



S/2052/2022

29 April 2022

ARABIC, ENGLISH, FRENCH, and SPANISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR A TRAINING-OF-TRAINERS COURSE
FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF CUSTOMS TRAINING INSTITUTIONS AND
ACADEMIES ON THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE TRANSFERS REGIME
OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS
6 – 9 SEPTEMBER 2022**

1. The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) wishes to invite the National Authorities of OPCW Member States to nominate participants for a training-of-trainers course for representatives of customs training institutions on the technical aspects of the transfers regime of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”). The training course will be held in The Hague, the Netherlands, from 6 to 9 September 2022, in cooperation with the World Customs Organization (WCO).
2. The manner in which customs authorities handle scheduled chemicals has a practical impact on the implementation of the transfers regime of the Convention, and can play a key role in diminishing, and eventually eliminating, discrepancies between the quantities of scheduled chemicals declared by importing and exporting Member States with respect to these same transfers.
3. The purpose of the course is to strengthen national capacities to enforce the transfers regime of the Convention, with a focus on national customs training institutions. Targeted engagement with representatives of customs training organisations is expected to facilitate the integration of Convention-specific content in relevant training curricula and to increase the national pools of customs officers with adequate skills and knowledge of the transfers regime. The course will concentrate on the following themes:
 - (a) the OPCW and the provisions of the Convention;
 - (b) the rights and obligations of States Parties to the Convention;
 - (c) the role and responsibilities of National Authorities and their stakeholders (including customs authorities) under the provisions of the Convention;
 - (d) the identification of chemicals relevant to the Convention, including those in the WCO Harmonized System;
 - (e) the recommendations of the WCO with regard to scheduled chemicals, and potential changes to the Harmonized System;



- (f) sources of information for customs officials and customs laboratories, including the OPCW Handbook on Chemicals, the online scheduled chemicals database, the OPCW Central Analytical Database, and various useful websites; and
 - (g) customs-related matters such as discrepancies in reporting transfers of scheduled chemicals, free ports and free zones, risk assessments, transshipments, and software used by customs services.
4. The course is expected to have the following results:
- (a) National customs training institutions and other pertinent bodies have arrangements in place that adequately cover the transfers regime of the Convention in their training programmes, as well as corresponding action plans.
 - (b) National customs training institutions have enhanced capacities to design (where appropriate), implement, and evaluate training on the technical aspects of the transfers regime of the Convention.
 - (c) Improved coordination by National Authorities vis-à-vis customs training institutions regarding the design and delivery of national training of customs officers in implementing the transfers regimes of the Convention.
5. Participants are expected to share information on how their authorities handle the transfer of scheduled chemicals and on Convention-relevant training programmes currently conducted for customs officers. Participants are also expected to actively take part in group discussions on existing procedures governing the control of scheduled chemicals, to share best practices in their region, and to make recommendations on how their pertinent authorities could improve in the following areas:
- (a) licensing procedures for scheduled chemicals;
 - (b) identification of scheduled chemicals;
 - (c) risk assessment and customs software; and
 - (d) control of transits and transshipments.
6. By the end of the course, participants should have developed follow-up plans for introducing Convention-relevant training into existing training curricula or, where relevant, strengthening existing modules in their training institution or institutions. Strengthened training for national customs officials should be offered by participating Member States before the end of 2023. If invited, the Secretariat will consider providing further support to customs training institutions, including through follow-up visits to the training institutions and/or sharing of relevant materials and expertise.
7. The provisional programme for the training course is attached as the Annex to this Note.
8. Each Member State is expected to be represented by three participants: **one customs trainer, one management-level official from a customs training institution or customs training programme, and one representative of the National Authority.** The latter will coordinate the necessary follow-up activities with the national customs training institution.

9. The training course will be conducted in English, with simultaneous interpretation available in French and Spanish. Participants are therefore expected to have a good written and oral command of one of these languages.
10. **Applications from the nominated participants** should be submitted online through Eventus, the OPCW event management system, (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>) before 30 June 2022. These applications must be **reviewed and endorsed digitally by the respective National Authority** through Eventus before 5 July 2022, to be followed by a final review by the Secretariat.
11. The course participants will be requested, prior to their arrival in the Netherlands, to complete online e-learning modules on the Convention that have been designed for customs officers.
12. Additional information about the training course may be obtained from the Implementation Support Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division. The contact persons are Mr Solomon Haile (Email: solomon.haile@opcw.org) and Mr Alberto Fernandez (Email: alberto.fernandez@opcw.org).

Annex: Provisional Programme

Annex

**TRAINING-OF-TRAINERS COURSE FOR REPRESENTATIVES
OF CUSTOMS TRAINING INSTITUTIONS AND ACADEMIES
ON THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE TRANSFERS REGIME
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PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
<i>Tuesday, 6 September 2022</i>	
08:30 – 09:00	<i>Registration</i>
09:00 – 09:30	Opening ceremony
09:30 – 10:30	Introduction of participants, levelling of expectations, and presentation of the training programme and objectives
10:30 – 10:50	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:50 – 11:30	An overview of the OPCW and the Chemical Weapons Convention
11:30 – 13:00	National presentations on cooperation between National Authorities and customs agencies, and ongoing national customs training programmes in the area of security and strategic trade control
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 14:30	Chemicals to be monitored under the Chemical Weapons Convention and their main uses
14.30 – 15:00	Transfer provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the trade of scheduled chemicals in the regions
15:00 – 15:30	Introduction to customs control of chemical shipments
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:00 – 17:00	Exercise 1: Group discussion of import/export scenarios
<i>Wednesday, 7 September 2022</i>	
09:00 – 09:30	Identification of Chemical Weapons Convention-related chemicals: the WCO Harmonized System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current WCO recommendations • The WCO's simplified recommendations • Possible future amendments to the Harmonized System
09:30 – 10:00	Identifying Chemical Weapons Convention-related chemicals: The OPCW's Handbook on Chemicals and the online scheduled chemicals database
10:00 – 10:30	Identifying Convention-related chemicals using other sources of information
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:00 – 12:30	Exercise 2: Identifying chemicals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary: the Handbook on Chemicals and the online scheduled chemicals database • Hands-on exercise
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>

Time	Activity
13:30 – 14:30	Common problems in reporting imports/exports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discrepancies in Chemical Weapons Convention import/export reporting • Free ports/zones • Transshipments and transits • Voluntary guidelines on declaring imports/exports • Resolution of transfer discrepancies
14:30 – 15:30	Exercise 3: Group discussions of import/export scenarios
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:00 – 17:00	Discussion of import/export scenarios provided by the participants
<i>Thursday, 8 September 2022</i>	
09:00 – 10:30	Group discussions on Chemical Weapons Convention modules: challenges, opportunities, and needs
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:00 – 12:30	Presentations of group discussions on Chemical Weapons Convention modules
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Preparation of country-specific presentations on the introduction of the Chemical Weapons Convention modules
14:30 – 15:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:00 – 17:00	Country presentations and discussion
<i>Friday, 9 September 2022</i>	
09:00 – 13:00	Study visit
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Development of national action plans to incorporate the training into the curricula of national customs training programmes and scale up the training at the national level (using the template to be provided by the Implementation Support Branch)
15:00 – 15:30	Conclusion and evaluation of the event