



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

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26 March 2025

ENGLISH and SPANISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
FOR THE TWENTY-SIXTH REGIONAL MEETING OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES
OF STATES PARTIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR
9 – 11 JULY 2025**

1. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat) wishes to invite representatives of National Authorities to attend the Twenty-Sixth Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, from 9 to 11 July 2025.
2. This regional meeting of National Authorities will serve as a forum for States Parties to discuss needs, priorities, actions taken, and best practices in relation to the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention) at the national and regional levels.
3. The purpose of the meeting is to facilitate the exchange of information and views on:
 - (a) OPCW capacity-development support for the implementation of obligations under Articles VI, VII, X, and XI of the Convention;
 - (b) tools available in support of timely and accurate declarations, as well as updated information about OPCW inspections;
 - (c) progress made and challenges encountered in implementing the Convention in the region; and
 - (d) policy-related issues, including the outcomes of recent sessions of the policy-making organs.
4. The expected results of the meeting include:
 - (a) ensuring that participants are provided with relevant and updated information on the status of implementation of the Convention in the region;
 - (b) enhancing participants' understanding of potential follow-up actions and best practices of States Parties in relation to the implementation of the Convention; and
 - (c) further strengthening participants' understanding of specific issues related to Articles VI, VII, X, and XI of the Convention and the respective support provided by the Secretariat.
5. The provisional programme for the regional meeting is included as the Annex to this Note.



6. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor one participant from each State Party from the region. The nominee should be a representative of the National Authority. The nomination should specify whether sponsorship is a condition of the nominee's participation.
7. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the costs of travel, accommodation, meals, and medical insurance, and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover terminal 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. Please note that the Secretariat will not bear the costs of any accommodation it has not arranged.
8. National officials not sponsored by the Secretariat are welcome to attend the event as self-sponsored participants.
9. 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 the Secretariat authorises it and if it leads to further savings for the Secretariat. Sponsored participants must bear all costs resulting from any changes they make once the Secretariat has purchased the tickets. Participants who have not been sponsored will be requested to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. In order to keep costs to a minimum, sponsored participants are expected to **arrive no earlier than Tuesday, 8 July 2025, and to depart no later than Saturday, 12 July 2025.**
10. Participants are requested to obtain any necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Ecuador. When applying for any entry visa, they should present the Embassy or Consulate of Ecuador with a copy of the acceptance letter from the OPCW.
11. The meeting will be conducted in English and Spanish, and interpretation services will be provided between these two languages.
12. Interested National Authority representatives are invited to register online **by 7 May 2025 at the latest** through Eventus, the OPCW event management system. The registration link is accessible via the Eventus website (<https://eventus.opcw.org>). Each application must be endorsed digitally on the Eventus platform by the nominee's respective National Authority. National Authorities are strongly encouraged to seek, support, and endorse applications from qualified women candidates.
13. National Authorities that wish for their nominee(s) to make a presentation at the meeting should inform the Secretariat about the specific thematic area of the presentation. Ideally, presentations should be limited to 10 minutes and highlight best practices, as well as challenges encountered in relation to the implementation of the Convention.
14. Additional information about this regional meeting may be obtained from the Implementation Support Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the OPCW. The contact persons are Mr Rene Betancourt (Tel: +31 646959285; E-mail: rene.betancourt@opcw.org) and Mr Alberto Fernandez (E-mail: alberto.fernandez@opcw.org).

Annex

**TWENTY-SIXTH REGIONAL MEETING OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES OF
STATES PARTIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR
9 – 11 JULY 2025**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

<i>Wednesday, 9 July 2025</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening ceremony • Report of the Chairperson of the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) on activities since the last regional meeting • Status of national implementing legislation on the Convention in the GRULAC region, including relevant programmatic support • Updates by the Secretariat on recent developments and upcoming activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implementation of activities (Articles VI, VII, X, and XI) ○ Verification under the Convention, best practices, and challenges • National activities implementing the Convention
<i>Thursday, 10 July 2025</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel discussion topic 1: Regional priorities for capacity building—Articles VI, VII, X, and XI • Panel discussion topic 2: Good practices and national experiences in inter-institutional coordination and the preparation of national programmes for protection against chemical weapons under Article X • Global chemical security architecture and the OPCW's role • Security and safety in the handling of hazardous chemicals in preparation for large-scale events • The Mentorship/Partnership Programme: National experiences in participating in the programme • National experiences in using online tools, including the Secure Information Exchange System (SIX), the Electronic Declaration Information System (EDIS), the Article VII online submission platform, the Protection and Assistance Databank (PAD), and OPCW E-learning modules
<i>Friday, 11 July 2025</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Implementation Framework • Preventing and resolving transfer discrepancies: Feedback on and outcome of a regional workshop on the subject • Artificial intelligence: Opportunities for and challenges to implementation of the Convention • Updates on the Action Plan on Geographical Representation, and other HR-related matters • Review and update of the work procedures for regional coordination • Election of the next regional coordinator • The OPCW Eventus platform for candidate registration and other administrative matters • Closing ceremony