



S/2154/2023
20 March 2023
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR A WORKSHOP ON POLICY
AND DIPLOMACY FOR SCIENTISTS****Purpose of the event**

1. The OPCW Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) wishes to inform OPCW Member States that the third edition of a workshop on “Policy and Diplomacy for Scientists: Introduction to Responsible Research Practices in Chemical and Biochemical Sciences” will be held from 21 to 23 June 2023 at the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre) in Nootdorp, the Netherlands.
2. The objective of this workshop is to raise awareness among young scientists on the policy and diplomacy aspects that are related to the use of chemicals in various scientific disciplines, including chemistry, biochemistry, biotechnology, and other related fields. In particular, scientists will be updated on the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) and other international treaties and regulatory tools governing the transfer and use of chemicals. Aspects related to sustainability, ethics, and responsibility in research practices, as well as safety and security norms and standards in science, will also be addressed. The ultimate goal of the event will be to bridge the gap between scientists and policymakers and to promote the adoption of responsible and sustainable practices by scientists in low- and middle-income Member States of the OPCW.
3. This event is being implemented as part of the capacity-building programmes on the peaceful applications of chemistry under Article XI of the Convention and within the scope of the OCPW initiative on education and outreach.
4. The thematic focus of the event has been set in consideration of the convergence of chemistry and biology, i.e., the continuously shrinking gap in the practical and commercial applications of these two disciplines. The recent developments in areas where chemistry and biology overlap, such as biotechnology and biobased chemistry, are steadily gaining an important role in chemical production, while an increasing part of chemistry research is targeting biochemical objects or exploring bioresources, including in the areas of drug design, natural products chemistry, bioenergy, and biorefineries, among others.



Content

5. The three-day workshop will include theoretical lectures and interactive sessions on the following topics:
 - (a) the work of international organisations in the promotion and control of the science and technology and industrial activities in chemical and biochemical sciences, and related regulations imposed by the international treaties;
 - (b) the impact of developments in science and technology on international security and on the implementation of international treaties;
 - (c) science advice and science diplomacy;
 - (d) the concept of sustainability in industrial and research activities;
 - (e) issues related to the multiple uses of science; and
 - (f) ethics in science and responsible research practices.

Sponsorship

6. Approximately 15 selected participants will receive sponsorship from the Secretariat, covering international travel, medical and travel insurance, and a daily subsistence allowance.
7. Self-sponsored participants are encouraged to apply.

Admission requirements

8. The workshop is open to those who:
 - (a) have a PhD in natural sciences (for example chemistry, biology, physics, geology) or related engineering from a recognised university or institution;
 - (b) are citizens of the OPCW States Parties with economies that are developing or in transition (the least developed and low- and middle-income States are prioritised);¹
 - (c) have been working in the field of applied chemical or biochemical or related sciences (research, academia, or industry) for at least five years; and
 - (d) are young scientists at the beginning of their scientific career.²
9. The workshop will be conducted in English. Participants must therefore have a strong command of both written and spoken English.

¹ Countries appearing on the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee list of official development assistance recipients are eligible to nominate participants. The list is available at: [DAC-List-of-ODA-Recipients-for-reporting-2022-23-flows.pdf \(oecd.org\)](https://www.oecd.org/dac/data/dac-list-of-oda-recipients-for-reporting-2022-23-flows.pdf).

² Scientists who have received their PhD within the past 10 years and who are under the age of 40.

10. Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply. National Authorities are strongly encouraged to support and endorse applications from suitable female candidates.

Selection procedure

11. Applicants are invited to complete the application through Eventus, the OPCW event management system (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>). Applicants must first create an account and then register for the event. All applications must be reviewed and endorsed electronically through Eventus by the candidates' respective National Authorities, to be followed by a final review and approval by the Secretariat. In the event that interested applicants have difficulties submitting their application online via Eventus, applicants are requested to send an email explaining the problem to icb.events@opcw.org with a reference to the name and location of the event in the subject line of the message no later than 1 May 2023.
12. Applications will be carefully screened on the basis of the criteria specified in paragraphs 8 to 10 above. Applicants may be interviewed if the Secretariat so decides.
13. Incomplete or improperly filled out applications cannot be considered.
14. Only applications endorsed by the National Authority will be considered.
15. All applications must be received by the Secretariat **no later than 6 May 2023**. Additional information about this event may be obtained by email from Mr Taeon Kim, Programme Officer (taeon.kim@opcw.org) or Ms Rufaro Kambarami, Project Assistant (rufaro.kambarami@opcw.org) of the International Cooperation Branch.

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