



NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ALL VICTIMS OF CHEMICAL WARFARE
29 NOVEMBER 2019**

1. The Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) at its Twentieth Session decided that the Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare would be observed on 30 November, commencing in 2016, or, when appropriate, on the first day of the regular session of the Conference, in accordance with its decision C-20/DEC.10 (dated 3 December 2015).
2. The commemoration will provide an opportunity to pay tribute to the victims of chemical warfare, as well as to reaffirm the commitment of the OPCW to exclude completely the possibility of the use of chemical weapons, through the implementation of the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention, thereby promoting the goals of peace, security, and multilateralism.
3. The programme for the Day of Remembrance will include the following:
 - (a) a commemorative session in the Ieper Room, including statements by the Chairperson of the Conference, who will preside over the session; the Director-General of the OPCW, H.E. Mr Fernando Arias; the Director-General for Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, H.E. Mr Thijs van der Plas, and the Deputy Mayor of The Hague, H.E. Ms Saskia Bruines;
 - (b) the laying of wreaths at the memorial site; and
 - (c) the observance of one minute of silence at the memorial site.
4. The invitees will include representatives of States Parties to the OPCW, the Government of the Host Country, the Municipality of The Hague, and international organisations.
5. Additional information may be obtained from Mr João Palma Fialho, Head of Protocol, who can be reached at +31 (0)70 416 3383.

Annex: Programme





Annex

Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare Friday, 29 November 2019 09:00 – 09:55

PROGRAMME

- 08:30 – 09:00
Arrival
- Invitees arrive at the main entrance of the OPCW Headquarters.
- 09:00 – 09:40
Commemoration
- The Chairperson of the Conference of the States Parties opens the commemoration in the Ieper Room.
- The following will address the session:
1. Chairperson of the Conference of the States Parties;
 2. Director-General of the OPCW, H.E. Mr Fernando Arias;
 3. Director-General for Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, H.E. Mr Thijs van der Plas; and
 4. Deputy Mayor of The Hague, H.E. Ms Saskia Bruines.
- Musical interlude*
- The Chairperson of the Conference of the States Parties invites the participants to the memorial site.
- 09:45 – 09:55
Visit to the Memorial Site
- Wreaths are laid at the monument by:
1. Chairperson of the Conference of the States Parties;
 2. Director-General of the OPCW, H.E. Mr Fernando Arias;
 3. Director-General for Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, H.E. Mr Thijs van der Plas; and
 4. Deputy Mayor of The Hague, H.E. Ms Saskia Bruines.
- One minute of silence will be observed.
- Guests are escorted to the Delegates' Lounge, prior to leaving the Headquarters building.
- 09:55
- Programme concludes.

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