



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 Dr León Castellanos-Jankiewicz (<i>Researcher, Asser Institute</i>) Keynote Address H.E. Sabrina Dallafior (<i>Director-General 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 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; Field Visit

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 – 1700	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 Speaker of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs - TBD
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; Field Visit

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	Public 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

Enrol now

Registration Information & Conditions 2026

Annual Training programme:

Disarmament and Non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

26 October – 30 October 2026

Registration Procedure

1. You may register via the website by submitting the completed online registration form at:
<https://forms.office.com/e/8BcEf5STbA?origin=lprLink>
2. Each participant should use a separate form.
3. Upon receipt of the completed online registration form, you will be directed to a secure online payment environment.
4. Your place at the training programme is confirmed only when the online registration form has been submitted and the payment has been received.
5. The registration form constitutes a legally binding agreement. By submitting the completed registration form the registrant declares to be in accordance with the requirements and provisions described therein.
6. The T.M.C. Asser Instituut cannot be held responsible for the non-arrival of registration information. If you have not received confirmation of your registration within 24 hours of submitting, please contact educationtraining@asser.nl.
7. The T.M.C. Asser Instituut reserves the right to withhold registration.
8. After successful attendance of the programme, a certificate of completion will be provided.

Payment Conditions

1. The fee for the full week programme is €1.895.
2. The fees include lectures and study materials*, refreshments, one dinner, and one reception.
3. The full payment must be made within 10 business days after receipt of the confirmation e-mail. You will only be secured of a place at the training programme once the T.M.C. Asser Instituut has received your payment in full.
4. Participants are responsible for the cost of all international travel, accommodation, evening meals (approximately €55 per day), and if applicable, any visa charges and medical insurance. The T.M.C. Asser Instituut can provide prospective participants with a list of suitable hotels in The Hague (€90-150 per day).

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Cancellation Policy

1. Cancellations will only be accepted when your request for cancellation is submitted by e-mail to educationtraining@asser.nl.
2. You have the right to withdraw your participation within 14 days of completing the payment, and the full sum paid will be reimbursed.
3. Once the abovementioned 14-day withdrawal period has expired, if you cancel less than four weeks prior to the starting date of the training programme, no refund of the course fee will be given.
4. Once the abovementioned 14-day withdrawal period has expired, if you cancel within the allotted time (at least 4 weeks before the starting date of the course), a processing fee of €250 will be charged. The remaining sum will be refunded.
5. The T.M.C. Asser Instituut reserves the right to cancel the training programme in case of insufficient number of participants, force majeure or other unforeseen circumstances that render the execution of the training impossible and/or not worthwhile. If such action is necessary, registrants will be informed at least four weeks in advance of the starting date of the programme.
6. If the T.M.C. Asser Instituut cancels the training programme, the full sum paid will be reimbursed within 10 business days after receiving the registrant's bank account details.
7. The T.M.C. Asser Instituut reserves the right to change the format of the training to online.
8. In the event the format of the training is changed to online, a discount of 33% on the tuition fee will be given. If the tuition fee is paid in full, the difference will be reimbursed within 10 business days after receiving the registrant's bank account details.

Visa

1. If you require a visa to visit the Netherlands, you are strongly advised to apply for your visa at least eight weeks prior to your departure to The Netherlands. The T.M.C. Asser Instituut does not arrange visas but will assist visa applicants where appropriate.

Liability

1. The T.M.C. Asser Instituut cannot be held liable for personal injuries or for loss and/or damage to the personal belongings of participants either during or as a result of their participation in the programme.