



OPCW

Organisation for the Prohibition
of Chemical Weapons

ASSER
INSTITUTE

Centre for International & European Law



**Annual OPCW – Asser Training Programme
on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass
Destruction**

The Hague, The Netherlands

Dates: 26 – 30 October 2026

Day 1 – International Arms Control Law; Non-Proliferation

Monday, 26 October

09:30 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 10:45	Opening and Round of Introductions Prof. Machiko Kanetake (<i>Academic Director, Asser Institute</i>) Dr León Castellanos-Jankiewicz (<i>Researcher, Asser Institute</i>) Keynote Address H.E. Sabrina Dallafior (<i>Director-General of the OPCW</i>)
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee/Tea Break
11:00 – 12:30	International Arms Control Law Simon Cleobury (<i>Head of Arms Control and Disarmament Research and Policy Advice Department at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy</i>)
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	The Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Treaties Dr Sico van der Meer (<i>Research Fellow at the Netherlands Institute of International Relations Clingendael</i>)
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee/Tea Break
15:30 – 17:00	The Future of Nuclear Arms Control and Strategic Stability Dr Oliver Meier (<i>Policy & Research Director, European Leadership Network</i>)
18:30	Opening Dinner – TBD

Day 2 – Nuclear Weapons

Tuesday, 27 October

09:00–10:30	Nuclear Safeguards Cristian de Francia (<i>Senior Adviser, Non-Proliferation & Safeguards, Nuclear Strategies</i>)
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>
10:45 – 12:00	Banning the tests: the International Legal Regime for Nuclear Testing Dr Ana Sánchez-Cobaleda (<i>Assistant Professor of International Law, University of Barcelona</i>)
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Introduction Reactor Institute Necessary basic concepts Nuclear technology for peaceful purposes Marcel Schouwenburg (<i>Radiation Protection Expert, TU Delft Reactor Institute</i>)
14:00 – 14:15	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>
14:15 – 15:15	Scientific and technological aspects of nuclear weapons (Non-) Proliferation Virtual Visit Delft Nuclear Research Reactor Marcel Schouwenburg (<i>Radiation Protection Expert, TU Delft Reactor Institute</i>)
15:15 – 15:30	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Travel to OPCW HQ</i>
16:00 – 17:00	Guided tour of the OPCW HQ

Day 3 – Weapons Governance and Emerging Technologies

Wednesday, 28 October

09:00 – 10:30	Export Control Regimes Dr Sibylle Bauer (<i>Director of Studies, Armament and Disarmament, SIPRI</i>)
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>
10:45 – 11:45	Simulation Exercise on Export Controls Regimes Dr Sibylle Bauer (<i>Director of Studies, Armament and Disarmament, SIPRI</i>)
11:45 – 12:45	<i>Lunch</i>
12:45 – 14:15	Weapons of Mass Destruction and Emerging Technologies Dr James Revill (<i>Programme Lead, Weapons of Mass Destruction and Other Strategic Weapons, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research UNIDIR</i>)
14:15 – 14:30	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>
14:30 – 16:00	The Biological Weapons Convention Kristoffer Burck (<i>Associate Political Affairs Officer at the Biological Weapons Convention, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs</i>)
16:00 – 16:30	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>
16:30 – 18:00	Biological Weapons' Misuses and Emerging Technologies Dr Miranda Smith (<i>Researcher, SIPRI</i>)

Day 4 – Chemical Weapons

Thursday, 29 October

09:00 – 10:00	Chemical Weapons Demilitarisation: Achievements and Challenges Cheng Tang (<i>Chemical Demilitarisation Branch</i>)
10:00 – 11:00	National Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention: Challenges and Opportunities Suzanna Khoshabi (<i>Implementation Support Branch</i>)
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>
11:30 – 12:30	OPCW's Chemical Industry inspections Sumeet Gopal (<i>Inspection Team</i>)
12:30 – 13:30	OPCW's work in Syria Nihad Alihodzic (<i>Office of Special Missions</i>)
13:30 – 14:15	Lunch
14:15 – 15:00	<i>Travel to the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech)</i>
15:00 – 17:00	Guided Tour of the ChemTech Centre
17:00 – 17:30	<i>Travel from the ChemTech Centre to the Asser Institute</i>

Day 5 – Current Challenges

Friday, 30 October

09:00 – 09:45	Conventional Weapons and Emerging Technologies Dr. León Castellanos-Jankiewicz (<i>Researcher, Asser Institute</i>)
09:45 – 10:00	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>
10:00 – 11:30	Non-Proliferation Case Study: The DPRK Nuclear Issue Dr Edward Howell (<i>Lecturer in International Relations, University of Oxford</i>)
11:30 – 12:00	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>
12:00 – 13:30	WMD Threats and Risks in the Middle East Dr Abdolrasool Farzam Divsallar (<i>Senior Researcher, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research</i>)
13:30 – 14:00	<i>Programme Evaluation</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Lunch
15:00 – 16:00	Panel Discussion: 'Fake News' and Fact-Finding: Disinformation about WMD - Elisabeth Waechter (<i>Head of the Public Affairs Branch, OPCW</i>) - Dr León Castellanos-Jankiewicz (<i>Researcher, Asser Institute</i>)
16:00 – 17:00	Closing Reception

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