staff as speakers, mobilising the participation and support of other WMD-related international organisations, and promoting participation by OPCW stakeholders.
14. The Technical Secretariat encourages Permanent Representations and their National Authorities to promote the Training Programme among potentially interested groups and to consider sponsoring the participation of outstanding national applicants who have demonstrated an interest in disarmament and non-proliferation, and who can be expected to make a significant professional contribution in this area.
15. Participants are requested to obtain any necessary visas (including transit visas) before traveling to the Netherlands. When applying for visas, they should present the Embassy or Consulate of the Netherlands with a copy of the acceptance letter from the Asser Institute. Participants are required to approach the Embassy or Consulate of the Netherlands immediately after receiving their acceptance letter.
16. All activities during the programme are conducted in English. Participants are therefore expected to have a good oral and written command of this language.
17. The application form is downloadable from the Asser Institute website (<https://www.asser.nl/education-events/events/?id=3069>) and can also be accessed through the OPCW website (<https://www.opcw.org/calendar/2019/09/30/disarmament-and-non-proliferation-weapons-mass-destruction-training-programme>). Interested applicants should submit the form directly to the Asser Institute as soon as possible.
18. Additional information about the Training Programme may be obtained from the Asser Institute via email: educationtraining@asser.nl.

Annex: Provisional Programme

Annex

**TENTH ANNUAL PROGRAMME
ON DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION
OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS
30 SEPTEMBER – 4 OCTOBER 2019**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME¹

Time	Event
Monday 30 September 2019: Overview of weapons of mass destruction (WMD)	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:30	Opening and round of introductions
09:30 – 10:30	Keynote address by the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) (TBC)
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:45 – 12:15	WMD from a geopolitical perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reasons why States pursue WMD • WMD and the international order • The role of arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation • Case studies
12:15 – 13:15	<i>Lunch</i>
13:15 – 14:30	International humanitarian law and WMD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jus in bello</i> and weapons law • Restrictions on the use of nuclear weapons • Prohibitions on the use of chemical and biological weapons • The Humanitarian Initiative on the Impact of Nuclear Weapons
14:30 – 14:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
14:45 – 16:00	International law and the use of force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of force under international law • Humanitarian intervention • The Responsibility to Protect • Case studies
16:00 – 16:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:15 – 17:15	Scientific and technological aspects of nuclear weapons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do nuclear weapons work? • What is involved in their production? • What is necessary for their deployment and their control? • Could a non-State actor (such as a terrorist group) make/use a nuclear explosive?
18:00	<i>Opening dinner</i>

¹ Please note that the programme may be subject to change.

Tuesday 1 October 2019: Disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons	
09:00 – 10:00	The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The history leading to its adoption • The three pillars of the NPT • Review Conferences and the 1995 extension • The current state of play
10:00 – 10:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:15 – 11:15	Nuclear safeguards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The various types of safeguard agreements and their progressive development in view of proliferation cases • The State-level approach
11:15 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 12:30	The Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Humanitarian Initiative • The United Nations Open-Ended Working Group • United Nations negotiations • The aim and effectiveness of the Ban Treaty
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:30	The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History • Current challenges and policy issues • Nuclear weapons-free zones
14:30 – 14:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
14:45 – 15:45	A Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) and its importance for nuclear arms control <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why and how to prohibit the production of fissile materials • What are the prospects for an international agreement?
15:45 – 16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:00 – 17:00	United States-Russian relations and their influence on international arms control <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new START Agreement • The Intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) Treaty • The future of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) nuclear deterrent
Wednesday 2 October 2019: Biological and chemical weapons: export controls	
09:00 – 10:00	The Biological Weapons Convention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treaties, regulations, and codes of conduct • The Implementation Support Unit • Intersessional meetings • Current challenges and policy issues
10:00 – 10:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:15 – 11:15	Scientific and technological developments: (bio)chemical disarmament in a technologically evolving world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific development and security concerns • Technological development and its driving forces • Converging sciences • Opportunities and challenges
11:15 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>

11:30 – 12:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of science in (bio)chemical disarmament • The scientific underpinning of treaty implementation • Scientific communities in disarmament • The need for and role of science in policy • Scientific advice mechanisms in the Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions
12:45 – 13:45	<i>Brownbag lunch: Professional opportunities in the field of WMD</i>
13:45 – 15:00	Export control regimes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nuclear Suppliers Group • The Zangger Committee • The Missile Technology Control Regime • The Wassenaar Agreement • The Australia Group
15:00 – 15:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:15 – 17:15	Simulation exercise on export controls
Thursday 3 October 2019: Disarmament and non-proliferation of chemical weapons	
09:00 – 10:00	The Chemical Weapons Convention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The history leading to its adoption • The main pillars of the Convention • New and emerging challenges • Transition in focus: from disarmament to non-proliferation
10:00 – 10:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
10:15 – 11:00	The OPCW: The mechanism of verification from declarations to inspection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The obligations of States Parties • Verification by the OPCW: three types of inspections • Addressing non-compliance
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:15 – 12:45	Chemical terrorism: Threat and response
12:45 – 13:45	<i>Lunch</i>
13:45 – 14:30	<i>Travel to field visit</i>
14:30 – 17:00	Field visit: OPCW Laboratory and Equipment Store in Rijswijk
Friday 4 October 2019: Field visit to a nuclear reactor: current challenges	
08:00 – 12:30	Field visit: Technical University of Delft Nuclear Research Reactor
12:30 – 13:15	<i>Lunch</i>
13:15 – 14:15	When non-proliferation fails: A case study on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motivations behind the country's WMD • Non-proliferation efforts and why they failed • Prospects for the future
14:15 – 14:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
14:30 – 15:45	An international order in transition: Prospects for WMD disarmament and non-proliferation (panel discussion)
15:45 – 16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:00 – 17:00	Programme summary and evaluation
17:00 – 18:30	Reception with closing remarks and handover of certificates by the Deputy Director-General of the OPCW