



NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FOR OFFICIALS:
THE ASSER INSTITUTE'S EIGHTH ANNUAL SUMMER PROGRAMME
ON DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION
OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION IN A CHANGING WORLD
THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS,
3-8 SEPTEMBER 2017**

1. On behalf of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General wishes to bring to the attention of the Permanent Representations to the OPCW the commencement of the application process for the “Eighth Annual Summer Programme on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) in a Changing World”, held at the T.M.C. Asser Institute for International Law in The Hague, the Netherlands, from 3 to 8 September 2017.
2. Launched in 2010, the Summer Programme has been jointly developed by the OPCW and the T.M.C. Asser Institute, and provides a multi-disciplinary education of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and threats through a historic, legal, technical, diplomatic, and geo-political framework.
3. The Summer Programme is designed for early- to mid-career professionals in government, such as national export control bodies, National Authorities for the implementation of the CWC/BWC and national nuclear power agencies, as well as those working for non-governmental organisations, such as think tanks addressing WMD concerns and research centres in related disciplines. Newly arrived diplomats in The Hague are especially encouraged to sign up for the Summer Programme.
4. The challenges posed to international security by nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons are as urgent today as they were during the Cold War. There is an increasing demand for professionals in the field of WMD to tackle the challenges of today’s non-proliferation and disarmament agenda with a more integrated understanding across these issues.
5. The Summer Programme provides clear insight into the functioning of the four international WMD treaty organisations and illustrates the main challenges each organisation faces today. During this intensive week, participants are provided with a comprehensive overview of weapons of mass destruction, starting with a historical overview of arms control concepts and approaches. The Summer Programme seeks to strike a balance between the legal, scientific, diplomatic, and geo-political issues relating to the broad spectrum of WMDs in a contemporary world.



6. The 2017 Summer Programme offers an integrated approach to WMD. It will address the non-proliferation and disarmament efforts made separately and cooperatively with respect to chemical, nuclear, and biological weapons, with the overlapping and interrelated aspects to be discussed at high-level panels.
7. The specific objectives are to provide participants with:
 - (a) hands-on knowledge of the diplomatic, legal, and technical aspects of disarmament and non-proliferation across nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and threats;
 - (b) insight into the work of seasoned WMD professionals; and
 - (c) unique networking opportunities with speakers and participants from diverse backgrounds.
8. The Summer Programme's inter-disciplinary content is delivered by specialised academics from institutes in the Netherlands and abroad, together with experienced practitioners and officials from the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Implementation Support Unit, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and the OPCW. The Programme's blend of academic and practical knowledge and its comprehensive scope have been well received by prior participants and will be continued in 2017.
9. Classwork during the 2017 Summer Programme will be supplemented by field visits to the OPCW Laboratory in Rijswijk and the nuclear research reactor at the Delft University of Technology. These field visits offer participants first-hand experience in chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) preparedness, and the way in which international treaties on WMD are implemented at the international and national levels.
10. The provisional programme is annexed to this Note.
11. The registration fee is EUR 1,495. This fee includes lectures, study materials, study visits, refreshments and lunch during working days, two receptions, and an opening dinner. It does not cover international travel costs, domestic travel to and from airports, (hotel) accommodation, insurance, or other expenses.
12. The T.M.C. Asser Institute is a not-for-profit, inter-university institute that focuses on the broad field of international law. It is based in The Hague and is partly supported with funding from the Government of the Netherlands. The OPCW collaborates with the Institute in designing the agenda, providing senior staff as speakers, mobilising the participation and support of other WMD-related international organisations, and promoting participation by OPCW stakeholders.
13. The Technical Secretariat encourages Permanent Representations and their National Authorities to promote the Summer Programme to potentially interested groups and consider sponsoring the participation of outstanding national applicants who have

demonstrated an interest in disarmament and non-proliferation and who can be expected to make a significant professional contribution in this area.

14. Participants are requested to obtain any necessary visas (including transit visas) before traveling to The Netherlands. When applying for visas, they should submit a copy of the acceptance letter from the T.M.C. Asser Institute to the Embassy or Consulate of the Netherlands. Participants are required to approach the Embassy or Consulate of the Netherlands immediately after receiving their acceptance letter.
15. All activities during the Programme are conducted in English. Participants are therefore expected to have a good oral and written command of this language.
16. The application form is downloadable from the T.M.C. Asser Institute website at <http://data.asser.nl/onlineforms/spwmd2017.aspx>, and can also be accessed through the OPCW website at www.opcw.org. Interested applicants should submit the form directly to the Asser Institute as soon as possible and **no later than Sunday, 30 July 2017**.
17. Additional information about the Summer Programme may be obtained from the T.M.C. Asser Institute at: educationtraining@asser.nl

Annex: The Eighth Annual Summer Programme on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in a Changing World: The Hague, the Netherlands, 3 – 8 September 2017

Annex

**EIGHTH ANNUAL SUMMER PROGRAMME ON DISARMAMENT
AND NON-PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
IN A CHANGING WORLD
THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS
3 – 8 SEPTEMBER 2017**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Event
<i>Sunday, 3 September 2017</i>	
Welcome	
17:00 – 18:00	Welcome and reception
<i>Monday, 4 September 2017</i>	
An Overview of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:30	Opening
09:30 – 10:30	Keynote Address by the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:45 – 12:15	WMD from a Geopolitical Perspective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reasons why States pursue WMD • WMDs and international order • the role of arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation • case studies
12:15 – 13:15	<i>Lunch</i>
13:15 – 14:45	International Law and the Use of Force: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the use of force under international law • humanitarian intervention • the responsibility to protect • case studies
14:45 – 15:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:00 – 16:00	International Humanitarian Law and WMD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jus in bello</i> and weapons law • restrictions on the use of nuclear weapons • prohibitions on the use of chemical and biological weapons • the Humanitarian Nuclear Weapons Initiative
16:00 – 16:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:15 – 17:15	Scientific and Technological Aspects of Nuclear Weapons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do nuclear weapons work? • What is involved in their production? • What is necessary for their deployment and their control? • Could a non-State actor (such as a terrorist group) make or use a nuclear explosive?
18:00	<i>Opening dinner</i>

Time	Event
<i>Tuesday, 5 September 2017</i>	
Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and Field Visit	
09:00 – 10:45	Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the history leading to its adoption • the three pillars of the NPT • review conferences and the 1995 extension • the current state of play
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 – 12:00	Nuclear Safeguards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the various types of safeguard agreements and their progressive development in view of proliferation cases • State-level approaches
12:00 – 12:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
12:15 – 13:15	The Iran Nuclear Deal and Implementation Challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • moving towards universalisation; • the link with the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR); • transparency measures.
13:15 – 14:15	<i>Lunch on bus</i>
14:15 – 17:00	Field visit: TU-Delft Nuclear Research Reactor
<i>Wednesday, 6 September 2017</i>	
Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Nuclear and Biological Weapons	
09:00 – 10:15	Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty at 20 years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • current challenges and policy issues • nuclear weapons-free zones
10:15 – 10:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:30 – 11:30	The Importance of a Fissile Materials (Cut-off) Treaty for Nuclear Disarmament: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • why and how to prohibit the production of fissile materials • the prospects of an international agreement
11:30 – 11:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:45 – 12:30	The future of US-Russia Arms Control: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the implementation of a new START Agreement • U.S. considerations • Russia considerations
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Brown bag lunch and discussion:</i> Professional opportunities in the field of WMD
13:45 – 14:30	Life Sciences, Chemistry, and Disarmament: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a scientific underpinning of treaty implementation • scientific developments and security concerns • the Need for and role of science in policy • The Hague Ethical Guidelines
14:30 – 14:45	<i>Coffee break</i>

Time	Event
14:45 – 17:30 (incl. coffee break)	The Biological Weapons Convention crossroads: Treaties, regulations, and codes of conduct: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Implementation Support Unit • intersessional meetings • current challenges and policy issues
<i>Thursday, 7 September 2017</i>	
Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Chemical Weapons	
09:00 – 10:00	The Chemical Weapons Convention: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the history leading to its adoption • the main pillars of the Chemical Weapons Convention • new and emerging challenges • the transition in focus from disarmament to non-proliferation
10:00 – 10:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:15 – 11:00	OPCW Verification Mechanisms: from Declarations to Inspection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • obligations of States Parties • verification by the OPCW: three types of inspections • addressing non-compliance
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:15 – 12:45	OPCW Laboratory and equipment store in Rijswijk
12:45 – 13:45	<i>Lunch</i>
13:45 – 14:30	<i>Travel to field visit</i>
14:30 – 17:00	Field visit to Wassenaar: Live exercise of an investigation of alleged use of WMD
<i>Friday, 8 September 2017</i>	
Multi-stakeholder Approaches to WMD Diplomacy and Current Challenges	
09:00 – 10:30	Scientific and Technological Development: Opportunities and Challenges to Chemical and Biological Disarmament: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • converging sciences • technology development • (Bio-)chemical disarmament in a technologically evolving world
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:45 – 12:00	Export Control Regimes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Nuclear Suppliers Group • the Zangger Committee • the Missile Technology Control Regime • the Wassenaar Agreement • the Australia Group
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
13:00 – 14:30	Simulation Exercise
14:30 – 15:45	An International Order in Transition: Prospects for WMD Disarmament and Non-Proliferation
15:45 – 16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:00 – 16:30	Programme Summary and Evaluation: Open Session
17:00 – 18:30	Closing reception

* Please note that the programme may be subject to change.