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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR A HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS COURSE
FOR STATES PARTIES FROM THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGION
MADRID, SPAIN
17 – 21 APRIL 2023**

1. The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) wishes to invite States Parties from the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) to nominate participants for a training course on hospital preparedness, to be held in Madrid, Spain, from 17 to 21 April 2023.
2. The training course will be jointly organised by the Government of the Kingdom of Spain and the Secretariat. The purpose of the hospital preparedness course is to strengthen capacity building in the hospitals and medical institutions of States Parties that may be called to respond in the aftermath of an attack involving chemical warfare agents or toxic industrial chemicals. It will also promote the exchange of experiences, different approaches, and strategies for reducing gaps at medical institutions and seeking operational resilience when faced with such events.
3. The programme considers some of the following contents: general concepts of chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals; risk assessment for medical facilities; lessons learned in chemical emergencies; hospital preparedness; specific issues in hospital response; development of strategies and management in hospital models; preparation of programmes for health personnel; reception of victims and intra-hospital evaluation; the processing of biological samples; and demonstration of national capacities in preparedness and response to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) threats and incidents.
4. The Secretariat expects to sponsor a maximum of 20 participants from designated medical facilities to respond to chemical emergencies in GRULAC States Parties. A desirable candidate profile may include the following:
 - (a) physicians and nurses working at hospitals or other medical facilities designated to attend to victims in a chemical emergency;
 - (b) other health workers involved in the planning, design, preparedness, and management of hospitals to face chemical emergencies; and



- (c) additional aspects will be considered for the selection of candidates, such as: previous experience and knowledge of chemical emergencies, accreditation in CBRNE programmes, participation in previous national or regional events in the subject, responsibilities related to operational and clinical aspects of the response to chemical emergencies, and other relevant information. The participation of female candidates is encouraged.
5. A candidate's application should be endorsed by their respective National Authority, and should specify whether or not sponsorship is a condition of their participation. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the costs of travel, accommodation, airport transfers, medical insurance, and meals. In addition, it will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses.
 6. The Secretariat will seek the most economical options when making travel arrangements for sponsored participants. Sponsored participants are expected to **arrive no earlier than Sunday, 16 April 2023** and **depart no later than Saturday, 22 April 2023**. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the course or resulting from unauthorised changes in travel arrangements. Once the Secretariat has purchased their tickets, sponsored participants will be responsible for ensuring that they participate in the course. In the case of unforeseen circumstances, participants should immediately contact the substantive officer responsible for the course (see paragraph 10).
 7. The course will be in Spanish, and no interpretation services will be provided. Participants are therefore expected to be proficient in the Spanish language. In addition, all necessary visas (if required) should be obtained by the participant before travelling to Spain.
 8. Interested applicants are requested to register their nomination online through Eventus—the OPCW event management system—**no later than 19 February 2023**. The registration link is accessible via the OPCW website at: <https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>. Kindly note that fields marked with an asterisk (*) in the online registration system are mandatory and must be answered in order for the candidate's application to be considered for this event.
 9. Only selected participants with an OPCW acceptance letter will be accepted to participate in this course. Candidates who have been selected to participate will be contacted no later than two weeks after the submission deadline. Member States are requested to inform the International Cooperation and Assistance Division (ICA) of any administrative or other problems that may arise with the attendance of any selected participant.
 10. Additional information may be obtained from Mr Eduardo Herrera (Tel: +31 70 416 3466; Email: eduardo.herrera@opcw.org) and Ms Sonja Pecak (Tel.: +31 70 416 3498; Email: sonja.pecak@opcw.org) in the Assistance and Protection Branch of the ICA.