



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

S/1947/2021
12 April 2021
ENGLISH and FRENCH only

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE NINETEENTH REGIONAL MEETING
OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES OF STATES PARTIES IN AFRICA
(ONLINE)
15 – 17 JUNE 2021**

1. On behalf of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General wishes to invite African National Authorities to nominate representatives to attend the Nineteenth Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Africa, which will be held online from 15 to 17 June 2021.
2. This regional meeting of National Authorities will serve as a forum for States Parties to discuss needs, priorities, actions taken, and best practices in relation to the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) at the national, subregional, and regional levels, as well as the capacity-building support provided within the framework of the fifth phase of the OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Africa Programme”).
3. The purpose of the meeting is to facilitate discussions of:
 - (a) the status and progress of the implementation of the Africa Programme;
 - (b) the status and progress of the adoption of national implementing legislation, in particular in States Parties that have yet to adopt implementing legislation covering all initial measures;
 - (c) national implementation of the Convention, including issues concerning Article VI-related obligations;
 - (d) use of the Protection and Assistance Databank (PAD);
 - (e) issues related to chemical safety and security;
 - (f) enhancing the capabilities of chemical laboratories; and
 - (g) the status of the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre) project.



4. The expected results of the meeting include:
 - (a) improved understanding of follow-up actions and best practices of States Parties in relation to the implementation of the Convention, and of progress in the implementation of the Africa Programme;
 - (b) improved understanding of specific issues related to Articles VI, VII, X, and XI of the Convention and the respective support provided by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”); and
 - (c) provision of updated information on the status of the implementation of the Convention in the region, in support of the Secretariat’s development of its future assistance and cooperation activities for States Parties.
5. The provisional programme for the regional meeting is included as Annex 1 to this Note.
6. The National Authority of each State Party is requested to nominate up to two delegates for participation in the regional meeting.
7. The meeting will be conducted in English and French, with interpretation services available. Participants are therefore expected to have a good oral and written command of either English or French.
8. National Authorities’ nominees are invited to register online **no later than 30 April 2021** through Eventus—the OPCW event management system (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>). **Each nomination must be accompanied by an endorsement form (Annex 2) from the nominee’s respective National Authority.**
9. National Authorities that wish for their nominee(s) to make a presentation at the meeting should inform the Secretariat about the presentation’s specific thematic area. Ideally, presentations should be limited to seven minutes and highlight best practices, as well as challenges encountered in relation to the implementation of the Convention. In addition, specific actions taken by a State Party as a result of attending or participating in the Secretariat’s capacity-building events (in particular those within the framework of the Africa Programme) could be brought to the attention of the meeting participants.
10. Furthermore, National Authorities may express their interest in bilateral consultation with the Secretariat on specific issues related to national implementation of the Convention.
11. Information on national presentations and bilateral consultations should be conveyed by the respective nominee(s) to Mr Pavlo Byalyk (pavlo.byalyk@opcw.org), Programme Manager in charge of organising the regional meeting.
12. 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 (pavlo.byalyk@opcw.org) and Ms Olukemi Adenuga (olukemi.adenuga@opcw.org).

Annexes:

- Annex 1: Provisional Programme
Annex 2: Endorsement Form

Annex 1

**NINETEENTH REGIONAL MEETING OF
NATIONAL AUTHORITIES OF STATES PARTIES IN AFRICA
(ONLINE)**

15 – 17 JUNE 2021

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

| Time | Activity |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Tuesday, 15 June 2021</i> | |
| 12:00 – 12:10 | Opening remarks |
| 12:10 – 12:20 | Introduction: objectives and expected outcomes of the meeting |
| 12:20 – 13:40 | Update on the implementation of the Africa Programme, followed by national good practice presentations and a discussion |
| 13:40 – 14:30 | Presentation on the status of adoption of the national Convention-implementing legislation in Africa and relevant programmatic support offered by the Secretariat, followed by a discussion of challenges and opportunities in the process of adoption of the legislation |
| <i>Wednesday, 16 June 2021</i> | |
| 12:00 – 12:30 | Presentation on adoption of SIX ¹ and EDIS, ² followed by a Q&A session |
| 12:30 – 13:00 | Presentation on the status of Article VI declarations in the Africa region, followed by a Q&A session |
| 13:00 – 13:20 | Updates by the Secretariat on its work regarding declarations and relevant projects (including e-learning), followed by a Q&A session |
| 13:20 – 13:40 | Presentation on confidentiality in correspondence between States Parties and the Secretariat, followed by a Q&A session |
| 13:40 – 14:00 | Presentation on the status of the 2021 inspection plan, effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and future plans, followed by a Q&A session |
| 14:00 – 14:30 | Presentations by National Authorities on best practices in implementation of Article VI |
| <i>Thursday, 17 June 2021</i> | |
| 12:00 – 12:45 | Presentation on the Protection and Assistance Databank, followed by a Q&A session |
| 12:45 – 13:15 | Presentation on the status of the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre) project, followed by a Q&A session |
| 13:15 – 13:45 | Presentation on enhancing the capacity of analytical laboratories seeking OPCW designation, followed by a Q&A session |
| 13:45 – 14:00 | Presentation on the role of women in chemical safety and security management |
| 14:00 – 14:20 | Final Q&A session |
| 14:20 – 14:30 | Conclusion and closing remarks |

¹ SIX = Secure Information Exchange.

² EDIS = Electronic Declaration Information System.

Annex 2

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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 Nineteenth Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Africa, to be held online from 15 to 17 June 2021.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Official seal of the Organisation: