



NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES
THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS
23 – 26 NOVEMBER 2021**

1. The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) wishes to invite National Authorities to submit nominations for the Twenty-Third Annual Meeting of National Authorities.
2. The annual meeting will take place online over a four-day period from Tuesday, 23 November to Friday, 26 November 2021. Bilateral meetings between the representatives of National Authorities and the Secretariat may be conducted online upon request.
3. The annual meeting of National Authorities is designed to serve as a mechanism for interactive communications and cooperation among the National Authorities, both among themselves and with the OPCW. As such, it is intended to promote a global network in support of the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) and to further enhance the engagement of States Parties in capacity-building activities offered by the Secretariat.
4. The objectives of the annual meeting are to:
 - (a) provide an occasion for National Authorities to share their experience and knowledge in order to enhance their capacity to comply with their obligations under the Convention;
 - (b) provide an occasion for the Secretariat and States Parties to interact and discuss ways for the effective provision of capacity-building support in an integrated and comprehensive manner;
 - (c) promote cooperation among National Authorities in order to further the implementation of the Convention; and
 - (d) provide an opportunity for interaction between the States Parties and the Secretariat to address outstanding issues and efforts to enhance the implementation of the Convention.



5. The Secretariat assists States Parties in their efforts to meet their obligations under the Convention, thereby enabling them to achieve full and effective implementation. This is being done through the implementation of various capacitybuilding programmes within the framework of Articles VII, X, and XI of the Convention. While the International Cooperation and Assistance Division continually strives to ensure effective and efficient provision of capacity-building support to States Parties, achieving and sustaining its impact requires the ownership and commitment of national governments. It is therefore essential to ensure that support be planned and delivered in dialogue with States Parties and in line with their needs and priorities.
6. Due to the continuing impact of and restrictions posed by COVID-19, this year's annual meeting will be held in an online format. States Parties will be updated on the OPCW's efforts and planned capacity-building activities across its key mandates. Furthermore, National Authorities will be provided with updates on policy-related issues. In addition, National Authorities will share their experiences, knowledge, and good practices in the implementation of the Convention. Bearing in mind the suggestions made during regional National Authorities meetings earlier in the year, particular emphasis will be placed on discussing an integrated approach to capacity building for chemical security, including relevant prevention, monitoring and response aspects. Throughout the meeting, National Authorities will have opportunities to discuss, exchange views, and learn from one another's experience and challenges in implementing the Convention.
7. All presentations will be recorded and made available on the Secretariat's TalentSoft platform at least two weeks before the online meeting starts.
8. Should there be interest in bilateral consultations with the Secretariat, interested National Authorities are requested to inform the Secretariat ahead of the meeting and communicate the particular national implementation issues they would like to discuss. This will enable the appropriate Secretariat officials to prepare for the relevant bilateral meetings.
9. National Authorities that wish to discuss draft implementing legislation are encouraged to submit drafts in advance and contact the Programme Officer – Legal of the Implementation Support Branch, Ms Sharon Rivera, by email: sharon.rivera@opcw.org or ipb-legal@opcw.org.
10. The provisional programme for the meeting is attached as Annex 1 to this Note.
11. National Authorities are encouraged to nominate representatives who have been directly involved in the implementation of the Convention, particularly in their day-to-day activities.
12. Interested applicants are invited to register in Eventus—the OPCW event management system (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>)—**no later than Monday, 18 October 2021**. All nominations must be endorsed by the Head or Chief Coordinator of the National Authority. The endorsement form, which is attached as Annex 2 to this Note, must be uploaded by applicants during the registration process for the meeting.
13. Interested participants who, for technical reasons, are unable to submit the application online are requested to send an email to ipb@opcw.org with a reference to the name of the event in the subject line of the message. The Secretariat will provide the necessary advice and assistance with the registration.

14. Any queries or additional information about registration may be obtained from the Implementation Support Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the OPCW. The contact persons are Mr Victor Barros Correia (Email: victor.barros-correia@opcw.org), Mr Alberto Fernández (Email: alberto.fernandez@opcw.org), Ms Olukemi Adenuga (Email: olukemi.adenuga@opcw.org), and Mr Pavlo Byalyk (Email: pavlo.byalyk@opcw.org).

Annexes:

- Annex 1: Provisional Programme
- Annex 2: National Authority Endorsement Form

Annex 1

**THE TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES
(ONLINE)
THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS
23 – 26 NOVEMBER 2021**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time*	Activity
<i>Monday, 22 November 2021</i>	
13:30 – 14:30	Dry run session
<i>Tuesday, 23 November 2021</i>	
13:00 – 13:30	Online registration
13:30 – 13:40	Opening remarks by the Director-General of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW
13:40 – 14:00	Follow-up on issues raised during the previous regional and annual meetings
14:00 – 14:30	Update from the Technical Secretariat on programmes and activities of the International Cooperation and Assistance, Verification, and Inspectorate Divisions
14:30 – 14:50	National presentations on experiences, good practices, and challenges in implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention
14:50 – 15:00	Introduction to thematic discussion “Enhancing Chemical Security of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention Through Capacity-Building Support”
<i>Wednesday, 24 November 2021</i>	
13:00 – 13:30	Registration
13:30 – 14:15	Session 1: Developing and strengthening legislative and regulatory frameworks for chemical security
14:15 – 14:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
14:30 – 15:15	Session 2: Enhancing capacities for chemical security management
<i>Thursday, 25 November 2021</i>	
13:00 – 13:30	Registration
13:30 – 14:15	Session 3: Strengthening response capacities against the use or threat of use of chemical weapons
14:15 – 14:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
14:30 – 15:00	Reporting on outcomes from the three sessions
<i>Friday, 26 November 2021</i>	
13:00 – 13:30	Registration
13:30 – 14:30	Update on the initiatives of the Technical Secretariat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Centre for Chemistry and Technology - Assessing the effectiveness of online events and update on e-learning - Further development of the event registration system – Eventus - Impact review of selected international cooperation and assistance programmes
14:30 – 14:50	Looking ahead – new challenges and trends affecting the OPCW’s work
14:50 – 15:00	Closing remarks by the Director of International Cooperation and Assistance

* Time indicated as Central European Time.

Annex 2

**THE TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES
(ONLINE)**

THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS

23 – 26 NOVEMBER 2021

ENDORSEMENT BY THE NATIONAL AUTHORITY

This form must be signed, duly sealed, and uploaded when submitting applications electronically (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>)

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 _____, for participation in the Twenty-Third Annual Meeting of National Authorities, to be held online from 23 to 26 November 2021.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Official seal of the Organisation: