



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

External Relations Division
S/514/2005
10 August 2005
ENGLISH and FRENCH only

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**WORKSHOP ON THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
6 – 7 OCTOBER 2005**

1. On behalf of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General is pleased to invite States Parties and States not Party in Africa to a workshop on the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), to be co-organised with the African Union (AU), and to be held at the Headquarters of the AU Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 6 to 7 October 2005.
2. The workshop is being organised in close collaboration with the AU Commission, and will focus on addressing the challenges African States not Party face in joining the Convention. The workshop will also provide an opportunity for the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) of the OPCW and the AU Commission to strengthen their cooperation within the framework of AU decision AHG/Dec. 181 (XXXVIII) on the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), which was adopted by the 38th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity, which took place in Durban in July 2002. A copy of that decision is annexed hereto.
3. The workshop, supported by the European Union (EU) in accordance with the joint action: “EU Support for OPCW activities in the framework of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction”, is intended to help increase awareness of the Convention amongst African States. The objectives of the workshop are to further sensitise States not Party to the benefits of adherence to the Convention, to promote the universality of the Convention and to contribute to its full and uniform implementation in Africa. In addition, the workshop will provide a forum for participants to exchange information on their experiences and best practices, and will stimulate a dialogue between States Parties and States not Party to the Convention.
4. The two-day workshop will include a number of elements:
 - (a) a review of the Convention and its basic obligations;
 - (b) a presentation on the status of the implementation of the Convention in Africa;



- (c) a discussion of problems that commonly arise as Member States seek to fully and uniformly comply with the Convention's obligations;
 - (d) a discussion of practical measures that can help achieve the goal of full compliance; and
 - (e) information sessions on the Convention tailored to the needs of signatory and non-signatory States.
5. The workshop will emphasise the benefits of adhering to the Convention from the standpoint of international cooperation, and will include segments on the OPCW's international cooperation, protection, and assistance programmes. The provisional programme for the workshop is contained in Annex 1 to this Note.
 6. In order for the specific needs of individual States to be met, adequate time will be reserved for bilateral consultations, which will provide an opportunity for discussions to take place on the status of preparations in individual countries for joining and implementing the Convention, and on the kinds of assistance or support that are required. Participants are requested to indicate their interest in such discussions when submitting their applications, so that these consultations can be planned in advance.
 7. The Secretariat will sponsor the participation of representatives of African States not Party. Each nomination should specify whether sponsorship is a condition of the nominee's participation. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the costs of travel, meals, and medical insurance, and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses. In cases where the Secretariat arranges accommodation for sponsored participants, it will also cover the costs of that accommodation. Sponsored participants who do not intend to use the accommodation provided by the Secretariat are requested to indicate that to the Secretariat as soon as possible, so that it does not incur hotel cancellation fees. The daily subsistence allowance will remain unchanged for those participants who opt to make their own accommodation arrangements. States Parties are encouraged to bear the costs associated with sending representatives to the workshop.
 8. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. The Secretariat will purchase tickets and send them to participants. Sponsored participants will be allowed to purchase tickets locally only if this leads to further savings for the Secretariat and if the Secretariat authorises it. In order for the Secretariat to keep costs to a minimum, sponsored participants are expected to arrive **no earlier than 5 October 2005**, and to depart **no later than 8 October 2005**. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the workshop or that result from changes to travel arrangements it has not authorised. Sponsored participants shall bear all costs resulting from changes they make, including cancellations, once the Secretariat has purchased their tickets. Participants who have not been sponsored are requested to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements, although the Secretariat can, if requested, arrange accommodation at reduced rates.

9. All proceedings will be conducted in English, and French interpretation services will be provided throughout. All participants must therefore possess a good command of one of these languages, as interpretation will be available simultaneously in English and French only.
10. Participants are requested to obtain any necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Ethiopia.
11. States Parties and States not Party in Africa are invited to complete the nomination form that is included as Annex 2 to this Note, making sure to provide all the details it requests so that the Secretariat can contact nominees directly. Completed forms should be addressed to the Director, External Relations Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands. Nominations may also be submitted by fax to: +31 (0)70 306 3535, or by e-mail to: GovRelationsBr@opcw.org. All nominations must be received by the Secretariat **no later than 5 September 2005**. Please be advised that participants must present an OPCW acceptance letter in order to register at the workshop.
12. Additional information on the workshop may be obtained from the Government Relations and Political Affairs Branch, External Relations Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands. The contact person is: Ms Marie Kagaju Laugharn, who can be reached at +31 (0)70 416 3238.

Annexes:

- Annex 1: Provisional Programme
Annex 2: Nomination Form
Annex 3: AU Decision AHG/Dec. 181 (XXXVIII)

Annex 1

**WORKSHOP ON THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
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PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

	Thursday, 6 October
08:00 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 09:30	Opening of the workshop
09:30 - 10:15	The history of chemical disarmament and the CWC ¹ in the framework of non-proliferation, arms control, and disarmament
10:15 - 10:30	<i>Break</i>
10:30 - 11:15	The status of implementation of the CWC and universality
11:15 - 12:00	The AU and the OPCW: cooperating in pursuit of a common goal
12:00 - 12:45	The Peace and Security Council of the AU and its relevance to the CWC and the OPCW
12:45 - 14:15	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:15 - 15:00	Steps towards achieving the universality of the CWC in Africa and for addressing the challenges facing States not Party
15:00 - 15:45	Benefits of adherence to the CWC
15:45 - 16:00	<i>Break</i>
16:00 - 17:00	Promoting the peaceful uses of chemistry: international cooperation programmes and projects of the OPCW

	Friday, 7 October
09:00 - 10:15	Assistance and protection under the CWC
10:15 - 10:30	<i>Break</i>
10:30 - 11:15	Verification provisions under the CWC
11:15 - 12:00	Export and import provisions of the CWC
12:00 - 13:00	Discussions
13:00 - 14:30	<i>Lunch break</i>

¹ CWC = Chemical Weapons Convention

14.30 - 15.15	National implementation: legal and administrative requirements
15:15 - 17:30	<p>The role of the National Authority in the implementation of the CWC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Status of preparations for ratification by States not Party attending the workshop▪ National implementation and enforcement: the basic provisions▪ Establishing a National Authority▪ Networking in the region and relations with the OPCW <p>The implementation-support programmes of the OPCW</p>
18.00 - 18.30	<p>Summary of the workshop, follow-up, time-lines, and support measures</p> <p>Closure of the workshop</p>

Annex 2

**WORKSHOP ON THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
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NOMINATION FORM

Please submit the completed form by **5 September 2005** to:
The Director, External Relations Division, OPCW
Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands
Fax: +31 (0)70 306 3535; e-mail: GovRelationsBr@opcw.org.

Please use BLOCK LETTERS.

1.	Government body making the nomination		
2.	Family name of nominee		
3.	First name(s)		
4.	Date of birth	Day	Month Year
5.	Citizenship		
6.	Gender*	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>
7.	Passport number		
8.	Date of issue	Day	Month Year
9.	Expiry date	Day	Month Year
10.	Place of issue		
11.	Function in regard to CWC** implementation		
12.	Employer		
13.	Position (including title)		
14.	Employer's address (Please do not give a post-office box number.)	Street	
		Number	Post code
		City	
		Country	
15.	E-mail address		

* Please tick the appropriate box.

** The Chemical Weapons Convention

16.	Telephone numbers, including country and city codes	Home
		Work
		Mobile
17.	Fax numbers, including country and city codes	Home
		Work
18.	Has the nominee previously attended a workshop of this kind? *	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If so, when and where?
19.	Is sponsorship a condition of participation? *	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
20.	Is interpretation into the French language required? *	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
21.	Dietary requirements *	Vegetarian <input type="checkbox"/> No special requirements <input type="checkbox"/>
22.	What areas of the CWC are of concern or interest to your country?
23.	Is a bilateral meeting with staff of the Technical Secretariat required? *	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
		If so, please indicate what matters you would like to discuss:
		Verification-related <input type="checkbox"/>
		Legal <input type="checkbox"/>
		Other <input type="checkbox"/> Please specify:
	

* Please tick the appropriate box.

Annex 3

**African Union
Decision on the Implementation and Universality of the Convention on
the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use
of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction**

AHG/Dec. 181 (XXXVIII)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (hereinafter the Convention) that aims to achieve the effective prohibition of the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and their destruction,
2. **RECALLS** United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/55/33 of 20 November 2000 which notes with appreciation the ongoing work to achieve the objective and purpose of the Convention, to ensure the full implementation of its provisions and to provide a forum for consultation and cooperation among States Parties,
3. **ALSO RECALLS** the steadfast position of Africa regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction and in particular to the Pelindaba Treaty,
4. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the conclusions and recommendations of the workshop devoted to Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention held in Khartoum, the Sudan, from 9 to 11 March 2002,
5. **WELCOMES** the recommendation for an effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in Africa through sustained technical assistance from the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons,
6. **ENCOURAGES** the call to achieve universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention in Africa,
7. **REQUESTS** the Secretary General to inform Council, at its regular sessions, of developments regarding the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the progress made on the issue of universality.

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