



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

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ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR A WORKSHOP ON
POLICY AND DIPLOMACY FOR SCIENTISTS**

**OPCW CENTRE FOR CHEMISTRY AND TECHNOLOGY, THE NETHERLANDS
26 – 29 MAY 2026**

1. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat) wishes to inform Member States that a workshop on policy and diplomacy for scientists will be organised jointly with the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Implementation Support Unit (ISU) within the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs from 26 to 29 May 2026 at the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre) in Pijnacker-Nootdorp, the Netherlands. This workshop is part of the “promoting chemical knowledge” focus area of the OPCW international cooperation activities and aims to promote the peaceful use of chemistry among Member States with developing or transitioning economies.
2. Science and technology are central to the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention) and the BWC. The two conventions have a shared history, having been negotiated in the framework of the Conference on Disarmament and with roots in the 1925 Geneva Protocol. In line with Article XI of the Convention and Article X of the BWC, advances in science and technology must be used exclusively for peaceful purposes, and any misuse of such advances that would be contrary to the object and purpose of the conventions must be prevented. Given the overlap between the two conventions, particularly with respect to toxins, and the increasing convergence of chemical and biological sciences, a coordinated and multidisciplinary approach is needed to promote cooperation and the exchange of best practices at the national, regional, and international levels.
3. The workshop aims to bridge the gap between scientists and policymakers to promote the responsible and sustainable use of scientific knowledge. It will provide a forum for young scientists to learn about the role of science in fostering global peace and security, with a focus on disarmament and non-proliferation. The workshop will cover policy, diplomacy, and scientific advances related to the Convention and the BWC and will foster dialogue on the role of scientists in implementing these treaties and the challenges involved. Additionally, the workshop will address cross-cutting issues, including sustainability, ethics and codes of conduct for practitioners, and the promotion of chemical and biological safety and security in support of the Convention and the BWC.



CONTENT

4. The workshop will last four days and will include theoretical lectures and interactive sessions on the following topics:
 - (a) an introduction to the Convention and BWC and the role of science diplomacy in them;
 - (b) the work of the OPCW in promoting peaceful uses of chemistry and the work of the ISU in promoting peaceful uses of biology;
 - (c) advances in science and technology, including emerging and cross-cutting developments and their implications for disarmament and non-proliferation regimes, with a focus on the Convention and the BWC;
 - (d) the convergence of chemistry and biology in the implementation of the Convention and the BWC;
 - (e) industry and the challenges of dual-use research and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, with a focus on the chemical and biotechnology sectors;
 - (f) ethics and codes of conduct for practitioners and researchers in science; and
 - (g) science advice and science diplomacy.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

5. The workshop is open to those who:
 - (a) have a PhD in natural sciences (for example chemistry, biology, and physics) or a related field from a recognised university or institution;
 - (b) are citizens of Member States with economies that are developing or in transition;¹
 - (c) have been working in the field of applied chemical, biochemical, or related sciences (research, academia, or industry) for at least five years; and
 - (d) are young scientists who have received their PhD within the past 10 years and who are under the age of 45.
6. The workshop will be conducted in English. Participants must therefore have a strong command of both written and spoken English.

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Countries appearing on the Organisation 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-2024-25-flows.pdf](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/dac/DAC-List-of-ODA-Recipients-for-reporting-2024-25-flows.pdf).

SPONSORSHIP

7. The Secretariat will select up to 13 participants for sponsorship. For these sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover international travel, medical and travel insurance, and provide a daily subsistence allowance.
8. Self-sponsored participants are encouraged to apply.
9. The ISU will issue a separate call for applications and select 12 additional participants for sponsorship through its own application process. Requests for additional information regarding the BWC application process should be directed to the ISU via email (bwc@un.org).

SELECTION PROCEDURE

10. Interested persons are invited to complete the application through Eventus, the OPCW event management system (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>), by first creating an account and then registering 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. Only applications endorsed by the National Authority will be considered. Women candidates are strongly encouraged to apply. National Authorities are strongly encouraged to support and endorse applications from suitable women candidates.
11. In the event that applicants have difficulties submitting their application online via Eventus, they are asked to send an email explaining the problem (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 22 February 2026.
12. Applications will be carefully screened on the basis of the criteria specified in paragraphs 5 and 6 above. Applicants may be interviewed if the Secretariat so decides.
13. All applications must be received by the Secretariat **no later than 22 February 2026**. Incomplete or improperly filled out applications cannot be considered.
14. The personal information provided in the application must match the details as shown in the passport, as this information will be used for the issuance of flight tickets should an application be successful. Participants are responsible for ensuring the accuracy of their personal information. Any inaccuracies may result in exclusion from the workshop or additional charges that will need to be borne by the participants.
15. Additional information about this event may be obtained by email from Mr Taeon Kim, Programme Officer (taeon.kim@opcw.org), or Mr Farid Tata, Senior Project Assistant (farid.tata@opcw.org) of the International Cooperation Branch.