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29 February 2024
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD REGIONAL MEETING OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES OF STATES PARTIES IN EASTERN EUROPE BUDAPEST, HUNGARY 16 – 17 MAY 2024

1. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat) wishes to invite National Authorities in Eastern Europe to nominate representatives to attend the Twenty-Third Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Eastern Europe, which will be held in Budapest, Hungary, on 16 and 17 May 2024.
2. At its Eighth Session, the Conference of the States Parties adopted a plan of action regarding the implementation of obligations under Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention) (C-8/DEC.16, dated 24 October 2003). On many occasions, States Parties have highlighted the value of a comprehensive and integrated approach to national implementation that is in line with each State Party's constitutional requirements, and aimed at filling gaps in national implementation and ensuring that national implementation measures address the specific needs of each State Party and are consistent with the provisions of the Convention.
3. This regional meeting of National Authorities, to be held on 16 and 17 May 2024, will serve as a forum in which the States Parties in the region can address various national implementation issues, the national implementation framework, capacity-building programmes and activities organised by the Secretariat, and other Convention-related issues. National Authorities will also share good practices and challenges in acting as focal points for effective liaison with the OPCW for national implementation of the Convention.
4. The objectives of the meeting are to:
 - (a) discuss the challenges facing States Parties and share good practices in national implementation of the Convention;
 - (b) discuss approaches and means to further improve capacity-building programmes that meet the specific needs of States Parties in Eastern Europe and ways to enhance regional cooperation; and
 - (c) hold bilateral meetings with representatives of National Authorities on issues pertaining to national implementation.



5. The expected results of the meeting include the following:
 - (a) increased awareness among States Parties on modalities for further enhancing national implementation of the Convention;
 - (b) the collection of feedback on ways and means to further improve capacity-building activities for the region; and
 - (c) increased awareness among States Parties on the benefits and concrete results of participating in OPCW capacity-building programmes and activities, and the collection of feedback on the needs of States Parties and means of improving programme delivery.
6. The provisional programme for the regional meeting is included in the Annex to this Note.
7. The Secretariat will sponsor one representative from the National Authority of each State Party in the region. States Parties may consider submitting self-funded nominations. However, in order to ensure the effectiveness of deliberations, a maximum of one non-sponsored nomination may be submitted. Each nomination should specify whether sponsorship is a condition of the nominee's participation. States Parties and National Authorities are strongly encouraged to support and endorse nominations of suitable female candidates for the event.
8. 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 as soon as possible to prevent the Secretariat from incurring hotel cancellation fees. The Secretariat will not cover the costs of any accommodation that it has not arranged.
9. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. The Secretariat will purchase tickets and send them to the participants. Participants will be allowed to purchase tickets locally only if this is authorised and leads to further savings for the Secretariat. In order to keep costs to a minimum, sponsored participants from National Authorities are expected to arrive **no earlier than Wednesday, 15 May 2024 and to depart no later than Saturday, 18 May 2024.**
10. Participants are requested to obtain any necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Hungary. When applying for any required entry visas, they should present the Embassy or Consulate of Hungary with a copy of the acceptance letter from the OPCW.
11. All meetings will be conducted in English. All participants are therefore expected to have a good oral and written command of English.
12. Interested National Authority representatives are invited to register their nominations online—**not later than 10 March 2024**—through Eventus, the OPCW event management platform (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>). All nominations must be endorsed by the Head/Chief Coordinator of the National Authority.

13. Any queries or additional information about this meeting or registration for it may be obtained from the Implementation Support Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the Secretariat. The contact persons are Ms Elena Gjoreska (Email: elena.gjoreska@opcw.org) and Ms Olukemi Adenuga (Email: olukemi.adenuga@opcw.org).

Annex : Provisional Programme

Annex

**TWENTY-THIRD REGIONAL MEETING OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES
OF STATES PARTIES IN EASTERN EUROPE
BUDAPEST, HUNGARY
16 – 17 MAY 2024**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
<i>Thursday, 16 May 2024</i>	
<i>AM</i>	
	Opening remarks
	Overview of the meeting programme and objectives
	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
	Update by the Technical Secretariat on OPCW capacity-building support related to the implementation of Articles VII, X, and XI of the Convention
	Host country presentation on Convention implementation: experiences, challenges, and best practices
	<i>Lunch</i>
<i>PM</i>	
	Update by the Technical Secretariat on Article VI-related obligations: declarations and transfer discrepancies
	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
	Update by the Technical Secretariat on Article VI-related obligations: inspections and current topics discussed in the industry cluster
	Networking event
<i>Friday, 17 May 2024</i>	
<i>AM</i>	
	Presentation on the role of customs authorities as a key stakeholder in the implementation of the Convention
	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
	Country presentations: Regional and subregional mechanisms and activities in support of Convention implementation
	<i>Lunch</i>
<i>PM</i>	
	Panel discussion: Enhancing the Eastern European region's engagement in Convention implementation and in international cooperation and assistance activities
	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
	Conclusions, closing remarks, and way forward