

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT****CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR A SYMPOSIUM FOR WOMEN IN CHEMISTRY  
TURIN, ITALY  
9 – 10 NOVEMBER 2022****Background**

1. The OPCW Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) wishes to inform Member States that, in cooperation with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), a symposium on women in chemistry will be held at the UNICRI Headquarters in Turin, Italy, on 9 and 10 November 2022.
2. The theme for this year’s symposium is “Identifying Opportunities for Gender Diversity in Chemical Safety and Security”. The aims of the symposium are to illustrate the strength and depth of the contribution of women to peaceful chemistry, promote international solidarity and cooperation, and raise awareness of the opportunities for capacity and knowledge development for women in chemistry.

**Content**

3. The two-day symposium will focus on thematic presentations and discussions featuring prominent role models who will address various issues of interest for women in chemistry, including the challenges and opportunities they face. Group discussions will also be arranged to highlight the development of a responsible culture in chemistry.
4. The symposium is expected to consist of two parts: international (global) on the first day and regional (the Eastern Europe region) on the second day. The symposium will be conducted in hybrid mode throughout the first day, with participants from the Eastern Europe region attending in person and participants from other regions attending online. On the second day, the symposium will be reserved for participants from Eastern Europe region attending in person.
5. In the global part of the symposium, UNICRI will present the outcomes of a research programme that identified best practices in recruiting, training, and promoting women in chemistry. The regional part of the symposium will focus on the specifics of engaging and empowering female professionals in the chemistry sector in the Eastern Europe region.
6. Experts will share their experience in identifying opportunities for career growth, training, and certification, as well as the added value of gender diversity in different roles and functions related to chemistry.



7. The symposium will be co-moderated by the OPCW and UNICRI.

#### **Admission requirements**

8. The in-person part of the symposium is open to women who:
  - (a) are citizens of Eastern European OPCW Member States; and
  - (b) have a minimum of a first degree (BSc or equivalent) in chemistry, analytical chemistry, or chemical engineering from a recognised university or institution; and
  - (c) have professional working experience in academia, science and technology institutions, chemical industry, industry associations, regulatory or promotional agencies.
9. The online participants will be selected from contributors to the OPCW-UNICRI research project “Women in Chemistry”.
10. The symposium will be conducted in English. Candidates must therefore have a strong command of both written and spoken English. Any candidate who is found not to meet this requirement may not be allowed to continue their participation in the event.

#### **Selection procedure**

11. Applications will be carefully screened on the basis of the criteria specified in paragraphs 8 and 9 above.
12. Member States are welcome to nominate participants for whom sponsorship is not required.

#### **Sponsorship**

13. Only a limited number of participants from the Eastern Europe region attending the symposium in person can be sponsored. The Secretariat will select the participants based on their qualifications and experience. Only selected candidates will be notified by the Secretariat.
14. All applications must be digitally endorsed through Eventus, the OPCW event management system by the OPCW National Authority of the candidate’s country (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>).
15. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the costs of travel and medical insurance and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover meals and sundry expenses. The Secretariat will also arrange and pay for the accommodation of sponsored participants.
16. The Secretariat will not pay for medical assistance. Therefore, participants should be fit for travel. All participants taking prescribed medication should arrive with supplies sufficient for the duration of the event.

17. The Secretariat will cover participants' costs related to undergo a COVID-19 PCR test on conclusion of the symposium, and in good time before travelling back to their duty station/country of origin, if necessary. Participants that choose to not avail themselves of the aforementioned COVID-19 PCR test and, as a result, incur additional costs, will bear full responsibility for their choice and must cover any such additional costs (including for additional accommodation and/or flight changes) themselves.
18. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. It will purchase tickets and send them to the participants. Non-sponsored participants will be requested to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements, although the Secretariat can, if necessary, arrange accommodation for them.
19. Participants are requested to obtain any necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Italy.

### **Application procedure**

20. Interested candidates are invited to submit their applications through Eventus. Applicants must first create an account and then register for the event. In exceptional circumstances involving technical difficulties, application documents may be obtained from the International Cooperation Branch. In such cases, a complete set of application documents should be returned via email attachment ([icb.events@opcw.org](mailto:icb.events@opcw.org)) with the reference "Women in Chemistry 2022" in the subject line of the message.
21. Only nominations endorsed by the National Authority or Permanent Representation will be considered. Each application must be endorsed digitally on the Eventus platform by the nominee's respective National Authority. A passport and an up-to-date curriculum vitae must be uploaded during the online registration process. Nominees must indicate their practical and work experience in their curricula vitae.
22. Applications must be submitted to the Secretariat **no later than Thursday, 15 September 2022**. Additional information may be obtained from the International Cooperation Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division. The contact persons are Mr Massimo de Rienzo, Senior Programme Officer (Tel: +31 (0)70 416 3458; email: [massimo.derienzo@opcw.org](mailto:massimo.derienzo@opcw.org)) and Ms Rufaro Kambarami, (Tel: +31 (0)70 416 3272; email: [rufaro.kambarami@opcw.org](mailto:rufaro.kambarami@opcw.org)).