



NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR AN ADVANCED SEMINAR
ON THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION AND CHEMICAL SAFETY AND
SECURITY MANAGEMENT FOR MEMBER STATES OF THE OPCW
IN THE LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION
SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR
21 – 23 MARCH 2023**

Background

1. The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) wishes to inform Member States that an advanced seminar on the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) and chemical safety and security management for Member States of the OPCW in the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) region will be held in San Salvador, El Salvador, from 21 to 23 March 2023.
2. National Authorities or governmental representatives responsible for chemical safety and security management, representatives from chemical industry associations, and managers involved in chemical industry safety and security and Responsible Care[®] are invited to submit applications for the seminar, which is being organised to further promote international cooperation programmes that focus on chemical industry outreach and industry-related aspects of the implementation of Article XI of the Convention.
3. The aim of the seminar is to support chemical safety and security management in the chemical industry in GRULAC countries. The overall goal is to sensitise States Parties to the new approaches that can be adopted in relation to chemical safety and security management, with a particular focus on providing assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises. By promoting and disseminating standardised and best practices in chemical safety and security, the seminar will benefit chemical industry personnel who are involved in safety and security management issues, enhance the capacities of National Authorities and chemical industry associations in Member States of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in the GRULAC region, and indirectly benefit the general public as a whole.
4. The objectives of the seminar are to:
 - (a) provide an opportunity for participating States Parties to consider and discuss specific chemical safety and security management issues related to chemical processes that have a direct bearing on the effective implementation of the Convention;
 - (b) contribute to sharing information and exchanging experiences on the practical implementation of chemical safety and security management programmes;



- (c) review best practices related to the safety and security management of chemicals, and generate, through interactions and discussions, recommendations on the structure for future standardised seminars in order to promote these practices in small and medium-sized enterprises in GRULAC countries;
 - (d) foster broader cooperation between States Parties on issues related to the chemical industry to ensure the achievement of the objectives of Article XI of the Convention (promoting the peaceful uses of chemistry); and
 - (e) enhance and promote the safe handling of chemicals at the national level.
5. The seminar will allow ample time for question-and-answer sessions and will include theoretical and practical components. The seminar topics will include an overview of international cooperation programmes, the Convention, and the OPCW. During the seminar, participants will be provided with updated information on, inter alia, current practices and concepts relating to the safety and security management of chemical processes, the history of the subject, modern safety strategies, current trends in safety and security management in the chemical industry, chemical site security management, and safety and security culture. The best practices from the chemical industry will also be presented. Leading experts in chemical safety management will give presentations and facilitate discussions. Participants should therefore have a strong background in chemistry or chemical engineering, with at least five years of experience in a relevant discipline.
6. The following issues will be discussed:
- (a) the global and regional contexts in which the management of chemicals takes place;
 - (b) the theoretical foundations underpinning chemical safety and security management;
 - (c) safety and security management practices, with examples from individual companies; and
 - (d) the importance of promoting a strong organisational culture in the effective management of chemical safety.
7. Seminar participants will be expected to prepare brief presentations on current safety and security management practices based on their experience, including suggestions for improving the safety management culture in their respective countries or the organisations in which they work.

Sponsorship

8. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor a limited number of participants, for whom it will cover the costs of travel, meals, and medical insurance, and provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses. The Secretariat will also arrange and pay for accommodation for sponsored participants. A letter with the detailed programme will be sent to all registered participants in due course.

Admission requirements

9. The seminar is open to participants who:
 - (a) are citizens of OPCW Member States in the GRULAC region;
 - (b) have at least five years of professional working experience in academia, science and technology institutions, the chemical industry, industry associations, or regulatory agencies in the field of chemical safety and security;
 - (c) have not attended similar events organised by the OPCW in the last three years; and
 - (d) have a good written and oral command of English or Spanish.

Application procedure

10. Interested candidates are invited to submit their applications through Eventus, the OPCW event management platform (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>). Applicants must first create an account and then register for the event.
11. 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 and be accompanied by a curriculum vitae or a short abstract describing the applicant's current research, work, and projects, in particular in the areas of chemical safety and security, transportation security, hazardous waste management, and new trends in chemical technology. A photocopy of the personal identification page of the applicant's passport is also requested. **Only selected candidates will be notified by the Secretariat.**
12. Each application should specify whether sponsorship is a condition of the nominee's participation. Member States are welcome to nominate participants for whom sponsorship is not required. **The Secretariat strongly encourages applications from qualified female candidates.**
13. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. It will purchase tickets and send them to participants. Participants will be allowed to purchase tickets locally only if this leads to further savings for the Secretariat and if the Secretariat authorises it. In order for the Secretariat to keep costs to a minimum, participants are expected to **arrive no earlier than Monday, 20 March 2023 and to depart no later than Friday, 24 March 2023.** The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the seminar or that result from changes to travel arrangements that it has not authorised. Sponsored participants must bear all costs resulting from changes they make, including cancellations, once the Secretariat has purchased tickets. Participants who have not been sponsored are requested to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.
14. Participants are requested to obtain any necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to the seminar. When applying for an entry visa, they should present the Embassy or Consulate of the Republic of El Salvador with a copy of the acceptance letter from the OPCW.

15. Applications must be submitted in Eventus **no later than Monday, 15 February 2023. Incomplete or improperly filled out applications will not be considered.** Additional information may be obtained from the International Cooperation Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division. The contact person is Mr Massimo de Rienzo, Senior Programme Officer (Tel: +31 (0)70 416 3458; Email: massimo.derienzo@opcw.org).

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