

F.No. M-21012/17/2020-TECH
Government of India
Cabinet Secretariat
National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention

1st Floor, Chanakya Bhawan, Chanakya Puri,
New Delhi, dated 12th October 2020

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Invitation to submit nominations to an Online Training Course on Legislative and Regulatory Issues, 16-20 November 2020 - regarding.

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of the International Cooperation Assistance Division, Technical Secretariat (TS), Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Invitation Letter seeking nominations on the above mentioned subject.

2. It is therefore requested that, nominations of suitable, qualified and experienced Officer of an appropriate level alongwith relevant documents as per the above letter and 'Revised Guidelines for OPCW sponsored events' issued by NACWC may be sent to this office latest by 16th October 2020. The Head of the concerned Department/ Organization may also certify that the applicant is clear from vigilance angle and no departmental proceeding against him is contemplated.

3. It is further informed that, the said course is purely techno-legal in nature and is meant for the representatives of SPs that want to further enhance their understanding on legislative and regulatory issues and necessary scope of a national legal framework on chemical safety and security and approaches for developing or enhancing the existing legal regime in this area. Only nominations with the complete set of application documents will be considered. Applicants who have already participated in the above programme previously will not be considered for the course.

Enclosure: As above

Yours Sincerely



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To,

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Online Training Course on Legislative and Regulatory Issues on Chemical Security

16-20 November 2020

Invitation to submit nominations

BACKGROUND:

The Technical Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), in cooperation with the Governments of Vietnam and El Salvador, was scheduled to organize the first two of a series of regional and sub-regional workshops addressing legislative and regulatory issues on chemical safety and security in Hanoi, Vietnam in March 2020 and San Salvador, El Salvador in September 2020. The workshop series was designed to build on the outcomes of the discussions during the Technical Workshop on Sharing of Best Practices in the Development of a Legislative and Regulatory Framework on Chemical Security held in July 2019. The pilot workshop provided a forum for sharing information on participating States Parties' legal and regulatory framework on chemical security and approaches in the development of chemical security measures, while also contributing to identifying the capacity-building needs of States Parties in this area.¹

A number of States Parties have adopted and are already implementing laws and regulations on chemical security covering different thematic areas (chemical production facilities, manufacturing/labelling/packaging, transport/logistics, handling, storage/inventory management, end-use, waste management, among others). Likewise, voluntary and industry-led mechanisms are already in place within a number of States Parties, such as the Responsible Care initiative. As chemical industries and trade in chemicals continue to grow, a growing number of States Parties are also recognizing the need to adopt appropriate chemical security measures or enhance their existing legal regimes in order to avert any potential risk of an attack on a chemical facility or the unlawful release or theft of toxic chemicals. However, a gap still exists with respect to international guidance on appropriate

¹ Representatives from Algeria, Australia, Brazil, Indonesia, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Nigeria, the Philippines, South Africa, the United Kingdom, United States of America and Vietnam, along with technical experts from the International Council of Chemical Associations, United Nations Environment Program, 1540 Committee of Experts, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and the National Research Council of Italy, participated in the event.

chemical security legal and regulatory measures and standards.² The OPCW, in view of its mandate and its near universal membership, is well-placed to support States Parties in their efforts at enhancing or developing national legal and regulatory frameworks on chemical security.³

Due to the restrictions posed by the global pandemic, the Technical Secretariat has been compelled to postpone the two workshops along with other events scheduled for this year. However, the Technical Secretariat remains committed to continue delivering capacity-building assistance to States Parties and has been pursuing alternative modalities to implement planned activities, including through the use of online platforms. The planned online training course has been conceptualized in response to the growing requests from States Parties for technical assistance in enhancing their knowledge on the legal and regulatory aspects of chemical security and addressing these issues at the national level.

OBJECTIVES:

The online training course is aimed at enhancing the participants' knowledge of the following issues:

- a. The existing international legal framework on chemical security
- b. The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and chemical security
- c. The scope of a national legal and regulatory framework on chemical security
- d. Approaches to conducting a risk assessment and gap analysis of the national regulatory framework on chemicals

The training course is further aimed at enhancing States Parties' capacities to analyse their national legal and regulatory frameworks on chemical security, including identifying gaps and possible approaches to address them.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

- Participants will gain knowledge of legislative and regulatory issues in the context of chemical security and of measures necessary to address them at the national level.

² In the area of chemical safety, guidance documents in the implementation of obligations under the relevant international conventions, including Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata which are under the auspices of the UN Environment Program (UNEP), are available for reference by States Parties. UNEP also recently issued a series of Guidance documents on chemicals control legislation that provide a survey of legislative provisions for the safe management of chemicals (available at <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/guidance-chemicals-control-contributing-national-progress-and-safety>).

³ A more comprehensive discussion of the mandate and activities of the OPCW is contained in the Notes "The contribution of the OPCW to Chemical Safety and Chemical Security", S/1129/2013, (30 September 2013), and in "The OPCW's role in the Field of Chemical Security", Discussion Paper", S/1395/2016, (13 June 2016).

- Participants will enhance their understanding of the relevant obligations under the CWC, specifically with regard to chemical security, and the scope of a national legislative and regulatory framework on chemical security. As such, they will be able to identify gaps, taking note of their respective national contexts and areas of concern in the chemical life-cycle that are most relevant to them (in view of the chemicals in their territory from industry or trade).
- The Technical Secretariat will be able to collect further information on the capacity building requirements of States Parties in this area as well as assistance tools and mechanisms that the Technical Secretariat may be required to develop and provide to meet these requirements.

TARGET COUNTRIES AND PARTICIPANTS:

- States Parties that have expressed their need or are looking at updating their legal regimes on chemical security
- Each State Party will nominate participants to the training course, which should include (1) the National Authority focal point, (2) expert/s on its existing legislative and regulatory framework on the CWC and chemical security.
- Each State Party may nominate up to four (4) participants to the training course.

MODALITY:

1. Registered participants will be given access to view pre-recorded presentations via the Talentsoft online platform.
2. After viewing the presentations, participants will be required –
 - To take an online quiz
 - To fill in a questionnaire on their national legal and regulatory framework, identifying gaps and discussing approaches for developing legal texts on chemical security
3. An online session will be scheduled in November 2020 to enable the participants to raise questions and engage in discussions with the facilitators. The timing of the meeting will be confirmed at a later stage, but is tentatively considered for 7:00-10:00 AM (The Netherlands time) on 20 November 2020. The online session will be held through the Microsoft Teams platform.
4. The workshop will be conducted in **English** only. All participants are therefore expected to have a good written and oral command of the language.

REGISTRATION

1. Interested National Authorities are invited to send an email containing the list of their nominated participants **no later than Wednesday, 21 October 2020**. The list should include the names, official designation and contact details of the nominated participants. The email should be sent to the following contact persons from the Implementation Support Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division: Ms Sharon Rivera (Email: sharon.rivera@opcw.org) and Mr Alberto Fernandez (Email: alberto.fernandez@opcw.org).
2. Each nominee should register their participation through Eventus—the OPCW event management system (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus/Home/EventDetail/220>). Please note that all questions marked with an asterisk (*) in the online registration form must be answered for the candidate to be eligible to participate in the course. Individuals who register but whose names have not been included in the list of nominees sent by email by the National Authority are not eligible to participate in the course.