Activity Overview

“Chemical Weapons Convention Workshop”
CSE-C1-W-18

RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, HR-10437 Bestovje, CROATIA
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Dates 05 February-09 February 2018
Venue RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, HR-10437 Bestovje, Republic of Croatia

Background  Workshops focusing on the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) have been organized annually since 2004 thanks to RACVIAC cooperation with the OPCW. The 2018 Workshop is a continuation of fruitful cooperation between RACVIAC and the OPCW in promoting the implementation of the CWC in South-Eastern Europe, which directly helps enhance regional stability, transparency and trust. This year the main focus will be put on the issue of „Understanding Non-Proliferation in the CWC Context“. There are numerous challenges to be faced in terms of the implementation of the CWC and the prevention of the intentional misuse of chemicals as well as proliferation. It is essential to have a complex picture about the issues, the players – multiple agencies, military and civilian – as well as the possible means and solutions in case of an emergency situation. The Workshop will explore the tools to enforce non-proliferation, the issues of verification and inspection as well as the possible means of assistance and cooperation.

Purpose and Objectives  The purpose of this Workshop is to discuss relevant issues related to the CWC and provide a broad overview of the CWC implementation procedures with specific focus on different aspects, and measures in implementing the Convention. OPCW seeks to gain a clear understanding of the measures that are currently in place in the different countries in the region and of the mechanisms deployed by them.

The specific Workshop objectives are:
• To provide an overview of the CWC, major achievements and challenges included;
• To inform the participants about the implementation of the Convention and the roles and capabilities of the OPCW;
• The ways and means of preventing the possible misuse of chemicals, the issues concerning verification and inspections;
• To explore the challenges in case of misuse: the possibilities of States Parties including that of asking for assistance;
• To give all necessary information about Article X: Assistance and Cooperation against Chemical Weapons, and
• To collect information on the adoption, implementation and enforcement measures deployed by the States Parties in the sub-region.

Participation  Approximately 30 participants, namely three (3) from each of the following countries: Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro, and Republic of Serbia, and one (1) from the Hellenic Republic, Romania and Republic of Turkey (each). In addition, attendees from invited Associate Members, Observers and participants may participate in the activity. They should be either senior/junior military or civilian recommendation-makers dealing with CWC issues and/or responsible for escorting inspections. The content of this Workshop will be of particular interest to the members of National Authorities of the States Parties also. Participants are kindly asked to deliver a short presentation on how their agencies ensure that dangerous chemicals don’t wind up in the wrong hands.
Methodology The Workshop will comprise presentations and discussion, with the possibility of a site visit. The working language will be English. Member States are kindly informed that RACVIAC encourages all lecturers to submit written essays on their area of expertise to be referred to during their presentation at the RACVIAC activity. Most prominent and current essays will then be published in the “RACVIAC Compendium – Assortment of RACVIAC Prominent Lecturers’ Insights” that will be issued at least once a year, preferably at the beginning of the year for the year preceding, but with an option and aim to become semi-annual if input and interest of the targeted audience is satisfactory. Understanding that additional effort and time are needed to be put into the writing of this essay, RACVIAC will stimulate it with an amount of 100 euros per essay. The essays should comprise at least 1500 words and should be submitted electronically and in the hard copy version to RACVIAC before the actual lecture or presentation is given. The author of the submitted essay should give his/her written permission to RACVIAC to publish the essay in the “RACVIAC Compendium” waiving future claims or compensations towards RACVIAC.

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* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.