

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT****CALL FOR NOMINATIONS  
FOR THE SYMPOSIUM ON WOMEN IN CHEMISTRY  
OPCW CENTRE FOR CHEMISTRY AND TECHNOLOGY, THE NETHERLANDS  
28 AND 29 OCTOBER 2026****BACKGROUND**

1. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat) wishes to inform Member States that the 2026 edition of the Symposium on Women in Chemistry will be held on 28 and 29 October 2026 at the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre) in Pijnacker-Nootdorp, the Netherlands.
2. The Symposium, along with the basic analytical chemistry course for women, is part of the OPCW “Women in Chemistry” initiative, which aims to strengthen the skills of women professionals working in the field of chemistry and to highlight the contribution of women to the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and in the field of peaceful uses of chemistry.
3. The objective of the Symposium is to showcase the profound and multifaceted contributions of women in the realm of peaceful uses of chemistry, while fostering international solidarity and collaboration among participants. Further, the event is aimed at enhancing awareness regarding existing opportunities for women professionals to strengthen their capacities and expertise within the field of chemistry. Finally, the Symposium provides a platform for participants to discuss specific issues and successes pertinent to gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women in the field of chemistry within Member States of the OPCW.
4. The two-day Symposium will consist of thematic presentations and discussions where experts will share their experiences 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.
5. The Symposium will be held in a hybrid format with both a global and a regional component. On day 1, selected participants from OPCW Member States from the Eastern Europe region will attend in person, while global participants will be able to join the sessions online. On day 2, the Symposium will be reserved for selected participants from OPCW Member States from the Eastern Europe region.



## **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

6. The in-person component of the Symposium is open to candidates who:
  - (a) are citizens of OPCW Member States in the Eastern Europe region;
  - (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, or regulatory or promotional agencies; and
  - (d) have had previous engagement in gender mainstreaming or women's empowerment initiatives or related activities (desirable).
7. The online component of the Symposium is open to candidates who:
  - (a) are citizens of OPCW 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; and
  - (c) have professional working experience in academia, science and technology institutions, chemical industry, industry associations, or regulatory or promotional agencies.
8. The Symposium will be conducted in English, and no interpretation will be provided. Candidates should therefore have proficiency in both written and spoken English. Any candidate who is found not to meet this basic requirement may be disallowed from continuing their participation in the event.

## **SELECTION PROCEDURE**

9. Applications will be carefully screened based on the criteria specified in paragraphs 6 to 8 above.
10. Member States are welcome to nominate participants for whom sponsorship is not required.
11. 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 Symposium, or additional charges that will need to be borne by the participants.

## SPONSORSHIP

12. Sponsorship is available to only a limited number of participants 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.
13. All applications 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>).
14. 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.
15. The Secretariat will not cover costs related to medical assistance. Participants applying for the on-site component of the Symposium should ensure they are able to travel to attend the event in person. All participants taking prescribed medication should arrive with supplies sufficient for the duration of the event.
16. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options, purchase tickets, and send them to the participants. Participants are required to arrive **no earlier than Tuesday, 27 October 2026** and to depart **no later than Friday, 30 October 2026**. The Secretariat's agreement is required for any changes to the arrival and departure dates. The Secretariat will not cover expenses that are not related to the Symposium or that result from unauthorised changes to the travel arrangements. Sponsored participants must bear all costs resulting from changes they make, including cancellations, once the Secretariat has purchased tickets. Participants who are not sponsored are requested to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.
17. Participants are requested to 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 relevant Embassy or Consulate of the Netherlands in their country of origin with a copy of the acceptance letter from the OPCW.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

18. 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>).
19. Only applications endorsed by the National Authority or Permanent Representation of the country of citizenship of the candidate will be considered. Only selected candidates will be notified by the Secretariat.
20. Applications must be submitted to the Secretariat **no later than Friday, 24 April 2026**. Additional information may be obtained from the International Cooperation Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division via email ([icb.events@opcw.org](mailto:icb.events@opcw.org)).