



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

Office of Special Projects
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NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**INVITATION TO ATTEND A SEMINAR ON
THE OPCW'S CONTRIBUTION TO SECURITY
AND THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS
THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS
11 AND 12 APRIL 2011**

1. The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") is pleased to provide details of the seminar on the OPCW's contribution to security and the non-proliferation of chemical weapons and to invite representatives of the National Authorities, national institutions, international organisations, chemical industry, laboratories, non-governmental organisations, and the scientific and academic communities to attend the seminar. The seminar will take place on 11 and 12 April 2011 at the OPCW Headquarters in The Hague, the Netherlands.
2. Financial support for the seminar is being provided under European Union (EU) Council Decision 2009 on support for OPCW activities in the framework of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (2009/569/CFSP, dated 27 July 2009).
3. The relevant background documentation for the seminar, including the application/registration form, is also available on the OPCW website.

Concept and objectives of the seminar

4. The Second Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter "the Second Review Conference"), in its final document adopted on 18 April 2008, noted with satisfaction that the OPCW has established an effective verification system with a view to achieving the non-proliferation and confidence building aims of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter "the Convention") (paragraph 9.5 of RC-2/4, dated 18 April 2008).
5. The completion of the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles will shift the global focus from chemical weapons disarmament to the prevention of the recurrence of chemical warfare in whatever form. The transition of the implementation regime of the Convention from a focus primarily on disarmament under strict international verification to one that concentrates on non-proliferation, the verification of the non-production of chemical weapons, cooperation, and assistance and protection will



call for adjustments in the mandates given to the OPCW by its Member States, and for a conceptual review of some of the Organisation's programmes and approaches.

6. Full and effective national implementation of all provisions of the Convention, including control measures with regard to relevant chemicals, materials, technologies, and activities, as well as assistance and protection and international cooperation for the peaceful use of chemistry, remains an essential condition for providing reliable non-proliferation assurances. The Second Review Conference noted further that there is a sizeable number of States Parties that still need to take some or all of the necessary measures to implement their obligations under the Convention, and that a number of these States Parties still require assistance and technical support (paragraph 9.8 of RC-2/4).
7. The overall objective of the seminar is to promote the implementation of the Convention, recognising the changing chemical weapons threat, and to facilitate international cooperation in key areas relevant to the non-proliferation objectives of the Convention through building synergies and strengthening a collaborative framework between the OPCW and all stakeholders of the Convention, including the following:
 - (a) National Authorities of the OPCW Member States;
 - (b) governmental agencies that are involved in the implementation of Convention-related requirements, including the monitoring or supervision of activities in the sphere of national implementation and control of toxic and precursor chemicals;
 - (c) the chemical industry, including chemical associations (for example the European Chemical Industry Council and the International Council of Chemical Associations); and
 - (d) private-sector chemical companies from Member States and signatory States.
8. The seminar will raise the issues of the OPCW's adaptation to the changing realities, so that the verification and implementation measures implemented under the Convention will continue to help prevent the proliferation of chemical weapons and the materials for making them, and do so in a manner that neither hampers the economic and technological development of the States Parties, nor impedes the legitimate developments in the chemical industry. The seminar will discuss how the concept of chemical weapons non-proliferation has evolved over the years.
9. By targeting all stakeholders of the Convention, the seminar will also respond to the recommendations of the Second Review Conference, which underlined the importance of the involvement of all stakeholders, including the chemical industry and the scientific community, in the promotion of the Convention's goals and in supporting national implementation (paragraph 9.136 of RC-2/4).
10. By inviting the representatives of signatory States and States not Party, the seminar will also make a contribution to the promotion of the universality of the Convention.

Subject areas of the seminar

11. The seminar will cover four broad subjects, under the overall topic of non-proliferation of chemical weapons:
 - (a) national implementation and chemical industry issues;
 - (b) convergence of biology and chemistry: implications for the regime of the Convention;
 - (c) OPCW support to strengthen States Parties' capacities against misuse of toxic chemicals and participation in global efforts against terrorism; and
 - (d) chemical plant and transportation security.

National implementation and chemical industry issues

12. Participants will discuss ways and means to improve effective national implementation as an essential condition for providing reliable non-proliferation assurances.
13. The seminar will provide a place for participants to discuss issues related to industry inspections, including sampling and analysis and the selection methodology for inspection of other chemical production facilities (OCPFs).

Convergence of biology and chemistry: implications for the regime of the Convention

14. The seminar will take account of the rapid developments in the life sciences and the increasing convergence of chemical and biological sciences, including advances in high-throughput synthesis and testing as well as rational drug design, nanotechnology, and the changing nature of chemical-production processes (for example the use of micro-processing equipment).
15. The seminar will consider the lessons that can be learned from the intercessional process of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, in particular with regard to the review and evaluation of advances in science and technology.

OPCW support to strengthen States Parties' capacities against misuse of toxic chemicals and participation in global efforts against terrorism

16. The seminar will look beyond the challenges of chemical warfare in the traditional sense, and consider new challenges that the States Parties of the Convention now face, such as the potential use of toxic industrial chemicals (for example, by non-State actors). The seminar will consider lessons learned to date from the work of the international partners, including for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), in identifying and implementing best practices for capacity building in order to prevent non-State actors from gaining access to weapons of mass destruction.

Chemical plant and transportation security

17. With the rapid development of chemical-industry production and advances in research and manufacturing at the interface between chemistry and the life sciences, and their spread to new areas of the world, enhancing the security in the area of legitimate production, transportation, and use of chemicals and biological/biochemical materials is assuming much higher importance. The seminar will provide an opportunity for raising awareness, disseminating best practices used in industry, and promoting the exchanges of ideas and expertise.
18. Participants will become acquainted with the experience gained in the implementation of security measures in the chemical industry. Furthermore, participants will be addressed by representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) on the subjects of promoting safety and disseminating best practices in the field of safety and security.

Seminar structure

19. The seminar will open with a short plenary session. Participants will then address the four broad subjects outlined above, and the seminar will conclude with a plenary session at the end of the second day.
20. The Secretariat will report to the OPCW Member States on the results of the seminar, including lessons learned and conclusions for future work.
21. The provisional programme of the seminar will be issued in due course.

Registration, sponsorship, coordination, and contact information

22. Those wishing to participate in the seminar are invited to complete the application/registration form that is annexed hereto, which can also be downloaded from the OPCW website.
23. Completed forms should be addressed to Mr Krzysztof Paturej, Director of the Office of Special Projects (OSP), who is responsible for the overall coordination of the preparations by the Secretariat and for the conduct and programme of the seminar (address: Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands; e-mail: kpaturej@opcw.org). Applications should be submitted by e-mail or fax to Ms Nadezda Malyutina, Senior Secretary (OSP), who can be reached by telephone: +31 (0)70 416 3492; fax: +31 (0)70 416 3499; e-mail: nmalyutina@opcw.org. All applications must be received by the Secretariat **no later than 4 March 2011**.
24. Enquiries about the seminar, including as regards registration, can also be addressed to Mr Irakli Beridze, Special Projects Officer (OSP) (telephone: +31 (0)70 416 3073; e-mail: iberidze@opcw.org) and Ms Olesea Becu (telephone: +31 (0)70 416 3076; e-mail: obecu@opcw.org).
25. The seminar will be conducted in English. All participants are therefore expected to have a good working knowledge of this language, both written and oral.

26. Due to the limited funds available for sponsorship, the Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor only a limited number of participants from States Parties. The participation of qualified female applicants is strongly encouraged. Each applicant should specify whether sponsorship is a condition for his/her participation.
27. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the costs of travel and medical insurance and will provide a daily subsistence allowance to cover accommodation, meals, and sundry expenses.
28. 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. In order for the Secretariat to keep costs to a minimum, sponsored participants are expected to arrive in The Hague, the Netherlands, **no earlier than Sunday, 10 April 2011** and to depart **no later than Wednesday, 13 April 2011**. The Secretariat's approval is required for any changes to the arrival and departure dates of sponsored participants. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the course or that result from changes in travel arrangements that it has not authorised. Sponsored participants shall bear all costs resulting from changes they make, including cancellations, once the Secretariat has purchased their tickets.
29. Both sponsored and non-sponsored participants are requested to make their own accommodation arrangements. The Secretariat has arranged a special rate of EUR 118.50 per day, per person for hotel accommodation (including breakfast) with the Bel Air Hotel (Johan de Wittlaan 30; 2517 JR, The Hague, the Netherlands, telephone: +31 (0)70 352 5354; fax: +31 (0)70 352 5385; e-mail: <http://www.belairhotel.nl>). Participants who intend to use the accommodation at the Bel Air Hotel should ensure that reservations are made before 10 March 2011 and are requested to indicate that they are coming for the OPCW event.
30. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to the Netherlands.

Annex: Application/Registration Form

Annex

**SEMINAR ON THE OPCW'S CONTRIBUTION TO SECURITY AND THE
NON-PROLIFERATION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS
THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS
11 AND 12 APRIL 2011**

APPLICATION/REGISTRATION FORM

Please submit the completed form **by 4 March 2011** to:
Mr Krzysztof Paturej, Director of the Office of Special Projects, OPCW
Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands
Fax: +31 (0)70 416 3499; e-mail: nmalyutina@opcw.org

Please type or use BLOCK LETTERS.

1.	Family name of participant*	
2.	First name(s)*	
3.	Date of birth	Day Month Year
4.	Citizenship	
5.	Gender**	Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
6.	Passport number	
7.	Date of issue	Day Month Year
8.	Expiry date	Day Month Year
9.	Place of issue	
10.	Employer	
11.	Official title	
12.	Employer's address (please do not give a post-office box number)	Street
		Number Post code
		City
		Country
13.	E-mail address	
14.	Telephone number	
15.	Mobile number	
16.	Fax number	
17.	Is sponsorship a condition of participation?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
18.	Which activity would you like to attend:	1. National implementation and chemical industry <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Convergence of biology and chemistry <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Global efforts against terrorism <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Chemical plant and transportation security <input type="checkbox"/>
19.	Date and time of arrival	
20.	Date and time of departure	

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* Please give the first and family names exactly as they appear in the participant's passport.

** For this and all like items, please tick the appropriate box.