



External Relations Division
S/1251/2015
6 March 2015
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ALL VICTIMS OF CHEMICAL WARFARE
29 APRIL 2015**

1. The Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) at its Tenth Session (paragraph 23.3 of C-10/5, dated 11 November 2005) decided that a memorial Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare would be observed on 29 April each year—the date in 1997 on which the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) entered into force.
2. The commemoration will provide an opportunity to pay tribute to the victims of chemical warfare, as well as to reaffirm the commitment of the OPCW to exclude completely the possibility of the use of chemical weapons, through the implementation of the provisions of the Convention, thereby promoting the goals of peace, security, and multilateralism.
3. The programme for the Day of Remembrance will include the following:
 - (a) a commemorative session in the Ieper Room, including statements by H.E. Mrs Vesela Mrđen Korać, Chairperson of the Conference, who will chair the session; H.E. Mr Ahmet Üzümcü, Director-General of the OPCW; H.E. Mrs Renée Jones-Bos, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands; and Mr Jozias van Aartsen, Mayor of The Hague;
 - (b) the observance of one minute of silence at the memorial site;
 - (c) the laying of wreaths; and
 - (d) a reception.
4. The invitees will include representatives of States Parties to the OPCW, the Government of the Host Country, the Municipality of The Hague, international organisations, non-governmental organisations, and a delegation of students from various international schools located in The Hague.
5. Additional information may be obtained from Mr Rutger van den Hoven, Head of Protocol and Visa, who can be reached at +31 (0)70 416 3772.

Annex: Programme



Annex



**Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare
Wednesday, 29 April 2015
14:00 – 15:30**

PROGRAMME

**14:00 – 14:15
Arrival**

Invitees arrive at the main entrance of the OPCW Headquarters building.

Musical accompaniment during the entrance of the invitees.

**14:15 – 14:45
Commemoration**

The Chairperson of the Conference of the States Parties opens the commemoration in the Ieper Room.

The following will address the session:

1. H.E. Mrs Vesela Mrđen Korać, Chairperson of the Conference of the States Parties;
2. H.E. Mr Ahmet Üzümcü, Director-General of the OPCW;
3. H.E. Mrs Renée Jones-Bos, Secretary-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands; and
4. Mr Jozias van Aartsen, Mayor of The Hague.

Musical interlude

**14:45 – 15:00
Visit to the
Memorial Site**

The Chairperson of the Conference of the States Parties invites the participants to the memorial site.

Wreaths are laid at the monument by:

1. H.E. Mrs Vesela Mrđen Korać;
2. H.E. Mr Ahmet Üzümcü;
3. H.E. Mrs Renée Jones-Bos;
5. Mr Jozias van Aartsen; and
6. A delegation of students from international schools.

One minute of silence will be observed.

Guests are escorted to the Delegates' Lounge.

**15:00 – 15:30
Reception**

H.E. Mr Ahmet Üzümcü, Director-General, hosts the reception.