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S/2161/2023  
18 April 2023  
ENGLISH only

**NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST REGIONAL MEETING OF  
NATIONAL AUTHORITIES OF STATES PARTIES IN ASIA  
SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA  
29 – 31 AUGUST 2023**

1. On behalf of the OPCW, the Director-General wishes to invite National Authorities in the Asia region to nominate representatives to attend the Twenty-First Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Asia, which will be held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, from 29 to 31 August 2023.
2. The regional meeting of National Authorities will serve as a forum for States Parties to discuss the status of the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) within the region. To this end, States Parties will have the opportunity to share their experiences, current understandings, challenges, priorities, and capacity-building needs to advance the implementation of the Convention in line with their respective constitutional requirements. The regional meeting will also serve as a platform to discuss best practices with respect to the development of legislative and regulatory measures on chemical security. In light of priorities identified at the regional, subregional, and national levels, National Authorities will be able to discuss potential areas for State-to-State cooperation and/or assistance. Finally, States Parties will be updated on the outcomes of the Fifth Review Conference.<sup>1</sup>
3. The objectives of the meeting are to:
  - (a) provide States Parties with updates on capacity-building activities of the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) and discuss regional priorities and regional support needs;
  - (b) discuss national implementation of Article VII of the Convention, specifically successes, challenges, and priorities with respect to the adoption of comprehensive national implementing legislation;
  - (c) explore opportunities for regional and subregional cooperation to advance the implementation of the Convention, including through bilateral cooperation;
  - (d) discuss practices related to States Parties’ declaration and inspection obligations arising under Article VI of the Convention;

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<sup>1</sup> The Fifth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.



- (e) discuss national experiences with respect to the development of legislative and regulatory frameworks on chemical security, including through the use of the National Implementation Framework; and
  - (f) provide States Parties with updates on policy developments arising from the Fifth Review Conference.
4. The expected results of the meeting include:
- (a) increased awareness of the status of implementation of the Convention and of the challenges being faced at the national and regional levels;
  - (b) an in-depth understanding of the critical importance of comprehensive implementation of Articles VI and VII of the Convention in preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons and in addressing Convention-related security threats;
  - (c) an enhanced sense of ownership by the National Authorities in respect of national implementation responsibilities;
  - (d) a shared understanding of regional priorities, capacity-building needs, and means to achieve these priorities;
  - (e) an enhanced level of coordination and collaboration among the national and regional stakeholders that are expected to play a key role in the national implementation of the Convention;
  - (f) the identification of potential subregional or regional cooperation to further implementation of the Convention; and
  - (g) the collection of feedback on ways and means to further improve capacity-building activities for the region and on the tools to improve national implementation, including by making use of the National Implementation Framework.
5. The provisional programme for the regional meeting is provided as the Annex to this Note. Participants in the meeting will be expected to contribute to the proceedings and discussions by making presentations, providing inputs in discussions, and acting as facilitators during the sessions.
6. The meeting will be conducted in English. All participants are therefore expected to have a good oral and written command of English.
7. The National Authority of each State Party is requested to nominate up to three participants to attend the regional meeting.
8. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor one participant from each State Party in the region. The nominee should be a representative of the National Authority directly responsible for or involved in Convention implementation. The nomination should specify whether sponsorship is a condition for the nominee's participation. Member States are welcome to nominate participants for whom sponsorship is not required.

9. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the costs of travel, hotel accommodation, meals, and medical insurance, in addition to a limited subsistence allowance to cover terminal and sundry expenses. Sponsored participants who do not intend to use the accommodation arranged by the Secretariat are requested to indicate this no later than four weeks prior to the event, in order to prevent the Secretariat from incurring hotel cancellation fees. In any case, the Secretariat will not cover the costs of any accommodation that it has not arranged.
10. Participants should be fit to travel. All participants taking prescribed medication should arrive with supplies sufficient for the duration of the event. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. The Secretariat will purchase tickets and send them directly to the participants. Participants will be allowed to purchase tickets locally only if this leads to further savings for the Secretariat. Participants who have not been sponsored will be requested to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. In order to keep costs to a minimum, sponsored participants are expected to arrive **no earlier than 28 August 2023** and to depart **no later than 1 September 2023**. The Secretariat's agreement is required for any changes to these arrival and departure dates. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the meeting or that result from changes in 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.
11. Participants are requested to obtain any necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Cambodia. When applying for any required entry visa, they should present the Embassy or Consulate of Cambodia with a copy of the acceptance letter from the OPCW.
12. Participants nominated by their State Party's National Authority are invited to register online through Eventus, the OPCW event management system (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>). Nominations for this event will be open from 1 May 2023. The deadline for submission of nominations is **23 June 2023**. Each nomination must be approved digitally on the Eventus platform by the respective nominee's National Authority.
13. Additional information about anything included in this Note may be obtained from the Implementation Support Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the Secretariat. The contact persons are Ms Solene Jolly (Email: [solene.jolly@opcw.org](mailto:solene.jolly@opcw.org)) and Mr Alberto Fernandez (Email: [alberto.fernandez.@opcw.org](mailto:alberto.fernandez.@opcw.org)).
14. States Parties and National Authorities are strongly encouraged to support and endorse nominations of female participants for this event.

Annex:           Provisional Programme

## Annex

**TWENTY-FIRST REGIONAL MEETING  
OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES OF STATES PARTIES IN ASIA  
SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA  
29 – 31 AUGUST 2023**

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>
<b>29 August 2023</b>	
	Opening remarks and photograph
	Overview of the meeting's programme and objectives
	Report of the regional Chairperson – National Authority of Cambodia
	Updates on policy-related matters following the Fifth Review Conference of States Parties to the OPCW
	Regional context and recent developments relevant to national implementation of the Convention: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Update on the status of implementation of Article VII in Asia</li> <li>- National presentations: experiences, practices, challenges, and priorities with respect to national implementation of the Convention</li> <li>- OPCW legal assistance and capacity-building activities</li> <li>- Group discussions: capacity-building needs related to national implementation</li> </ul>
<b>30 August 2023</b>	
	Article VI declarations and inspection matters in Asia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overview of Article VI declarations and inspections activities in the Asia region</li> <li>- National presentations: practice, experience, and feedback on the implementation of Article VI requirements</li> <li>- Update on the programme of work for the Verification Division of the OPCW</li> </ul>
	Focus on Articles VI and VII of the Convention: the security benefits deriving from comprehensive implementation of the Convention by all States Parties
	The National Implementation Framework: a tool available to States Parties to advance the implementation of the Convention and develop country-specific chemical security legislative and regulatory measures
<b>31 August 2023</b>	
	National presentations: regional and national experience in chemical security
	Group discussions on the next steps: regional priorities, post-meeting engagements, and capacity-building programmes of the Secretariat
	Conclusions and closing remarks