



S/1944/2021
12 April 2021
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**ONLINE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FOR OFFICIALS AND EXPERTS
THE ASSER INSTITUTE'S TWELFTH ANNUAL TRAINING PROGRAMME
ON DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION
OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS,
27 SEPTEMBER – 1 OCTOBER 2021**

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 opening of applications for the “Twelfth Annual Training Programme on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction”, to be held by the Asser Institute for International Law located in The Hague, the Netherlands, from 27 September to 1 October 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's training will be conducted online.
2. Launched in 2010, the Training Programme has been jointly developed by the OPCW and the Asser Institute and provides a multidisciplinary education on nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and threats through a historic, legal, technical, diplomatic, and geopolitical framework.
3. The Training Programme is designed for early- to mid-career professionals working for government entities such as national export control bodies, National Authorities for the implementation of the Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions, and national nuclear (energy) agencies. The programme is also open to professionals working for non-governmental organisations such as think tanks addressing concerns related to weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and for research centres in related disciplines. Newly arrived diplomats in The Hague are especially encouraged to sign up for the Training 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 of these issues.
5. The Training Programme provides clear insights into the functioning of the four international WMD treaty organisations, and illustrates the main challenges each currently faces. During this intensive, week-long online programme, participants are provided with a comprehensive overview of WMD, starting with a historical overview



of arms control concepts and approaches. The Training Programme seeks to strike a balance between the legal, scientific, diplomatic, and geopolitical issues relating to the broad spectrum of WMD in a contemporary world.

6. The 2021 online Training 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 more cross-cutting aspects discussed during 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 online Training Programme's interdisciplinary content is delivered by specialised academics from institutes in the Netherlands and abroad, together with experienced practitioners and officials from the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the OPCW. The programme's blend of academic and practical knowledge and its comprehensive scope have been well received by participants and will be continued in 2021.
9. The provisional programme is attached as the Annex to this Note.
10. The registration fee is EUR 995 and covers lectures and study materials.
11. The OPCW and the Asser Institute are seeking support to provide a limited number of full scholarships for outstanding applicants from developing countries or countries with economies in transition who wish to participate in the 2021 Programme. With funding support from the European Union, a limited number of OPCW scholarships are available for qualified applicants from NGOs. For updates and details, contact the Asser Institute directly via email (educationtraining@asser.nl).
12. The 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 Training Programme among potentially interested groups and to 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. All programme activities are conducted in English. Participants are therefore expected to have good oral and written command of this language.
15. The application form can be downloaded from the Asser Institute website (<https://www.asser.nl/education-events/events/?id=4198>) and can also be accessed through the OPCW website. Interested applicants should submit the form directly to the Asser Institute as soon as possible.
16. Additional information about the Training Programme may be obtained from the Asser Institute via email (educationtraining@asser.nl).

Annex: Provisional Programme

Annex

**THE ASSER INSTITUTE'S TWELFTH ANNUAL TRAINING PROGRAMME
ON DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION
OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS
27 SEPTEMBER – 1 OCTOBER 2021**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME¹

Time	Event
Day 1 – General WMD Issues; Nuclear Weapons	
<i>Monday, 27 September 2021</i>	
09:30 – 10:15	Opening & round of introductions
10:15 – 11:00	Keynote Address by the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
11:30 – 12:45	International Law and the Use of Force
12:45 – 13:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
13:30 – 14:45	Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) from a Geo-Political Perspective
14:45 – 15:15	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
15:15 – 16:30	Nuclear Safeguards
Day 2 – Nuclear Weapons	
<i>Tuesday, 28 September 2021</i>	
09:00 – 10:15	The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)
10:15 – 10:45	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
10:45 – 12:00	The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
12:00 – 12:30	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
12:30 – 13:45	Artificial Intelligence, Hypersonic Missiles, and Satellites: Exploring the Intersection between Emerging Technology and Nuclear Stability
13:45 – 14:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:30 – 15:45	US-Russia Relations and Their Effect on International Arms Control
15:45 – 16:15	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>
16:15 – 17:30	Virtual Technical Visit TU Delft: Nuclear Technology & Proliferation
Day 3 – Biological and Chemical Weapons; Export Controls	
<i>Wednesday, 29 September 2021</i>	
09:00 – 10:30	The Biological Weapons Convention
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
11:00 – 12:15	Biological and Chemical Disarmament in a Technologically Evolving World
12:15 – 14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:00 – 15:15	Export control regimes

¹ Please note that the programme may be subject to change.

Day 4 – Chemical Weapons	
<i>Thursday, 30 September 2021</i>	
09:30 – 10:45	The Chemical Weapons Convention
10:45 – 11:15	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
11:15 – 12:30	The Chemical Weapons Convention’s Mechanism of Verification – From Declarations to Inspections
12:30 – 13:15	<i>Lunch Break</i>
13:15 – 14:30	Chemical Terrorism: Threat and Response
14:30 – 15:00	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
15:00 – 16:15	The OPCW Investigation and Identification Team (IIT)
16:15 – 16:30	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
16:30 – 17:15	The OPCW Laboratory and Equipment Store
Day 5 – Current Challenges	
<i>Friday, 1 October 2021</i>	
10:00 – 11:15	When Non-Proliferation Fails: Case Study on the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea
11:15 – 11:45	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
11:45 – 13:00	The Islamic Republic of Iran and Nuclear Weapons: What is Next?
13:00 – 13:45	<i>Lunch Break</i>
13:45 – 15:00	The Future of WMD Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (Panel Discussion)
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
15:30 – 16:15	Programme summary, evaluation, and closing reception