

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT****CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR A REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON
POLICY AND DIPLOMACY FOR SCIENTISTS: INTRODUCTION TO RESPONSIBLE
RESEARCH PRACTICES IN CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA
18 – 20 OCTOBER 2016****Purpose of the event**

1. The OPCW Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) wishes to inform Member States that it will organise, in collaboration with the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) and the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP), a workshop on “Policy and Diplomacy for Scientists: Introduction to Responsible Research Practices in Chemical and Biological Sciences”. The workshop will be implemented with the support of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) in Pretoria from 18 to 20 October 2016.
2. The objective of the workshop is to raise awareness among young scientists on the policy and diplomacy aspects that are related to the use of chemicals in various scientific disciplines, including chemistry, biology, biotechnology, and other related fields. In particular, scientists will be updated on the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) and other international treaties and regulatory tools governing the transfer and the use of chemicals. Aspects related to sustainability, ethics, and responsibility in science will also be addressed. The ultimate goal of the event will be to bridge the gap between scientists and policymakers and to promote the adoption of responsible and sustainable practices by scientists in African Member States of the OPCW.
3. This event is being implemented as part of the capacity-building programmes on the peaceful applications of chemistry under Article XI of the Convention, and within the scope of the OCPW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Convention and the OPCW initiative on education and outreach.
4. The thematic focus of the event has been set in consideration of the convergence of chemistry and biology, i.e. the continuously shrinking gap in the practical and commercial applications of these two disciplines. The recent developments in areas where chemistry and biology overlap, such as biotechnology and biobased chemistry, are steadily gaining an important role in chemical production, while an increasing part of chemistry research is targeting biochemical objects or exploring biobased resources, including in the areas of drug design, natural products chemistry, bioenergy and biorefineries, etc. The lists of prohibited substances under the Convention and the



Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) also overlap—for example, the Convention includes two toxins on its Schedule 1 of controlled chemicals. Under both the Convention and the BWC, States Parties consider the issues of dual use and safety and security as priority areas.

Content

5. The three-day workshop will include theoretical lectures and interactive sessions on the following topics:
 - (a) the work of international organisations in the promotion and control of the science and technology (S&T) and industrial activities in chemical and biological sciences, and related regulations imposed by the international treaties;
 - (b) the impact of developments in S&T on international security and on the implementation of international treaties;
 - (c) the concept of sustainability in industrial and research activities;
 - (d) issues related to the dual use of science;
 - (e) laboratory and enterprise safety and security; and
 - (f) ethics in science and responsible research practices.
6. The workshop will accommodate a maximum of 25 participants from African Member States. Participants will be selected based on their qualifications and experience.

Sponsorship

7. The cost of tuition for all participants will be covered by the Secretariat.
8. Fifteen selected participants will receive sponsorship from the Secretariat, covering international travel, medical and travel insurance, and a daily subsistence allowance.

Admission requirements

9. The workshop is open to those who:
 - (a) have a PhD in chemical, biological, or related sciences or engineering from a recognised university or institution;
 - (b) are citizens of African Member States;
 - (c) have been working in the field of applied chemical or biological sciences (research, academia, or industry) for at least five years; and
 - (d) are young scientists at the beginning of their scientific career.¹

¹ Scientists who have received their PhD within the past 10 years and who are under the age of 40 years.

10. The workshop will be conducted in English. Participants must therefore have a strong command of both written and spoken English.
11. Female candidates are encouraged to apply.

Selection procedure

12. Participants will be selected in two phases. Candidates will first be pre-selected by the national academies of science in their respective countries and by the ASSAf. Candidates are therefore requested to submit their applications directly to their national academies of science (which will then forward the endorsed applications to the ASSAf). In cases where there is no such academy in the Member State of a candidate, applications should be submitted directly to the ASSAf. The first selection round will be conducted by the ASSAf in cooperation with the Secretariat, taking into consideration the recommendations of the respective national academies of science, if any. Shortlisted candidates who have requested OPCW sponsorship will be identified by 10 August 2016 and will be advised to submit their applications to the Secretariat through their National Authorities or Permanent Representation to the OPCW. All successful candidates will be informed of the Secretariat's decision (and sponsorship, if requested) by 10 September 2016.
13. Applications will be carefully screened on the basis of the criteria specified in paragraphs 9 and 10 above. Applicants may be interviewed if the ASSAf and the Secretariat so decide.

Application procedure

14. Interested candidates are invited to apply for participation in the workshop by filling out the application form that is annexed to this Note. The form should then be submitted **no later than 20 July 2016** to the applicant's national academy of science, with a copy to the ASSAf. In the case there is no academy of science in the applicant's country, the application should be submitted directly to the ASSAf (Ms Phakamile Mngadi at phakamile@assaf.org.za).
15. Application forms must be accompanied by the following:
 - (a) a curriculum vitae;
 - (b) a one-page description of the candidate's motivation to participate in the event;
 - (c) a letter of recommendation from the supervisor of the candidate in his or her institution that addresses the candidate's qualifications in the light of paragraph 9 above, and attests to the relevance of the programme to the work of the institution; and
 - (d) a photocopy of the personal identification pages of the applicant's passport.
16. Incomplete or improperly filled-out applications cannot be considered.

17. Shortlisted candidates must submit copies of their applications (including the original set of documents) to the Secretariat via their National Authority or Permanent Representation to the OPCW, **no later than 20 August 2016**. Applications should be sent to the Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands. Applications may also be sent via email to **icb@opcw.org**, in which case the subject line of the email should contain the words “OPCW-TWAS policy for scientists, 2016”.
18. Additional information about this event may be obtained from Mr Sergey Zinoviev, Senior International Cooperation Officer, and Ms Julia Gonzalez, Senior Project Clerk, of the International Cooperation Branch, and from Ms Phakamile Mngadi of the ASSAf. Their contact details are as follows:

Tel.: +31 (0)70 416 3611 (Mr Zinoviev)

Tel.: +31 (0)70 416 3239 (Ms Gonzalez)

Tel.: +27 (0)12 349 6609 (Ms Mngadi)

Email: icb@opcw.org (Mr Zinoviev and Ms Gonzalez)

Email: phakamile@assaf.org.za (Ms Mngadi)

Annex: Application Form

Annex

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON POLICY AND DIPLOMACY FOR SCIENTISTS:
INTRODUCTION TO RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH PRACTICES IN CHEMICAL
AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

APPLICATION FORM

1. Before completing this form, applicants should read the guidelines presented in the cover Note to confirm their eligibility.
2. Applicants should complete sections 1 to 4, attach the documents listed in section 5, and sign the form at section 6. The form should then be sent either to their national academy of science for endorsement or to the ASSAf, with a request to complete section 7, **no later than 20 July 2016**.
3. The national academy of science should complete section 7 and forward the form to the ASSAf (phakamile@assaf.org.za), ensuring that it is received **no later than 1 August 2016**.
4. Shortlisted candidates must send their form to either their National Authority or their Permanent Representation to the OPCW, with a request to complete section 8, **no later than 20 August 2016**.
5. The National Authority or the Permanent Representation should complete section 8 and forward the form to the International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands, ensuring that it is received **no later than 1 September 2016**.

Please type or use BLOCK LETTERS

SECTION 1. PERSONAL AND CONTACT DETAILS			
Family name of nominee*			
First name(s)*			
Work address			
Home address			
Date of birth	Day	Month	Year
Citizenship			
Gender**	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>	

* Please give the first and family names exactly as they appear in the nominee's passport.

** For this and all like items, please tick the appropriate box.

SECTION 5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Please attach the following documents to your application:

- (a) a curriculum vitae (five pages maximum);
- (b) a one-page description of your motivation to participate in the event;
- (c) a letter of recommendation from your supervisor in your institution that addresses the your qualifications in the light of paragraph 9 above, and attests to the relevance of the programme to the work of the institution; and
- (d) a photocopy of the personal identification pages of your passport.

Applications without full supporting documentation cannot be accepted.

SECTION 6. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

Signature: _____	Date: _____
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SECTION 7. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE (IF APPLICABLE)

SECTION 8. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE NATIONAL AUTHORITY OR THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATION TO THE OPCW

Signature, with seal or stamp, of an authorised representative of the National Authority or of the Permanent Representation to the OPCW _____	Date: _____
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