



NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE TWENTY-SECOND
ANNUAL MEETING OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES (ONLINE)
THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS, 23 – 25 NOVEMBER 2020**

1. The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) wishes to invite National Authorities to submit nominations for the Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of National Authorities, which will be held online from 23 to 25 November 2020.
2. The annual meeting of National Authorities is designed to serve as a mechanism for interactive communications and cooperation among the National Authorities, both among themselves and with the OPCW. Furthermore, it is intended to create a global network in support of the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) and to enhance the effectiveness of regional aspects of implementation support activities.
3. The annual meeting will take place online over a three-day period from Monday, 23 November, to Wednesday, 25 November 2020. Bilateral meetings between the representatives of National Authorities and the Secretariat may be conducted online upon request.
4. The objectives of the annual meeting are to:
 - (a) provide an occasion for National Authorities to highlight and work through relevant issues in order to enhance their capacity to comply with their Convention obligations;
 - (b) provide an occasion for the Secretariat and States Parties to interact and discuss ways for effective provision of capacity-building support in an integrated and comprehensive manner;
 - (c) promote cooperation among National Authorities in order to further the implementation of the Convention at the national and regional levels; and
 - (d) provide an opportunity for interaction between the States Parties and the Secretariat to address outstanding issues and efforts to enhance the implementation of the Convention.



5. The Secretariat assists States Parties in their efforts to meet their obligations under the Convention, thereby enabling them to achieve their full and effective implementation. This has been done through the implementation of various capacity-building activities within the framework of Articles VII, X, and XI of the Convention. The principles of results-based management have been gradually incorporated into the Secretariat's programming to ensure better outputs. While effective provision of capacity-building support can be assured by the International Cooperation and Assistance Division, achieving and sustaining capacity depends primarily on the ownership and commitment of national governments. It is therefore essential for the support to be planned and provided in line with the identified needs and priorities of States Parties.
6. Due to the impact of and restrictions posed by COVID-19, this year's annual meeting will be held in an adapted format focused on providing States Parties with the latest information necessary to ensure effective national implementation of the Convention. This includes, among other things, an update on the current status of the OPCW's implementation support and its plans for delivery of capacity-building events in 2021. National Authorities will have an opportunity to share, discuss, and learn from experiences, good practices, and strategies from each of the five OPCW regions, as well as national best practices in implementation of the Convention. National Authorities will also be briefed on recent developments under Articles VI, VII, X, and XI of the Convention and provided with updates on policy-related issues. All presentations will be recorded and posted on the Secretariat's TalentSoft platform at least two weeks before the online meeting starts.
7. Should there be interest in bilateral consultations with the Secretariat, interested National Authorities are requested to inform the Secretariat of such ahead of the meeting and communicate the particular national implementation issues they would like to discuss. This will enable the appropriate Secretariat officials to prepare for the relevant bilateral meetings.
8. National Authorities that wish to discuss draft implementation legislation are encouraged to submit drafts in advance and contact the Legal Officer of the Implementation Support Branch, Ms Sharon Rivera, by email: sharon.rivera@opcw.org, or ipb-legal@opcw.org.
9. The provisional programme for the meeting is attached as Annex 1 to this Note.
10. National Authorities are encouraged to nominate representatives who have been directly involved in the implementation of the Convention, particularly in their day-to-day activities.
11. Interested National Authorities are invited to submit their applications through Eventus—the OPCW event management system (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>). Interested applicants should create an account in Eventus or use an existing account to register for the annual meeting. All nominations must be endorsed by the Head or Chief Coordinator of the National Authority. The endorsement form, which is attached as Annex 2 to this Note, must be uploaded during the registration process for the meeting.
12. All nominations must be received by the Secretariat **no later than Monday, 2 November 2020**.

13. Interested participants who, for technical reasons, are unable to submit the application online are requested to send an email to ipb@opcw.org with a reference to the name of the event in the subject line of the message. The Secretariat will provide the necessary advice and assistance with the registration.
14. Any queries or additional information about registration may be obtained from the Implementation Support Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the OPCW. The contact persons are Mr Victor Barros Correia (Email: victor.barros-correia@opcw.org; Tel.: +31 (0)70 416 3430), Mr Alberto Fernandez (Email: alberto.fernandez@opcw.org; Tel.: +31 (0)70 416 3850), Ms Olukemi Adenuga (Email: olukemi.adenuga@opcw.org; Tel.: +31 (0)70 416 3923), and Mr Vaclovas Semaskevicius (Email: vaclovas.semaskevicius@opcw.org; Tel: +31 (0)70 416 3270).

Annexes:

- Annex 1: Provisional Programme
- Annex 2: National Authority Endorsement Form

Annex 1

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PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time*	Activity
<i>Friday, 20 November 2020</i>	
13:30 – 14:00	Dry run session
<i>Monday, 23 November 2020</i>	
13:30 – 15:00	Presentations by the Technical Secretariat on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Article VII: status of national implementation; - updates on the verification regime; and - updates on policy-related issues.
<i>Tuesday, 24 November 2020</i>	
13:30 – 15:00	Presentations by regional group coordinators on best regional practices and experiences in the implementation of the Convention (including relevant experiences and arrangements since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic)
<i>Wednesday, 25 November 2020</i>	
13:30 – 15:00	Presentations by invited National Authority representatives on specific themes with a focus on national practices, experiences, and challenges in implementing obligations under the Convention

* The Hague time (CET) has been chosen due to the fact that countries in the Americas are approximately 5 – 7 hours behind CET, while countries in the Asia/Pacific region are 5 – 7 hours ahead.

Annex 2

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ENDORSEMENT BY THE NATIONAL AUTHORITY

This form must be signed, duly sealed, and uploaded when submitting applications electronically (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>)

I, _____, Head/Chief Coordinator of the National Authority of the State Party of _____, on behalf of the Government of _____, hereby endorse the nomination of Mr/Ms _____, holding the position/designation of _____ in the Office/Division/Branch of _____, for participation in the Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of National Authorities, to be held online, from 23 to 25 November 2020.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Official seal of the Organisation: