



NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
FOR THE INFLUENTIAL VISITORS PROGRAMME
FOR STATES PARTIES TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
OPCW HEADQUARTERS
THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS
2021 – 2022**

1. The Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention reaffirmed that full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article VII is essential for the realisation of the object and purpose of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”).
2. To further advance the implementation of Article VII, the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) launched the Influential Visitors Programme (IVP), which supports States Parties whose draft implementing legislation has already been considered by their relevant ministries and stakeholders, with a view to gaining the necessary political momentum to advance the adoption of the implementing legislation. The IVP brings influential stakeholders from States Parties to the OPCW Headquarters in The Hague for a three-day programme. The visit is followed up through regular liaison and demarches, and possible return visits by the Secretariat to the State Party.
3. The Secretariat intends to conduct the IVP in 2021 and 2022, and calls on interested States Parties to nominate participants for the Programme.
4. Participating influential visitors are expected, upon their return from The Hague, to promote the full and effective implementation of the Convention in their respective countries. More specifically, they are expected to draw up an action plan/road map for the adoption of the draft legislation in their country.
5. Participants are also expected to serve as advocates for the Convention in the longer term, and to support their National Authority in:
 - (a) enhancing engagement between their State Party and the Secretariat;
 - (b) prioritising the implementation of the Convention on their national agenda (both before parliament and in government);



- (c) mobilising support for the early adoption of Convention implementing legislation;
 - (d) creating awareness about the Convention among chemical industry and trade stakeholders, thereby facilitating the submission of timely and accurate declarations; and
 - (e) promoting education and outreach to relevant stakeholders on Convention-related issues.
6. The Permanent Representations of the States Parties to the OPCW are encouraged to actively engage in the IVP, in order to facilitate follow-up actions and to mobilise support for the early adoption of the implementing legislation.
7. States Parties interested in participating in the IVP should send a letter of interest addressed to the Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands (with a copy by email to ipb-legal@opcw.org), containing the following information:
 - (a) an overview of the status of the draft Convention implementing legislation;
 - (b) a list of activities it has undertaken to promote the adoption of this legislation;
 - (c) an explanation of how the IVP can support or help advance the process of adopting the implementing legislation;
 - (d) a list of nominees to participate in the IVP (see criteria in Annex 1), and the respective role of each nominee in the legislative adoption process;
 - (e) the name of a focal point and contact details for future correspondence; and
 - (f) a tentative outline of the availability of the delegation, including proposed dates.
8. The nomination criteria are attached as Annex 1 and the provisional programme as Annex 2 to this Note. All nominations from States Parties must be formally endorsed by the National Authority.
9. Once the State Party is selected to participate in the IVP, the dates of the visit will be coordinated by the Secretariat with the National Authority.
10. The Secretariat will cover the costs of travel, meals, and medical insurance, and offer a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses. The Secretariat will also arrange and pay for the accommodation of the participants.
11. Participants are requested to obtain any necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to the Netherlands.
12. All nominations must be received by the Secretariat **no later than Friday, 25 June 2021**.

13. For additional information about the IVP, please contact the Implementation Support Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division. The contact people are:

Ms Sharon Rivera, Programme Officer – Legal
+31(0)70 416 3437
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+31(0)70 416 3426
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Annexes:

- Annex 1: Nomination Criteria
Annex 2: Provisional Programme

Annex 1

**INFLUENTIAL VISITORS PROGRAMME
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NOMINATION CRITERIA

1. Each participating State Party, through its National Authority, is to submit the names of a maximum of five candidates, as follows:
 - (a) one representative of the National Authority; and
 - (b) four national policy and decision makers, such as:
 - (i) key parliamentarians or ministers;
 - (ii) key officials of parliament secretariats;
 - (iii) senior cabinet officials;
 - (iv) chairpersons of chambers of commerce and industry (chemical councils, exporters, or manufacturers);
 - (v) heads of central universities or education commissions or deans of universities with chemistry departments;
 - (vi) members of non-governmental organisations or think tanks dealing with disarmament or security issues; or
 - (vii) prominent or distinguished writers, columnists, or editors of major national newspapers.
2. In endorsing the nominations, the National Authority is also required to provide information on the respective role of each nominee in the legislative adoption process.
3. The Secretariat will only consider nominations submitted by the National Authority, which will be responsible for coordinating the application process at the national level.

Annex 2

**INFLUENTIAL VISITORS PROGRAMME
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PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
Day 1	
10:00 – 10:30	Welcome remarks and <i>tour de table</i> – Overview of the programme – Discussion
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:00 – 11:45	Presentation: Introduction to the Chemical Weapons Convention – Universality of the Convention – Discussion
11:45 – 12:15	Presentation: The OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology – Discussion
12:15 – 12:30	Group photo and tour of OPCW premises
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 14:45	Presentation: Overview of the OPCW's contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts – Discussion
14:45 – 15:30	Presentation: The Convention – Compliance and the verification regime – Discussion
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:00 – 17:00	Presentation: National implementation measures and status of implementation of the Convention in the State Party – Discussion
Day 2	
09:30 – 11:00	National presentation: National policy and initiatives on Convention implementation and status of development of national legislation – Discussion
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:30 – 13:00	Presentation: International cooperation and assistance programmes – Discussion
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	National presentation: Road map for the early adoption of implementing legislation and enhanced implementation of the Convention at the national level – Discussion
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:00 – 16:30	Concluding remarks and recommendations

Time	Activity
<i>Day 3</i>	
10:00 – 11:30	Visit to the OPCW Laboratory and Equipment Store
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
13:00 – 13:30	Interview with the Head of Delegation
TBD	Departure to the airport

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