



S/2103/2022

11 October 2022

ENGLISH and SPANISH only

### NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

#### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2023 REGIONAL TRAINING CYCLE ON ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION FOR MEMBER STATES IN THE LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGION

1. The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) wishes to invite States Parties from the Latin American and Caribbean region (GRULAC) to nominate representatives to participate in the eleventh regional training cycle related to assistance and protection under Article X of the Chemicals Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), which will begin with an online introductory course on responding to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals.
2. The entire Assistance and Protection Branch training cycle will be jointly organised by the Governments of Argentina and Ecuador in collaboration with the Secretariat. It will provide training for up to 20 sponsored participants in the basics of assistance and protection with a focus on responding to chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals.
3. The training cycle will be divided into the following segments:
  - (a) an online foundation course, from 9 January to 11 February 2023;
  - (b) a hands-on basic course, from 20 to 24 March 2023, in Guayaquil, Ecuador;
  - (c) an online course on the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG), the Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders (WISER), and the Incident Command System (ICS) from 2 April to 31 May 2023;
  - (d) a hands-on integrated advanced course and exercise, September 2023 (dates to be determined), in Buenos Aires, Argentina; and
  - (e) a one-day follow-up webinar, late 2023 (exact date to be determined).
4. The online foundation course will offer basic theoretical knowledge for all participants about the OPCW, the Convention, chemical warfare agents, toxic industrial chemicals, personal protective equipment, decontamination, and detection, identification, and monitoring. The Secretariat will select up to 25 participants to participate in the online foundation course, but only 20 participants will ultimately be selected at the end of this segment of the training cycle to continue with the remaining segments. The selection will be based on demonstrated commitment to the training and the marks earned in the online foundation course.



5. The hands-on basic course will consist of a combination of theory-based lectures, demonstrations of equipment, and practical training sessions. By the end of the course, the participants will have a basic knowledge of chemical warfare agents and their actions, protective equipment and its limitations, detection and decontamination equipment, and procedures. Only 20 selected participants from the previous segment will be sponsored to participate in this on-site segment of the training cycle, which will take place in Guayaquil, Ecuador.
6. The next segment of this cycle is an online course covering the ERG, WISER, and the ICS, and will provide participants with the tools needed to manage chemical emergencies. This information will be put to use in the next segment of the training cycle.
7. The hands-on integrated advanced course and exercise will deepen the knowledge obtained in the three previous segments of this training cycle to enhance and further develop the chemical emergency response capabilities of States Parties. This hands-on training, which will explore different complex scenarios in combination with the final exercise, is an opportunity to practice and confirm the knowledge and skills acquired during the training cycle. As stated above, participants in this course will be those who completed the online course on the ERG, WISER, and the ICS, as well as the previous two segments, as part of the full training cycle. This segment will take place on-site in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
8. Given the objectives of the training cycle, candidates will be carefully selected from the online introductory course and should have a background in the field of chemical emergency response. Preference will be given to officers from emergency response units from institutions involved in civilian defence. Participants should be physically fit and able to wear personal protective gear during the practical sessions of the course. Please note that a medical certificate may be required to attend the hands-on training segments.
9. Participants should undertake the necessary steps to ensure their participation in the entire cycle by obtaining the required clearances from the relevant authorities based on the invitation letter issued by the Secretariat.
10. Endorsement by a candidate's respective National Authority is a prerequisite to be considered in the selection process. The endorsement process must be completed via EVENTUS (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>) before **the deadline of 4 December 2022**.
11. The Secretariat expects to be able to **sponsor a maximum of 20 participants** for the full cycle. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the cost of travel, accommodation, airport transfers, medical insurance, and meals (lunch), and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses.
12. The Secretariat will seek the most economical options when making travel arrangements for sponsored participants. Sponsored participants are encouraged to use the tickets provided by the Secretariat. Participants are expected to arrive in the host countries for the on-site segments of the training cycle no earlier than one day before the beginning of the segment and to depart no later than one day after the completion of the segment. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the course or resulting from unauthorised travel arrangement changes. Once the Secretariat has purchased their tickets, sponsored participants will be responsible for ensuring they participate in the course. In case of any unforeseen circumstances, participants should immediately contact the substantive officer responsible for the course.

13. Courses will be conducted in Spanish; therefore, participants are required to have a good working knowledge of written and spoken Spanish. No interpretation services will be provided during any of the segments of the training cycle.
14. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before traveling to the host countries. Further details regarding logistics and the final programme will be issued to participants at a later stage.
15. Interested States Parties are invited to submit the nomination making sure they provide all necessary contact details and valid passport requested **no later than 4 December 2022**. Only selected participants will be contacted within 14 days after the submission deadline.
16. A provisional programme for the training cycle is included as Annex 1 to this Note, and further details will be issued at a later date. Any questions may be addressed to the focal points for this training cycle with the OPCW's Assistance and Protection Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division: Mr Miguel Albaladejo Pomares (Tel.: +31 (0)70 416 3451; Email: [miguel.albaladejopomares@opcw.org](mailto:miguel.albaladejopomares@opcw.org)) and Ms Sonja Pecak (Tel.: +31 (0)70 416 3498; Email: [sonja.pecak@opcw.org](mailto:sonja.pecak@opcw.org))

Annexes:

- Annex 1: Online Foundation Course, Provisional Programme
- Annex 2: Basic Course for Latin American and Caribbean Countries in Response to Incidents Involving Chemical Warfare Agents and Toxic Industrial Chemicals Guayaquil, Ecuador, 20 – 24 March 2023, Provisional Programme
- Annex 3: Online Course on the Emergency Response Guidebook, the Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders, and the Incident Command System, 2 April – 31 May 2023, Provisional Programme
- Annex 4: Integrated Advanced Course and Exercise for Latin American and Caribbean Countries in Response to Incidents Involving Chemical Warfare Agents and Toxic Industrial Chemicals, Buenos Aires, Argentina, September 2023, Provisional Programme

**Annex 1****ONLINE FOUNDATION COURSE  
9 JANUARY – 11 FEBRUARY 2023****PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

<b>Contents</b>	
<b>Chapter 1</b>	<b>The Chemical Weapon Convention</b>
	1.1. Historical review 1.2. The Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) 1.3. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) 1.4. Article X of the Convention
<b>Chapter 2</b>	<b>Introduction to Chemical Agents</b>
	2.1. Chemical weapons 2.2. Chemical warfare agents 2.3. Exposure to chemical warfare agents 2.4. Toxic industrial chemicals
<b>Chapter 3</b>	<b>Introduction to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</b>
	3.1. Chemical protection suits 3.2. Respiratory protection 3.3. OPCW protection levels
<b>Chapter 4</b>	<b>Introduction to Decontamination</b>
	4.1. Decontamination overview 4.2. Decontamination stations and corridors 4.3. Decontamination processes 4.4. Decontamination systems
<b>Chapter 5</b>	<b>Introduction to Detection and Identification</b>
	5.1. Recognition 5.2. Detection 5.3. Identification

## Annex 2

**BASIC COURSE FOR LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES  
IN RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS INVOLVING CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS  
AND TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS  
GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR  
20 – 24 MARCH 2023**

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

Time	Activity
<b><i>Sunday, 19 March 2023</i></b>	
	Arrival of the OPCW team and participants, transfer to accommodation
<b><i>Monday, 20 March 2023</i></b>	
09:00 – 09:15	Logistic and administrative information on the course
09:15 – 10:00	Opening ceremony
10:00 – 10:20	Group photo
10:20 – 11:00	Presentation: OPCW
11:00 – 11:30	Presentation: Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) in Ecuador
11:30 – 11:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:45 – 12:30	Presentation: Threats of chemical attacks by non-State actors
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Presentation: Characteristics of chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals
14:30 – 14:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
14:45 – 15:30	Presentation: Medical treatment for chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals
15:30 – 16:45	Presentation: Emergency management—a general overview
16:45	Transfer to the hotel
<b><i>Tuesday, 21 March 2023</i></b>	
09:00 – 10:00	Presentation: Introduction to Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
10:00 – 11:00	Presentation: Respiratory protection: gas masks, filters, and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA)
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:15 – 12:30	Presentation: PPE—chemical suits
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	Practical session: Practice with gas masks and SCBA; air consumption calculation
15:30 – 15:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:45 – 17:00	Practical session: Donning and doffing / practical session with PPE
17:00	Transfer to the hotel
<b><i>Wednesday, 22 March 2023</i></b>	
09:00 – 10:15	Presentation: Basic principles of decontamination
10:15 – 10:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:30 – 11:15	Presentation: Decontamination of personnel and equipment
11:15 – 12:30	Presentation: Decontamination of tools, equipment, and devices
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
13:30 – 14:30	Practical Session: Operator decontamination—Team A dry decontamination Practical Session: Operator decontamination—Team B wet decontamination
14:30 – 15:30	Practical Session: Operator decontamination—Team A wet decontamination Practical Session: Operator decontamination—Team B dry decontamination
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:00 – 16:45	Practical Session: Massive decontamination I
16:45 – 17:30	Practical Session: Massive decontamination II
17:30	Transfer to the hotel
<b><i>Thursday, 23 March 2023</i></b>	
09:00 – 09:30	Presentation: Recognition and detection of chemicals
09:30 – 10:30	Presentation: Detection and identification techniques
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:00 – 12:30	Practical session on recognition, detection, and identification
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 15:00	Practical Session: Practical exercise I
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:30 – 17:30	Practical Session: Practical exercise I (continued)
17:30	Transfer to the hotel
<b><i>Friday, 24 March 2023</i></b>	
09:30 – 11:30	Field exercise
11:30 – 12:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
12:00 – 12:00	Discussion on acquired knowledge and course evaluation
12:00 – 12:30	Closing ceremony
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30	Transfer to the hotel
<b><i>Saturday, 25 March 2023</i></b>	
	Departure of participants

**Annex 3**

**ONLINE COURSE ON THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDEBOOK,  
THE WIRELESS INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS,  
AND THE INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM  
2 APRIL – 31 MAY 2023**

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

<b>Contents</b>	
<b>Chapter 1</b>	<b>Technical aspects for attending emergencies with toxic chemicals</b>
	1.1. Physical and chemical properties of substances. 1.2. Toxicological values applied to the management of emergencies with chemicals. 1.3. Dispersion of pollutants in the environment after an event with chemicals 1.4. Safety distances and planning zones
<b>Chapter 2</b>	<b>Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG)</b>
	2.1. Introduction 2.2. The yellow pages 2.3. The blue pages 2.4. Operational guides (the orange pages) 2.5. The green pages
<b>Chapter 3</b>	<b>The Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders (WISER)</b>
	3.1. Introduction 3.2. Characteristics of known substances 3.3. Reactivity of known substances 3.4. Identification of unknown substances 3.5. Physical properties 3.6. Observed symptoms 3.7. Plates and labels 3.8. Isolation and security zones
<b>Chapter 4</b>	<b>The Incident Command System (ICS)</b>
	4.1. Introduction 4.2. Characteristics and principles of the ICS 4.3. Roles and responsibilities 4.4. ICS structure 4.5. Facilities and resources 4.6. Command

## Annex 4

**INTEGRATED ADVANCED COURSE AND EXERCISE FOR LATIN AMERICAN  
AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES IN RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS INVOLVING  
CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS AND TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA  
SEPTEMBER 2023**

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

Time	Activity
<b>September 2023<sup>1</sup></b>	
Arrival of the OPCW team and participants, transfer to accommodation	
<b>Day 1</b>	
08:30	Transfer
08:45 – 09:00	Accreditation
09:00 – 09:10	Logistic and administrative information on the course
09:10 – 09:45	Opening ceremony
09:45 – 10:00	Group photo
10:00 – 10:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:30 – 11:15	Conference: The Argentine National Authority for the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”)
11:15 – 12:00	Conference: The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
12:00 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Presentation: Safety in responding to hazardous materials
14:30 – 15:30	Lecture: Incident control techniques
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:00 – 17:00	Presentation: Rescuing people in critical scenarios
17:00	Transfer to the hotel
<b>Day 2</b>	
08:00 – 08:45	Transfer to the Federal Police Cadet School, Corvalán 3698, Buenos Aires
08:45 – 09:15	Reception at the Golden Room with Cadet School authorities
09:15 – 09:30	Transfer to external training area
09:30 – 10:00	Lecture: Use of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) (Special Risk Brigade, Federal Superintendence of Firefighters, Argentine Federal Police).
10:00 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
	Check-up and medical records with the Churruca-Visca Hospital staff, Argentine Federal Police
	Distribution of PPE
11:00 – 11:15	Transfer to training area
11:15 – 12:45	Team A: Exercise with protection level A, dexterity circuit-leak control
	Team B: Victim rescue exercise
12:45 – 13:00	Break and conclusions
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 14:30	Physical conditioning for field exercises
14:30 – 15:45	Team A: Victim rescue exercise
	Team B: Exercise with protection level A, dexterity circuit-leak control
15:45 – 16:15	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>

<sup>1</sup> Please note: exact dates for this segment of the 2023 GRULAC training cycle are yet to be finalised and will be announced at a later date.



16:15 – 17:00	Circuit dexterity training: both groups
17:00 – 17:30	Conclusions
17:30	Transfer to the hotel
<b>Day 3</b>	
08:00 – 08:45	Transfer to the Federal Police Cadet School, Corvalán 3698, Buenos Aires
09:00 – 09:45	Lecture: Tactical Medicine presented by the Tactical Medicine Unit of the Argentine Federal Police
10:00 – 10:15	Transfer to training area
10:15 – 11:15	Team A: Practice with tactical medicine and antidotes
	Team B: Practice with masks and filters
11:15 – 11:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:45 – 12:45	Team A: Practice with masks and filters
	Team B: Practice with tactical medicine and antidotes
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 14:45	Lecture: Sampling and collection of evidence (Special Risk Brigade, Federal Superintendence of Firefighters, Argentine Federal Police)
14:45 – 15:30	Lecture: Strategy, tactics, and operations for interventions in critical scenarios (Special Risk Brigade, Federal Superintendence of Firefighters, Argentine Federal Police)
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:00 – 17:00	Exercise: Critical scenario: single group
17:00 – 17:30	Conclusions
17:30	Transfer to the hotel
<b>Day 4</b>	
12:15 – 13:00	Transfer to the Federal Police Cadet School, Corvalán 3698, Buenos Aires
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Lecture: Strategy, tactics, and operations in case of an attack with chemical dispersion devices (Special Risk Brigade, Federal Superintendence of Firefighters, Argentine Federal Police)
15:00 – 16:00	Incident action plan: All participants and instructors
16:00 – 17:00	Development of the exercise
17:00 – 17:30	Conclusions
17:30 – 18:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
18:00 – 18:30	Lecture: Strategy, tactics, and operations in the event of a technological incident (Special Risk Brigade, Federal Superintendence of Firefighters, Argentine Federal Police)
18:30 – 19:00	Incident action plan: All participants and instructors
19:00 – 21:30	Development of night exercise
21:30 – 22:00	Conclusions
22:00	Transfer to the hotel
<b>Day 5</b>	
08:45 – 09:30	Transfer to the Federal Police Cadet School, Corvalán 3698, Buenos Aires
09:30 – 10:30	Presentation: Special Operations in hostage situations: Group of Federal Operations Argentine Federal Police.
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:00 – 12:00	Lecture: Strategy, tactics, and operations in hostage situations and the use of chemical dispersion devices (Special Risks Brigade, Federal Superintendence of Firefighters, Argentine Federal Police)
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Incident action plan: All participants and instructors
14:00 – 15:00	Development of the exercise

15:00 – 15:30	<i>Break</i>
15:30 – 16:00	Conclusions
16:00	Transfer to the hotel
<b><i>Day 6</i></b>	
08:00 – 08:45	Transfer to the Federal Police Cadet School, Corvalán 3698, Buenos Aires
08:45 – 10:45	Table-top exercise
10:45 – 11:15	Conclusions
11:15 – 11:30	Course evaluation
11:30 – 11:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:45 – 12:30	Closing and delivery of certificates
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i> – Transfer to the hotel

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