OPCW

Technical Secretariat

S/2573/2026
29 October 2026
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ALL VICTIMS OF CHEMICAL WARFARE

1. The Conference of the States Parties (the Conference) at its Twentieth Session decided that the Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare would be observed in accordance with its decision C-20/DEC.10 (dated 3 December 2015).

2. The Chairperson of the Conference will preside over the ceremony. The day will be observed with a moment of silence during the Thirty-First Session of the Conference on 25 November 2026 in the King Willem-Alexander Theater of the World Forum.

3. This annual observance serves as a poignant reminder of the tragic human cost associated with chemical weapons. It is not only a solemn tribute to the countless lives lost and affected by these inhumane weapons, but also a powerful call to the international community to reinforce its commitment to the Chemical Weapons Convention. By commemorating this day, we honour the resilience and courage of survivors and reiterate our collective resolve to prevent the recurrence of such atrocities.

4. The Technical Secretariat has developed a social media kit for stakeholders to raise the visibility of the Day of Remembrance. The kit contains ready-made graphics and suggested social media messages that can be used on stakeholders' own social media channels. This resource is provided in all official languages of the OPCW (https://www.opcw.org/remembrance).

5. Additional information may be obtained from Ms Yvonne Apea Mensah, Head of the Political Affairs and Protocol Branch, who can be reached by email (protocol@opcw.org).

Annex: Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare – Programme

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Annex

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ALL VICTIMS OF CHEMICAL WARFARE

PROGRAMME

Date and time:

Wednesday, 25 November 2026, from 9:45 to 10:00 (prior to the proceedings of the third day of the Thirty-First Session of the Conference).

Venue:

King Willem-Alexander Theater, World Forum.

Procedure:

At 9:45, the Chairperson of the Conference will deliver brief remarks announcing the observance of a moment of silence.

During the moment of silence, a silent video will play on the screen of the Theater.

The end of the video will mark the close of the ceremony.

After the ceremony, the third day of the Conference session will commence.

Written statements by the Director-General of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW, the Mayor of the Municipality of The Hague, and the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands will be posted on the public website of the OPCW.

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