



S/2023/2022

16 February 2022

ENGLISH and SPANISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**COURSE ON MEDICAL ASPECTS OF ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION
AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS FOR STATES PARTIES IN THE LATIN
AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGION
RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL
23 – 27 MAY 2022**

1. On behalf of the Government of Brazil and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) wishes to invite Member States from the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) to nominate representatives to participate in a regional course on medical aspects of assistance and protection against chemical weapons, to take place from 23 to 27 May 2022 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
2. The course will be organised jointly by the Government of Brazil and the Secretariat and is aimed at enhancing chemical response preparedness at the regional and subregional levels in accordance with the recommendations received from the Third Review Conference¹ regarding the implementation of Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”).
3. The event will address matters related to medical assistance in case of an incident involving chemical warfare agents. It will focus on the physiological effects and clinical picture of chemical warfare agents, the signs and symptoms of exposure, and the medical treatment of casualties exposed to various chemical warfare agents as well as countermeasures. Participants in the course will learn to operate with personal protective equipment, and analyse a situation to design and coordinate an effective response plan for the medical management of chemical casualties in the field or at an emergency medical facility.
4. The course is also aimed at facilitating the exchange of information and at promoting networking among the participants representing national institutions, with a view to enhancing the implementation of Article X of the Convention in the GRULAC region as a whole. Applicants should be familiar with medical response practices and procedures in the event of attacks involving chemical warfare agents and/or incidents with toxic industrial chemicals, in line with the provisions of Article X of the Convention.

¹ Review Conference = Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.



5. Given the objectives of the course, candidates will be carefully selected. They should be members of emergency response units from institutions involved in chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) response systems, including emergency medical services, military medical units, and hazardous materials (HAZMAT) teams, among others. Candidates should have a solid background in emergency medicine, toxicology, or health care associated with protection against chemical weapons and other toxic chemicals. Participants should be physically fit and able to wear personal protective equipment during the course, if necessary.
6. Only candidates endorsed by the National Authority of their Member State will be considered in the selection process. The Secretariat will select only one participant from any given Member State.
7. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor a maximum of 20 participants. When proposing candidates for the course, Member States should specify whether such sponsorship is a condition of their participation. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the costs of travel, accommodation, transfers to and from the airport, medical insurance, and meals, and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses.
8. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Brazil.
9. All GRULAC Member States are encouraged to nominate candidates for this event, which will be conducted in Spanish. Participants are required to have a good command of Spanish, both written and oral. No interpretation services of any kind will be provided during the event.
10. Interested applicants are invited to register their nomination online through Eventus—the OPCW event management system—**no later than 27 March 2022**. The Eventus registration link is accessible via the OPCW website (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>). Please note that all questions marked with an asterisk (*) in the online registration form must be answered in order for the nomination to be received and for the candidate to be considered for the event. The endorsement form from the National Authority (attached as Annex 3 to this Note) must be uploaded during the course registration process.
11. Interested applicants who, for technical reasons, are unable to submit their application online via Eventus are requested to complete and send the nomination and endorsement forms (attached as Annexes 2 and 3 to this Note) via email attachment (to both EmergAssistBr@opcw.org and miguel.albaladejopomares@opcw.org) with a reference to the name and location of the event in the subject line of the message.
12. Candidates who have been selected to participate in the course will be contacted no later than two weeks after the submission deadline. Member States are requested to inform the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of any administrative or other problems that may arise in connection with the attendance of any participant.
13. The provisional programme for the course is included as Annex 1 to this Note. Further details regarding accommodation, the course venue, transportation, as well as an updated version of the programme will be submitted to all selected participants at a later date.

14. Any questions about the event should be addressed to the Assistance and Protection Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division. The contact persons are Mr Miguel Albaladejo Pomares (Tel: +31(0)70 416 3775) and Ms María Elena Bruno-Pousadela (Tel: +31(0) 40 416 3217).

Annexes:

- Annex 1: Provisional Programme
- Annex 2: Nomination Form
- Annex 3: Endorsement by the National Authority

Annex 1

**COURSE ON MEDICAL ASPECTS OF ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION
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PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME		
Time	Activity	Remarks
<i>Sunday, 22 May 2022</i>		
07:00 – 23:00	Arrival of participants	Place: Other accommodation
<i>Monday, 23 May 2022 – Galeão Air Force Hospital (HFAG)</i>		
08:00 – 08:30	Registration and delivery of materials	Speakers TBC
08:30 – 09:15	Opening ceremony and group photograph <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – National anthem. – Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – National Authority – OPCW – Ministry of Defense/Brazilian Air Force 	TBC
09:15 – 09:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	Air Force Team
09:30 – 09:45	Course overview, administrative briefing	Air Force Team
09:45 – 10:30	Introduction to the Host Country and Institute	Lesson 1 Air Force Team
10:30 – 11:15	The Chemical Weapons Convention and its Article X on Assistance and Protection – Questions and answers	Lesson 2 OPCW
11:15 – 12:00	Convention implementation in Brazil	National Authority
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>	HFAG cafeteria
13:00 – 13:40	Basics principles of toxicology – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Lesson 3 MSc. Camilla Colasso
13:40 – 14:20	Toxic industrial chemicals with potential of terrorist use – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Lesson 4 MSc. Camilla Colasso
14:20 – 15:00	Chemical warfare agent detection – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Lesson 5 Cel QEM/ R1 EB Paulo Malizia
15:00 – 15:15	<i>Coffee break</i>	HFAG
15:15 – 15:55	Hospital action against chemical agents – Action plan – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Lesson 6 Cap. Med. Aer. Moisés

15:55 – 16:35	Prehospital medical care in hot, warm, and cold areas in the theatre of operations (perspectives on receiving victims in the hospital) – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Lesson 7 Dr Alexandre Maurmo, Electronuclear Medical Assistance Foundation (FEAM)
16:35 – 16:45	Daily summary and discussion	Air Force Team
18:00 – 21:00	Reception hosted by the OPCW	Hotel
Tuesday, 24 May 2022 – HFAG		
08:00 – 08:55	Neurotoxic Agents – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Lesson 8 TCel. Méd. Aer. Jayme
08:55 – 09:50	Blister Agents – basic concepts and theoretical review	Lesson 9 Cel/R1 Méd. Aer. Heitor
09:50 – 10:10	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10:10 – 11:05	Suffocating agents (pulmonary agents) – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Lesson 10 Cap. Méd. Aer. Moisés
11:05 – 12:00	Hematotoxic agents (blood agents) – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Lesson 11 Maj. Farm. Aer. Ramos (MD)
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>	HFAG cafeteria
13:00 – 13:45	Riot agents and disabling agents – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Lesson 12 TCel. Méd. Aer. Dalton (DIRSA)
13:45 – 14:30	New chemical warfare agents – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Lesson 13 Dr Samir Frontino de Almeida Cavalcante – IDQBRN/CTEX. Army Technological Centre
14:30 – 14:40	<i>Coffee break</i>	
14:40 – 15:25	Preparing a hospital for the care of chemical victims – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Lesson 14 TCel. Méd. Aer. Jayme
15:25 – 16:10	Decontamination of victims, members of the response team and materials in a hospital environment – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Lesson 15 Cap. Méd. Aer. Moisés
16:10 – 16:30	Daily summary and discussion	Air Force Team

Wednesday, 25 May 2022 – HFAG		
08:00 – 08:35	Difficulty of hospital performance with PPE – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Lesson 16 Cel/R1 Méd. Aer. Heitor
08:35 – 09:10	Personal protective equipment (PPE) levels A and B – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Lesson 17 1° Ten. Eng. Rodrigo – Exército Brasileiro (EB) Army Team
09:10 – 09:45	Intrahospital personal protective equipment (PPE) levels C and D – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Lesson 18 2° Ten. Enf. Aer. Barbosa
09:45 – 10:20	PPE donning and doffing – Hands on	Lesson 19 1° Ten. Eng. Rodrigo – Exército Brasileiro (EB) Army Team
10:20 – 10:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10:30 – 11:10	PPE donning and doffing – Hands on	Lesson 20 1° Ten. Eng. Rodrigo – Exército Brasileiro (EB) Army Team
11:10 – 11:50	PPE donning and doffing – Hands on	Lesson 21 1° Ten. Eng. Rodrigo – Exército Brasileiro (EB) Army Team
11:50 – 12:00	Daily summary and discussion	Air Force Team
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>	Box lunch
13:00 – 16:30	Visit to Sugar Loaf	Air Force Team
18:00 – 21:00	<i>Official dinner</i>	
Thursday, 26 May 2022 – HFAG		
08:00 – 08:40	Transport and evacuation of contaminated patients to the hospital – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Lesson 22 Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IMAE)
08:40 – 09:20	Triage of chemical casualties – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Lesson 23 IMAE
09:20 – 10:00	Chemical burn by inhalation of smoke – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Lesson 24 TCel. Méd. Aer. Eucir
10:00 – 10:10	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10:10 – 10:40	Receiving air evacuation/ambulance patients – Hands on	Lesson 25 Air Force Team
10:40 – 11:10	Shower and bathtub wash – Hands on	Lesson 26 Air Force Team

11:10 – 12:10	Intubation (orotracheal tube and laryngeal chamber) – Hands on	Lesson 27 Air Force Team
12:10 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>	HFAG cafeteria
13:00 – 14:00	Clinical simulation (use of the dummy) – Hands on	Lesson 28 Air Force Team
14:00 – 15:00	Clinical simulation (use of the dummy) – Hands on	Lesson 29 Air Force Team
15:00 – 15:10	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15:10 – 16:10	PPE withdrawal dynamics – Hands on	Lesson 30 Air Force Team
16:10 – 16:30	Daily summary and discussion	Air Force Team
<i>Friday, 27 May 2022 – HFAG</i>		
08:00 – 08:40	Psychological approach to chemical weapon victims and the response team – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Lesson 31 1° Ten. Psc. Aer. Dayse (HFAG)
08:40 – 09:20	Decontamination – Practical demonstration	Lesson 32 Air Force Team
09:20 – 10:50	Course evaluation, post-test and participant feedback	Lesson 33 Air Force Team
10:50 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:00 – 12:00	Closing ceremony and remarks (TBC)	HFAG auditorium TBC
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>	HFAG cafeteria

Annex 2

**COURSE ON MEDICAL ASPECTS OF ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION
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NOMINATION FORM

Please type or use BLOCK LETTERS

Family name of nominee *			
First name(s)			
Date of birth	Day	Month	Year
Citizenship			
Gender	Male	Female	
Passport number			
Date of issue	Day	Month	Year
Date of expiry	Day	Month	Year
Place of issue			
Employer			
Position			
Please describe your current duties			
Contact address (please do not give a post office box number)	Street		
	Number	Postcode	
	City		
	Country		
Airport of departure			
Email address			
Telephone numbers, including country and city codes	Home		
	Work		
	Mobile		
Endorsement by the National Authority	(Name and signature of representative and stamp of institution)		
Is sponsorship a condition of participation?	Yes		No

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

Annex 3

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ENDORSEMENT BY THE NATIONAL AUTHORITY

This form must be duly signed and sealed and uploaded when submitting
an application online (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>)

Please type or use BLOCK LETTERS

I, _____, Head/Chief Coordinator of the
National Authority of the State Party of _____,
on behalf of the Government of _____, hereby endorse the
nomination of Mr/Ms _____,
holding the position/designation of _____
in the Office/Division/Branch of _____,
as indicated in the attached nomination form, for participation in the course on medical aspects
of assistance and protection against chemical weapons for states parties in the Latin America
and Caribbean Region, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 23 to 27 May 2022.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Official seal of the Organisation: