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## NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

### LAUNCH OF THE NEW OPCW EXTERNAL SERVER "CATALYST"

1. In 2004, the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) released an update of the OPCW’s external server to further facilitate access to it, using open-source software and uploading documents in portable document format (PDF). The Secretariat informed States Parties of the availability of official-series documents on the server and provided information on how to access and download them (S/411/2004, dated 26 March 2004). A year later, States Parties were informed of an additional attribute on the external server that facilitated the distribution of informal papers (S/474/2005, dated 23 February 2005). Subsequently, as announced by the Director-General in his statement to the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) at its Seventy-Ninth Session (EC-79/DG.19, dated 7 July 2015), a new e-subscription feature was added to enable users to receive notifications when new official-series documents were made available. Users could subscribe on the OPCW’s external server home page, and specify their preference to receive notifications for documents in English and any additional official language of the OPCW. More recently, the Director-General informed States Parties at the Ninety-Fifth Session of the Council that the Secretariat was in the process of developing “Catalyst”, the new external server platform that will allow users to more easily navigate, browse, and search OPCW documents (EC-95/DG.29, dated 6 October 2020).
2. The Secretariat is pleased to inform States Parties that “Catalyst” will be launched in August of this year, providing representatives from States Parties, National Authorities, and scientific communities with access to OPCW online applications, official-series and other documents, as well as information on meetings, training opportunities, and events. All data previously available through the external server will be migrated to Catalyst and the following new features will be added:
  - (a) multilingual access, enabling users to select their preferred language for navigation, searches, and document retrieval;
  - (b) enhanced security, using Okta Verify authentication;
  - (c) a simple and intuitive user experience;
  - (d) e-notification service for both official-series documents and informal papers;
  - (e) improved search functions; and
  - (f) a mobile-friendly experience (tablet/smartphone).



3. Catalyst, which is based on modern technology, also provides for the future development of applications and dissemination of other file formats to ensure timely communication with Secretariat stakeholders.
4. Catalyst will be easily accessible via the OPCW public website (<https://www.opcw.org>) using a modern web browser such as Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge. The current external server login accounts will not work with Catalyst's enhanced security and will become invalid on 1 September 2021. Therefore, each user will be required to register for an account using their official email address. Following registration, Permanent Representations will be required to submit a note verbale attaching a completed "OPCW Catalyst Policy-Making Organs' Portal Registration Form", which provides the following information required for the creation of Catalyst user accounts:
  - (a) full name of user(s);
  - (b) organisation and address;
  - (c) functional title; and
  - (d) email address (for logon purposes).

The above should be submitted to the Secretariat for the Policy-Making Organs via email ([CatalystPMO@opcw.org](mailto:CatalystPMO@opcw.org)).

5. Permanent Representations are encouraged to submit their applications during the month of August 2021 to ensure continued access to the documents after the external server is decommissioned on 1 September 2021.
6. The Secretariat for the Policy-Making Organs will maintain the list of authorised users, facilitate access, and ensure that accounts and e-notification services are disabled if requested, upon receipt of a deregistration form. User accounts will be valid for one year, expiring annually on 30 September, and renewable upon receipt of a note verbale from the Permanent Representation, attaching an updated registration form.
7. The Secretariat wishes to thank those States Parties that provided helpful feedback during the development phase. This feedback has enabled the Secretariat to fine-tune the system and its contents thus far. The Secretariat welcomes any further such suggestions which will no doubt help it continue to maintain and enhance the system in future.