



S/2137/2023
21 February 2023
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE SYMPOSIUM ON WOMEN IN CHEMISTRY
19 – 20 JUNE 2023****Background**

1. The OPCW Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) wishes to inform Member States that the “Symposium on Women in Chemistry” will be held at the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology in Nootdorp, the Netherlands, on 19 and 20 June 2023.
2. The symposium, along with a basic analytical chemistry course for women (to be advertised in a different Note by the Secretariat), is part of the OPCW “Women in Chemistry” initiative, which aims to strengthen the skills of female professionals in the field of chemistry and to highlight the contribution of women to the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The theme for this year’s symposium is “Empowering Women and Promoting Gender Diversity in the Peaceful Uses of Chemistry and Chemical Security”. The objectives of the 2023 symposium are to illustrate the strength and depth of the contribution of women to peaceful chemistry, to promote international solidarity and cooperation, to raise awareness of the opportunities for capacity and knowledge development for women in chemistry, and to highlight specific issues and achievements in the field of gender mainstreaming and women’s empowerment in the African Member States of the OPCW.

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 will consist of two parts: the international, global part on day 1; and the regional part for African Member States on day 2. The symposium will be conducted in hybrid mode throughout the first day, with participants from the African Member States attending in person and the participants from other regions attending online. On day 2, the symposium will be reserved exclusively for those African participants attending in person.



5. The global part of the symposium will include, inter alia, a presentation on the outcomes of a research project, carried out in cooperation with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, that identified best practices in recruiting, training, and promoting women in chemistry. The regional part of the symposium will focus on the specificities of engaging and empowering female professionals in the chemistry sector in the African Member States.
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.

Admission requirements

7. The in-person part of the symposium is open to professionals who:
 - (a) are citizens of OPCW African Member States;
 - (b) have a minimum of a first degree (BSc or equivalent) in chemistry, chemical engineering, or related disciplines from a recognised university or institution;
 - (c) have professional working experience in academia, science and technology institutions, chemical industry, industry associations, regulatory or promotional agencies; and
 - (d) have had previous engagement in gender mainstreaming or women's empowerment initiatives or related activities (desirable).
8. For the global part of the symposium, online participants will be selected from eligible and endorsed applications received from outside the African region. The admission requirements for the global (online) part of the symposium are similar to those for in-person participants, namely, participation will be open to those with a minimum degree (BSc or equivalent) in chemistry, chemical engineering, or related disciplines and those who have relevant professional working experience.
9. 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.
10. Member States and National Authorities are particularly encouraged to support and endorse the applications of suitable female candidates for the symposium.

Selection procedure

11. Applications will be carefully screened on the basis of the criteria specified in paragraphs 7 to 9 above.
12. Member States are welcome to nominate participants for whom sponsorship is not required.

Sponsorship

13. Sponsorship is available to only a limited number of participants from the African Member States attending the symposium in person. The Secretariat will select the participants based on their qualifications and experience. **Only selected candidates will be notified by the Secretariat.**
14. All applications, for both online and in-person participation, must be digitally endorsed by the National Authority of the candidate's country through Eventus—the OPCW event management system (<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 COVID-19 testing, if required for their international travel from their home country to the symposium and back.
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. Participants are required to arrive no earlier than Sunday, 18 June 2023 and to depart no later than Wednesday, 21 June 2023. The agreement of the Secretariat is required for any changes to the arrival and departure dates. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the symposium or that result from changes to travel arrangements that have not been 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.
19. Participants are requested to ensure and obtain any necessary visas, including transit visas, as may be needed before travelling to the Netherlands. When applying for an entry visa, they should present the Embassy or Consulate of the Netherlands with a copy of the acceptance letter from the OPCW.

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 (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>).
21. Only nominations endorsed by the National Authority or Permanent Representation of the candidate's country to the OCPW will be considered. Each application must be endorsed digitally on the Eventus platform. 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. **Only selected candidates will be notified by the Secretariat.**

22. Applications must be submitted to the Secretariat **no later than Friday, 31 March 2023**. Additional information may be obtained from the International Cooperation Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division. The contact persons are Mr Saurabh Bhandari, Programme Officer (Tel: +31 (0)70 416 3489; Email: saurabh.bhandari@opcw.org) and Ms Rufaro Kambarami, (Tel: +31 (0)70 416 3272; Email: rufaro.kambarami@opcw.org).

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