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ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**TRAINING OPPORTUNITY: ASSER INSTITUTE PROGRAMME
ON DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION OF
WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS
13 – 17 OCTOBER 2025**

1. On behalf of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General wishes to inform States Parties that registration is now open for the Annual Training Programme on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, to be held from 13 to 17 October 2025 in The Hague, the Netherlands. This training programme is organised by the Asser Institute for International Law, in collaboration with the OPCW.
2. The training programme is designed for early- to mid-career professionals and provides a comprehensive overview of the various international regimes applicable to weapons of mass destruction (WMD), striking a balance between the legal, scientific, diplomatic, and geopolitical issues relating to the broad spectrum of WMD in a contemporary world. The training programme will provide clear insights into the functioning of the four international WMD treaty organisations, and illustrate the main challenges each of them currently faces.
3. Permanent Representations and their National Authorities are encouraged to promote the training programme among potentially interested groups. It would benefit individuals 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. Professionals working for non-governmental organisations such as think tanks addressing concerns related to WMD and research centres in related disciplines are especially encouraged to register, as are newly arrived diplomats in The Hague.
4. States Parties are encouraged 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.
5. The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs may offer a limited number of scholarships for applicants who are nationals of and working in countries with low- and lower-middle-income economies (according to the World Bank classification: <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519>). For updates and details on how to apply for a scholarship, see the Asser Institute website or contact the Asser Institute directly via email (educationtraining@asser.nl).



6. The specific objectives of the training programme are to provide participants with:
 - (a) hands-on knowledge of the diplomatic, legal, and technical aspects of disarmament and non-proliferation related to nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons;
 - (b) insight into the work of seasoned WMD professionals; and
 - (c) unique networking opportunities with speakers and participants from diverse backgrounds.
7. The 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 2025.
8. The provisional programme is attached as the Annex to this Note.
9. 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 programme agenda, providing senior staff as speakers, mobilising the participation and support of other WMD-related international organisations, and promoting participation by OPCW stakeholders.
10. Interested applicants can register for the training programme, and apply for a scholarship as appropriate, via the Asser Institute website (<https://www.asser.nl>). A link can also be accessed through the OPCW website.
11. Interested applicants should submit the form directly to the Asser Institute as soon as possible.
12. Additional information about the training programme may be obtained from the Asser Institute via email (educationtraining@asser.nl).

Annex: Provisional Programme

Annex

**ASSER INSTITUTE PROGRAMME ON DISARMAMENT AND
NON-PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS
13 – 17 OCTOBER 2025**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**Monday, 13 October 2025****International arms control law and nuclear weapons**

09:30 – 10:00	<i>Registration</i>
10:00 – 10:45	Opening and round of introductions
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:00 – 12:30	International arms control law
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 15:00	The nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament treaties
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:30 – 17:00	The future of nuclear arms control and strategic stability
18:30	<i>Opening dinner</i>

Tuesday, 14 October 2025**Nuclear weapons and field visit**

09:00 – 10:30	Nuclear safeguards
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:45 – 12:15	Weapons of mass destruction and emerging technologies
12:15 – 13:15	<i>Lunch and transport to the Technical University (TU) Delft Nuclear Research Reactor</i>
13:15 – 17:00	Field visit: TU-Delft Nuclear Research Reactor
17:00 – 18:00	<i>Transport from TU-Delft Nuclear Research Reactor to the Asser Institute</i>

Wednesday, 15 October 2025**Biological weapons**

09:00 – 10:00	Export control regimes
10:00 – 10:10	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:10 – 11:30	Simulation exercise on export controls
11:30 – 11:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:45 – 13:15	Banning the tests: The international legal regime for nuclear testing
13:15 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	The Biological Weapons Convention
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:00 – 17:30	Unsubstantiated use of chemical and biological weapons

Thursday, 16 October 2025**Chemical weapons and field visit**

09:00 – 09:30	<i>Transport to the OPCW Main Building</i>
09:30 – 10:00	Welcome activity at the OPCW Main Building
10:00 – 11:00	The OPCW and the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention)
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Coffee/tea Break</i>
11:15 – 12:00	The end of the destruction of all declared chemical weapons stockpiles
12:00 – 12:45	National implementation of the Convention: Challenges and opportunities
12:45 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:15	Chemical terrorism: Threat and response
14:15 – 15:00	Scientific and technological developments: Biological and chemical disarmament in a technologically evolving world
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Travel to the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre)</i>
15:30 – 16:30	Guided tour of the ChemTech Centre
16:30 – 17:00	<i>Travel from the ChemTech Centre to the Asser Institute</i>

Friday, 17 October 2025**Current challenges**

09:30 – 11:00	Non-proliferation case study: The DPRK nuclear issue
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:30 – 13:00	Middle East case study
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Programme evaluation/lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Panel discussion: “Fake news” and fact-finding: Disinformation about WMD
15:00 – 16:30	Closing reception