



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

Verification Division
S/653/2007
15 August 2007
Original: ENGLISH

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**INFORMATION ON THE CHALLENGE-INSPECTION EXERCISE
TO BE HELD IN DELFT, THE NETHERLANDS
10 TO 14 SEPTEMBER 2007**

1. In his opening statement to the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) at its Forty-Ninth Session, the Director-General announced that, with the generous support of the Government of the Netherlands, the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) will conduct a challenge-inspection field exercise at an industrial site in Delft, the Netherlands, from 10 to 14 September 2007. This exercise will provide a valuable opportunity for the Secretariat to test in a realistic manner its technical capacity to conduct such an inspection.
2. Field exercises form a key part of the Secretariat’s preparations to maintain its readiness to conduct an inspection of this kind, and the opportunity to carry out such an exercise at an industrial site will broaden its experience. In addition, delegations will have the opportunity to observe how a challenge inspection is carried out, and will be able to assess first-hand the Secretariat’s readiness to do so.
3. The opportunity to observe this exercise is being extended primarily to States Parties that are currently members of the Council. The Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the OPCW has thus invited each of these States Parties to nominate one representative to attend.
4. The programme for observing this exercise will be as follows:
 - (a) Monday morning, 10 September: pre-inspection activities, including the handing over of the inspection mandate, perimeter negotiations, and the pre-inspection briefing (to take place at a venue next to the facility);
 - (b) either Tuesday morning (11 September) or Wednesday morning (12 September): briefings on how the inspection is progressing, an update on which inspection activities are currently taking place, and a tour through the facility to observe ongoing inspection-exercise activities; and



- (c) Friday morning, 14 September (at the venue next to the facility): a presentation by the inspection team of the preliminary findings; after the exercise has been completed, participants will be invited to give their initial impressions. In addition, all those who have been invited to observe will have an opportunity to provide their comments and to pose questions.
5. The Secretariat will be providing transport between the OPCW headquarters building and the exercise site. Departure from the Secretariat will be at 8:15, and it is planned that the transport will be returning to OPCW headquarters between 14:00 and 15:15 (depending on the programme for the respective day as described above in paragraph 4). A detailed programme will be provided at the start of the exercise. All those planning to attend are asked to bring a valid identity card with them. The Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the OPCW has generously offered to host lunch for all attendees.
6. Delegations have already been requested by the Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the OPCW to register their participation, and indications are that all members of the Council will be represented. Practical circumstances permitting, requests by Non-Council members to attend will be considered, but such requests must be submitted to the Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the OPCW **by 29 August 2007**, at the latest.
7. The Director-General wishes to register his particular gratitude to the Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the OPCW for its invaluable support, and for its assistance in enabling this exercise to take place. He looks forward to seeing as many delegations represented as possible, because he remains convinced that familiarisation with the actual procedures involved in conducting a challenge inspection will contribute to a better understanding of this crucial verification tool.

- - - 0 - - -