



S/2115/2022

24 November 2022

ENGLISH and SPANISH only

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT****PRE-HOSPITAL CARE COURSE IN INCIDENTS INVOLVING CHEMICAL  
WARFARE AGENTS AND TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS  
FOR GRULAC STATES PARTIES  
MEXICO CITY, MEXICO  
7 – 10 FEBRUARY 2023**

1. On behalf of the Government of Mexico and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) wishes to invite Member States to nominate participants for a regional course on pre-hospital care in incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals for the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) States Parties, which will be held in Mexico City, Mexico, from 7 to 10 February 2023.
2. The course is related to assistance and protection against chemical weapons under Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) and will be jointly organised by the Government of Mexico and the Secretariat.
3. The course has been designed primarily for first responders who work with victims of chemical incidents, such as paramedics, representatives of emergency services, and scene officers involved in providing pre-hospital care for chemical casualties, as well as those involved in the mitigation of the consequences of chemical incidents. The course will be particularly valuable for professionals who have to provide initial field-based treatment to victims after exposure to chemicals.
4. The participants will be provided with an overview of the nature of chemical warfare agents and other toxic chemicals and their effects. The course will enable participants to gain an understanding of operating in a contaminated area and providing first aid to chemical casualties while wearing individual protective equipment. It will also provide an opportunity to discuss problems that they may encounter when participating in response operations to chemical incidents. The course, which will include both theoretical lectures and a practical component, will focus on pre-hospital care for patients exposed to toxic chemicals, and on dealing with mass casualties. This course will also facilitate the exchange of information and experiences regarding assistance and protection under Article X of the Convention. The provisional programme for the course is annexed to this Note.
5. Given the purpose of this course, candidates will be carefully selected. Participants must have experience wearing protection against chemical weapons and other toxic chemicals. They should also belong to national emergency response agencies and other institutions involved in dealing with chemical-related incidents. In addition, participants should be physically fit and be able to wear individual protective gear during the practical sessions.



6. All activities during the course will be conducted in Spanish, and no interpretation services of any kind will be provided. Participants are therefore expected to have a good command of the Spanish language, both written and oral.
7. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Mexico.
8. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor the participation of a limited number of participants. Each nomination should specify whether sponsorship is a condition of the nominee's participation. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the costs of travel, medical insurance, accommodation, and meals, and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses. The course materials and equipment will be provided by the organisers, at no cost to the participants. Further details regarding accommodation, the course venue, and transport will be issued to all confirmed participants at a later date.
9. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. In order for the Secretariat to keep costs to a minimum, sponsored participants are expected to arrive no earlier than Monday, 6 February 2023, and to depart no later than Saturday, 11 February 2023. The Secretariat's approval is required for any changes to the arrival and departure dates of sponsored participants. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the course or that result from unauthorised changes to travel arrangements. Sponsored participants must bear all costs resulting from changes they make, including cancellations, once the Secretariat has purchased their tickets. Participants who have not been sponsored are requested to make their own travel arrangements and to inform the Secretariat accordingly.
10. Interested applicants are invited to register their nomination online through Eventus—the OPCW event management system—**no later than 30 December 2022**. The Eventus registration link is accessible via the OPCW website (<http://apps.opcw.org/eventus>). Please note that all questions marked with an asterisk (\*) in the online registration form must be answered and endorsement from the relevant National Authority must be submitted via Eventus in order for the nomination to be considered for this event. Selected participants will be contacted no later than two weeks after the submission deadline.
11. Additional information may be obtained from the Assistance and Protection Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division. The contact person is Mr Miguel Albaladejo, Senior Programme Officer (Tel: + 31704163451; Email: [miguel.albaladejopomares@opcw.org](mailto:miguel.albaladejopomares@opcw.org)).

Annex: Provisional Programme

## Annex

**PRE-HOSPITAL CARE COURSE IN INCIDENTS INVOLVING CHEMICAL  
WARFARE AGENTS AND TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS  
FOR GRULAC STATES PARTIES  
MEXICO CITY, MEXICO  
7 – 10 FEBRUARY 2023**

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

Time	Activity
<b><i>Monday, 6 February 2023</i></b>	
	Arrival of participants
<b><i>Tuesday, 7 February 2023</i></b>	
08:00 – 09:00	Transfer to the training centre
09:00 – 09:45	Opening ceremony and group photo
09:45 – 10:30	Lecture: The Chemical Weapons Convention and assistance and protection under Article X
10:30 – 11:15	Lecture: The history of chemical warfare and chemical incidents
11:15 – 11:25	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:25 – 12:00	Lecture: A national and international overview of the risk of chemical weapons and toxic industrial chemicals
12:00 – 12:50	Lecture: Chemical warfare agents: asphyxiating and vesicant agents (symptomatology)
12:50 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 14:45	Lecture: Chemical warfare agents: blood and neurotoxic agents (symptomatology)
14:45 – 15:30	Lecture: Use of electronic tools in chemical emergencies (WISER <sup>1</sup> / 2020 Emergency Response Guidebook) from the pre-hospital care approach.
15:30 – 15:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:45 – 16:30	Lecture: Hospital infrastructures for the care of victims exposed to toxic industrial chemicals and chemical weapons.
16:30 – 17:15	Lecture: Mental health in first responders and psychosocial intervention in chemical emergencies
17:15 – 17:30	Closure of activities
17:30 – 18:00	Transfer to the hotel
<b><i>Wednesday, 8 February 2023</i></b>	
08:00 – 09:00	Transfer to the training centre
09:00 – 09:45	Lecture: Personal protective equipment (PPE) in pre-hospital medical care during chemical emergencies
09:45 – 10:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:00 – 12:00	Practical session: Exercises on the use of PPE
12:00 – 12:45	Lecture: Pre-hospital care in the incident command system
12:45 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 14:45	Lecture: Classification of patients (triage) in chemical emergencies

<sup>1</sup> WISER: Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders.

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
14:45 – 15:30	Lecture: Transfer of victims (land, air, and water)
15:30 – 15:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:45 – 17:15	Practical session: Decontamination of victims
17:15 – 17:30	Closure of activities
17:30 – 18:00	Transfer to the hotel
<b><i>Thursday, 9 February 2023</i></b>	
08:00 – 09:00	Transfer to the training centre
09:00 – 09:45	Practical session: Immobilisation of victims
09:45 – 10:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:00 – 10:45	Lecture: First aid in incidents with toxic industrial chemicals
10:45 – 11:15	Lecture: Toxicology of toxic industrial chemicals and chemical weapons
11:15 – 12:45	Practical session: Victim mobility
12:45 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 14:45	Practical session: Care of traumatic effects in personnel with personal protection equipment (resuscitation techniques / CPR / airway / probes)
14:45 – 15:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:00 – 16:30	Practical session: Provision of antidotes to patients affected with chemical weapons (auto-injectors)
16:30 – 17:15	Lecture: External risks for first responders in incidents involving chemical weapons agents / toxic industrial chemicals
17:15 – 17:30	Closure of activities
17:30 – 18:00	Transfer to the hotel
<b><i>Friday, 10 February 2023</i></b>	
08:00 – 09:00	Transfer to the training centre
09:00 – 12:00	Practical exercise: Simulation of pre-hospital care in the event of the intentional release of a chemical warfare agent
12:00 – 12:30	Feedback from participants
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Closing ceremony
14:30 – 15:00	Transfer to the hotel
<b><i>Saturday, 11 February 2023</i></b>	
	Departure of participants