



S/1358/2016
23 February 2016
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE FIFTEENTH REGIONAL MEETING OF
NATIONAL AUTHORITIES OF STATES PARTIES IN EASTERN EUROPE
PRECEDED BY A REGIONAL MEETING ON EDUCATION AND OUTREACH
VILNIUS, LITHUANIA
4 - 6 MAY 2016**

1. On behalf of the Government of Republic of Lithuania and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General wishes to invite National Authorities to nominate representatives to attend the Fifteenth Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Eastern Europe, to be preceded by a regional meeting on education and outreach, both of which will be held in Vilnius, Lithuania, from 4 to 6 May 2016.
2. At its Eighth Session, the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) adopted a plan of action regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations (C-8/DEC.16, dated 24 October 2003), and at its subsequent regular sessions adopted decisions on the follow-up to that plan (C-10/DEC.16, dated 11 November 2005; C-11/DEC.4, dated 6 December 2006; C-12/DEC.9, dated 9 November 2007; C-13/DEC.7, dated 5 December 2008; and C-14/DEC.12, dated 4 December 2009). The Second and Third Review Conferences¹ encouraged the States Parties and the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) to continue to support the implementation by States Parties of the aforementioned Conference decisions in order for them to achieve full implementation of their Article VII obligations.
3. This regional meeting of National Authorities, to be held on 6 May 2016, will serve as a forum in which the States Parties in the region can present their needs for assistance in relation to Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) and indicate what assistance they can offer to other States Parties in this regard. In addition, it will help the Secretariat to determine how it can enhance the assistance it offers to States Parties in the region in the light of the aforementioned Conference decisions.
4. The meeting will also serve as a forum in which representatives of National Authorities can confer with each other and with Secretariat staff in order to identify

¹ The Second and Third Special Sessions of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.



what further steps, if any, each participating State Party needs to take in order to implement its obligations under the Convention.

5. The programme for the meeting includes the following:
 - (a) a review of the current status of the implementation of the Convention and new approaches and initiatives related thereto;
 - (b) a review of recent developments and updates in relation to the implementation of Article VI of the Convention;
 - (c) an assessment and identification of priorities for effective national implementation of the Convention; and
 - (d) bilateral meetings with Secretariat staff.
6. The regional meeting of National Authorities will be preceded by a regional meeting on education and outreach, to be held on 4 and 5 May 2016.
7. In line with the corresponding recommendations by the Third Review Conference (April 2013), the meeting will provide a regional forum for exchanging ideas and best practices in education and outreach, including a showcase of related materials.
8. The meeting will provide a forum for wide-ranging discussion and the exchange of ideas and best practices on ways to raise awareness about the Convention through formal and informal education. This will include demonstrations of materials and tools developed by the OPCW in various media formats. The objective will be to identify appropriate approaches and synergies arising from discussion among groups of participants and then chart the way forward.
9. With an aim to draw in diverse experience and perspectives through the participation of representatives of the National Authorities and relevant stakeholders, the themes of the meeting will address the following:
 - (a) innovative approaches to teaching and raising awareness;
 - (b) the exchange of information on national initiatives;
 - (c) the development of educational tools and materials and the embedding of relevant topics in educational curricula;
 - (d) the development of exhibition packages to promote the Convention;
 - (e) strategies for engaging university and high school students; and
 - (f) new avenues for using social networking tools.
10. The provisional programmes for the regional meetings are included in the annex to this Note.

11. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor two participants from each State Party: one from the National Authority and one from a relevant educational institution (high school or university), the ministry of education, a non-governmental organisation, or a professional association. Nominees from the National Authorities should effectively be involved in the national implementation of the Convention, while nominees representing other stakeholders should be involved in activities that could help the OPCW and the National Authority more effectively implement the Convention. Nominees who do not meet the above criteria will not be accepted to participate in the regional meeting. Participants from each State Party represented at the meeting will be expected to make presentations on topics assigned by the Secretariat. **The National Authorities, which will not nominate any of their stakeholders, will be expected to make their own presentations of their vision of education and outreach activities in their respective countries.**
12. 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, hotel accommodation, and medical insurance, in addition to a limited subsistence allowance to cover meals and sundry expenses. Sponsored participants who do not intend to use the accommodation arranged by the Secretariat are requested to indicate this as soon as possible to prevent the Secretariat from incurring hotel cancellation fees. In any case, the Secretariat will not cover the costs of any accommodation that it has not arranged.
13. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. The Secretariat will purchase tickets and send them to the participants. Participants will be allowed to purchase tickets locally only if this leads to further savings for the Secretariat. In order to keep costs to a minimum, sponsored participants from National Authorities are expected to arrive **no earlier than Tuesday, 3 May 2016**, and to depart **no later than Saturday, 7 May 2016**; sponsored participants from relevant educational institutions are expected to arrive **no earlier than 3 May 2016** and to depart **no later than Friday, 6 May 2016**.
14. Participants are requested to obtain any necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Lithuania. When applying for any required visas, they should present the Embassy or Consulate of Lithuania with a copy of the acceptance letter from the OPCW. The meetings will be conducted in English. All participants are therefore expected to have a good oral and written command of English.
15. Interested National Authorities are invited to apply through the OPCW online Event Management System (EMS) at <https://apps.opcw.org/ems>. The link provides step-by-step instructions on how to process the nomination and endorsement forms.
16. All nominations through the EMS must be received by the Secretariat **no later than Monday, 4 April 2016**. Please be advised that participants must present an OPCW acceptance letter in order to register for the meetings. National Authorities are kindly requested to note that the Secretariat will not accept any nominations after the final nomination submission deadline.

17. Any queries or additional information about registration or these meetings in general may be obtained from the Implementation Support Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division. The contact persons are Mr Vaclovas Semaskevicius (Email: vaclovas.semaskevicius@opcw.org; Tel: +31 (0) 70 416 3270) and Mr Aldo Rodriguez (Email: aldo.rodriguez@opcw.org; Tel. +31 (0) 70 416 3438).

Annex: Provisional Programmes

Annex

**REGIONAL MEETING
ON EDUCATION AND OUTREACH IN EASTERN EUROPE
VILNIUS, LITHUANIA
4 – 5 MAY 2016**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
<i>Wednesday, 4 May 2016</i>	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:30	Opening ceremony
09:30 – 09:45	Group photograph
09:45 – 10:15	History of the use of chemical weapons
10:15 – 10:45	Introduction to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the OPCW
10:45 – 11:15	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:15 – 12:00	Education and outreach initiatives by the Technical Secretariat, including the project FIRES
12:00 – 12:30	Introduction to the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (E&O)
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:10	Presentation by the host country
14:10 – 14:30	Presentation by national representative – State Party 1
14:30 – 15:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:00 – 17:00	Break-out group discussion on approaches to conduct E&O-related activities, and development and production of the relevant E&O tools for specific target groups and the general public
17:00 – 18:00	Bilateral consultations
<i>Thursday, 5 May 2016</i>	
09:00 – 10:00	Presentations by the break-out groups
10:00 – 10:20	Presentation by national representative – State Party 2
10:20 – 10:50	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:50 – 11:20	Presentation by national representative – State Party 3
11:20 – 11:40	Presentation by national representative – State Party 4
11:40 – 12:00	Presentation by national representative – State Party 5
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
13:00 – 13:20	Presentation by national representative – State Party 6
13:20 – 14:20	Break-out group discussion on generating ideas about how to move forward for effective E&O
14:20 – 14:50	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
14:50 – 15:50	Break-out group discussion (continued)
15:50 – 16:50	Presentations by the break-out groups
16:50 – 17:20	Summary and closure of the meeting

**FIFTEENTH REGIONAL MEETING OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES
OF STATES PARTIES IN EASTERN EUROPE
VILNIUS, LITHUANIA
6 MAY 2016**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
09:00 – 09:10	Opening remarks
09:10 – 09:20	International Cooperation and Assistance programmes
09:20 – 09:50	Recent developments in relation to the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention
09:50 – 10:10	Presentation by National Authority – NA 1
10:10 – 10:30	Presentation by National Authority – NA 2
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:00 – 11:20	Presentation by National Authority – NA 3
11:20 – 11:40	Presentation by National Authority – NA 4
11:40 – 12:00	Presentation by National Authority – NA 5
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
13:00 – 13:20	Presentation by National Authority – NA 6
13:20 – 15:00	Break-out group discussion to assess and identify priorities for effective national implementation
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:30 – 16:30	Presentations by the break-out groups
16:30 – 17:00	Summary and closure of the meeting

All applications must be completed using the OPCW online Event Management System, which can be accessed via the following link: <https://apps.opcw.org/ems>

- - - 0 - - -