



**OPCW**

**Technical Secretariat**

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**NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

**THE OPCW ACADEMIC FORUM  
18 AND 19 SEPTEMBER 2007**

**INVITATION AND CALL FOR PAPERS**

1. In S/578/2006, dated 20 June 2006, the Director-General indicated that the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) was working with certain academic institutions on plans for a forum, primarily for scientists and academics, on various aspects of the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”). In his opening statement to the Executive Council at its Forty-Seventh Session, the Director-General offered further details, noting that the forum was being organised with resources provided by the Government of the Netherlands and in association with the Netherlands Institute for International Relations Clingendael and the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research – TNO.
2. In the present Note, the Director-General is pleased to provide further details on the Academic Forum and to invite submissions from, and the participation of, scientists, academics, and other interested parties.
3. The Forum will take place on 18 and 19 September 2007 at the World Forum Convention Center (WFCC) in The Hague, the Netherlands. It will be funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

**Concept and overall objectives of the Academic Forum**

4. The Academic Forum will bring together leading academics, scientists, diplomats, and policy-makers involved in shaping and implementing disarmament and non-proliferation policies, in particular those related to the prohibition of chemical weapons. It will:
  - (a) examine the OPCW’s accomplishments pursuant to its mandate under the Convention, the political and technical challenges it is confronted with today, and its role in non-proliferation efforts around the world; and
  - (b) discuss how the OPCW can adapt to the evolving security environment and the changing nature of the chemical industry.



5. The proceedings of the Forum, including papers and summaries of discussions, will be published.
6. All activities during the Forum will be conducted in English, and no interpretation services will be provided. Participants should therefore have a good command of English.

**Subject areas the Academic Forum will cover**

7. The Forum will cover the four main subject areas listed hereunder, in separate workshops:
  - (a) The elimination of chemical weapons stockpiles: This workshop will discuss the progress made in the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles, and what can be done to maintain and increase momentum in destruction programmes. It will also look at the choice of technologies for the destruction of old and abandoned chemical weapons (OACWs).
  - (b) The non-proliferation of chemical weapons: This workshop will examine the non-proliferation of chemical weapons, and will look at the following areas in particular:
    - (i) the verification regime for the chemical industry, and the extent to which it reflects developments in the industry over the last 20 years and is suitably placed to anticipate changes in the future;
    - (ii) ways and means to develop and improve national-implementation practices; and
    - (iii) ways and means to promote the economic and technological development of States Parties through international cooperation in the field of the peaceful uses of chemistry.
  - (c) The Convention and advances in science and technology: This workshop will use an interdisciplinary framework to analyse the impact of advances in science and technology on the operation of the Convention, and vice versa.
  - (d) The OPCW in a chemical weapons-free world: Ten years after the entry into force of the Convention, the destruction of chemical weapons has not been completed. Even once this happens, however, the potential threat from the use of toxic industrial chemicals as weapons will remain. This workshop will analyse the OPCW's role after most chemical weapons stockpiles have been destroyed, in such fields as assistance and protection against chemical weapons and international cooperation in the peaceful uses of chemistry.
8. The provisional programme for the Forum is annexed hereto.

### **Registration**

9. Those wishing to participate in the Forum are invited to complete the registration form that can be found on the Forum Web site ([www.opcwacademicforum.org](http://www.opcwacademicforum.org)).

### **Submission of abstracts and papers**

10. Scientists, academics, diplomats, policy-makers, and other interested parties are invited to submit abstracts of papers to the Forum so that they are received **no later than 10 August 2007**. The papers themselves must be submitted **no later than 31 August 2007**. Both abstracts and papers should be e-mailed to [Dunya.Vantroost@TNO.nl](mailto:Dunya.Vantroost@TNO.nl).
11. Abstracts should be submitted, in English only, on a single page (single-spaced, in the A4 format), and should comprise no more than 300 words. The full text of the papers must not exceed 20 pages (single-spaced) and must follow the usual format for scientific papers.
12. Further information on the scientific aspects of the Forum and on the submission of abstracts and papers may be obtained from the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, Dr Ralf Trapp, who can be reached by e-mail at [ralf.trapp@gmail.com](mailto:ralf.trapp@gmail.com).

### **Selection of papers**

13. The Programme Committee will review all abstracts and announce which papers have been accepted.

### **Sponsorship, and travel and accommodation**

14. The organisers expect to be able to use funds from the OPCW Tenth Anniversary Trust Fund to sponsor the attendance at the Forum of presenters from States Parties whose economies are developing.
15. For sponsored presenters, the organisers will cover the costs of travel, meals, and medical insurance, and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses. The organisers will also arrange and pay for accommodation for sponsored presenters. Sponsored presenters who do not intend to use this accommodation are requested to indicate that as soon as possible, so that no hotel cancellation fees are incurred.
16. When making travel arrangements for sponsored presenters, the organisers will seek the most-economical options. They will purchase tickets and send them to presenters. Presenters will be allowed to purchase tickets locally only if this leads to further savings and if the organisers authorise it. The organisers' agreement is required for any changes to arrival and departure dates. Any expenses unrelated to the Forum or that result from changes to travel arrangements that have not been authorised will not be covered. Sponsored presenters shall bear all costs resulting from changes they make, including cancellations, once tickets have been purchased.

17. Inquiries about travel and accommodation can be made by sending an e-mail to [registration@opcwacademicforum.org](mailto:registration@opcwacademicforum.org), by sending a fax to +31 (0)15 284 3991, or by telephoning +31 (0)15 284 3719.
18. Participants are requested to obtain any necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to the Netherlands.
19. Presenters and other participants who have not been sponsored are advised to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. However, it should be noted that the organisers have arranged a special group rate with the Golden Tulip Bel Air Hotel ([www.goldentulipbelairhotel.nl](http://www.goldentulipbelairhotel.nl)) for participants in the Forum.

#### **Inquiries and contact information**

20. Any questions, including as regards registration, should be addressed to the Forum contact person, Dunya van Troost of TNO, at [registration@opcwacademicforum.org](mailto:registration@opcwacademicforum.org).
21. The Chairperson of the Forum Organising Committee is Mr Krzysztof Paturej, Director of the Office of Special Projects in the Secretariat. He can be reached at [paturej@opcw.org](mailto:paturej@opcw.org). The Secretariat's contact person for the Forum is Mr Irakli Beridze, Special Projects Officer, who can be reached by e-mail at [SpecialProjects@opcw.org](mailto:SpecialProjects@opcw.org), by telephone at +31 (0)70 416 3073, or by fax at +31 (0)70 416 3499.

Annex:

Provisional Programme

## Annex

**THE OPCW ACADEMIC FORUM  
18 AND 19 SEPTEMBER 2007**

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

Time	Activity	Location
<b><i>Tuesday, 18 September 2007</i></b>		
9.00 – 10:00	Registration Mr Ilja Bonsen, TNO	OPCW headquarters
10:00 – 10:30	Opening Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter, Director-General	OPCW headquarters
10.30 – 11:30	Keynote speeches Mr Rolf Ekeus, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute Others to be determined	OPCW headquarters
12.00 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>	WFCC Amazon room
13.30 – 15:30	Four workshops running in parallel: <b>Workshop I, on the elimination of chemical weapons stockpiles:</b> Mr Arendt Meerburg (the Netherlands), convenor Mr Stephen Robinson (Switzerland), rapporteur <b>Workshop II, on the non-proliferation of chemical weapons:</b> Mr Ian Kenyon (the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), convenor Mr Daniel Feakes (the United Kingdom), rapporteur <b>Workshop III, on the Convention and advances in science and technology:</b> Mr Julian Perry Robinson (the United Kingdom), convenor Dr Robert Mathews (Australia), rapporteur <b>Workshop IV, on the OPCW in a chemical weapons-free world:</b> Mr Mahdi Balali-Mood (the Islamic Republic of Iran), convenor Ms Catriona McLeish ( the United Kingdom), rapporteur	WFCC
15.30 – 16:00	<i>Break for tea and coffee</i>	WFCC Amazon room
16:00 – 18:00	Four workshops, continued	WFCC
18:00	<i>Reception</i>	WFCC Amazon room
<b><i>Wednesday, 19 September 2007</i></b>		
9:00 – 10:30	Workshops, continued	WFCC
10:30 – 11:30	Group discussions on each workshop Convenors	WFCC

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
11:30 – 12:30	Reporting per workshop Rapporteurs	WFCC
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	WFCC Amazon room
14:00 – 15:30	CBRN multilateral pentagame <sup>1</sup> Mr Paul Meerts, Netherlands Institute of International Relations Clingendael	WFCC: Amazon room and other meeting rooms
15:30	Walk to OPCW headquarters	
16:00 – 17:00	Concluding session of each workshop Workshop convenors	OPCW headquarters
17:00 – 17:15	Closing statement Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter, Director-General	OPCW headquarters
17:15	<i>Reception</i>	OPCW headquarters delegates' lounge

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<sup>1</sup> CBRN = chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear