



S/2133/2023
9 February 2023
ENGLISH and SPANISH only

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE COURSE INVOLVING TOXIC CHEMICALS IN UNCONVENTIONAL ENVIRONMENTS FOR STATES PARTIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN MURCIA, SPAIN 6 – 10 NOVEMBER 2023

1. On behalf of the Government of Spain and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General wishes to invite States Parties from the Latin America and the Caribbean Region (GRULAC) to nominate representatives to participate in an emergency response course on toxic chemicals in unconventional environments, which is scheduled to take place from 6 to 10 November 2023 in Murcia, Spain.
2. The course will be jointly organised with and supported by the Government of Spain, the Murcia City Council, and the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”). Instructors from the Murcia Fire Brigade will provide training for up to 20 participants on the basics of assistance and protection under Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), covering the response to chemical warfare agents and incidents involving toxic industrial chemicals.
3. This course will offer theoretical lessons and hands-on sessions on chemical emergency response, including personal protective equipment (PPE), decontamination, detection, etc., jointly with lessons learned and best practices to face incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals. The course is also aimed at facilitating the exchange of information and fostering networking among the participants, with a view to enhancing the implementation of Article X of the Convention in the GRULAC region.
4. Given the objectives of the course, candidates must have previously attended at least the assistance and protection training cycle, and their certificates of attendance must be attached to the application. Candidates must also have a solid background in chemical emergency response involving chemical warfare agents and/or toxic industrial chemicals. 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 individual protective gear during the practical sessions of the course.
5. Participants should undertake the necessary steps to ensure their participation in the course by obtaining the necessary clearances from the relevant authorities, based on the invitation letter issued by the Secretariat.
6. Endorsement by the National Authority is a prerequisite for a candidate being considered in the selection process.



7. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor a maximum of 20 participants. Applicants should specify whether such sponsorship is a condition of their participation. 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.
8. When selecting participants, the Secretariat will generally select only one participant from any given State Party. However, States Parties are encouraged to make several nominations that could eventually be considered in the selection process.
9. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. Sponsored participants are encouraged to use the tickets provided by the Secretariat. Participants are expected to arrive to Murcia **no earlier than Sunday, 5 November 2023**, and to **depart no later than Saturday, 11 November 2023**. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the course or that result from unauthorised changes to travel arrangements. Once the Secretariat has purchased their tickets, sponsored participants will be responsible for making sure they participate in the course. In case of any unforeseen circumstances, participants should immediately contact the substantive officer responsible for the course.
10. The course will be presented in Spanish and no interpretation services will be available. Participants are therefore required to have a good working knowledge of Spanish, both written and oral.
11. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Spain. Further details regarding logistics and the final programme will be issued to participants at a later stage.
12. Interested applicants are invited to register their nomination online through Eventus—the OPCW event management system—**no later than 31 March 2023**. The Eventus registration link is accessible via the OPCW website (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>). Please note that all questions marked with an asterisk (*) must be answered in order for the nomination to be received and for the candidate to be considered for this event.
13. Only selected participants with an OPCW acceptance letter will be accepted to attend this course. Those who have been selected to participate in the course will be contacted no later than two weeks after the submission deadline. States Parties 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.
14. Additional information may be obtained from Mr Miguel Albaladejo Pomares (Tel.: +31 70 416 3451; Email: miguel.albaladejopomares@opcw.org) and Ms Sonja Pecak (Tel.: +31 70 416 3498; Email: sonja.pecak@opcw.org) in the Assistance and Protection Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division.
15. A provisional programme for the course is included as the Annex to this Note; further details will be issued at a later date. Questions may be addressed to the Assistance and Protection Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division.

Annex: Provisional Programme

Annex

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE COURSE
INVOLVING TOXIC CHEMICALS IN UNCONVENTIONAL ENVIRONMENTS
FOR STATES PARTIES IN THE LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION
MURCIA, SPAIN
6 – 10 NOVEMBER 2023**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

| Time | Activity | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Sunday</i> | | |
| | Arrival of participants | |
| <i>Monday, Day 1</i> | | |
| 08:00 – 08:30 | Transfer to training centre (the Murcia City Council Fire School) | |
| 08:30 – 09:00 | Opening ceremony | |
| 09:00 – 09:15 | Group photo | |
| 09:30 – 09:50 | <i>Break/Coffee</i> | |
| 09:50 – 10:00 | Assistance and protection objectives | |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Lecture: Implementation of the Convention in Spain | |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Lecture: The Murcia Fire Brigade | |
| 11:00 – 11:50 | Lecture: Chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals | |
| 11:50 – 12:40 | Lecture: Personal protection against chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals, lessons learned, and best practices | |
| 12:40 – 14:00 | <i>Lunch</i> | |
| 14:00 – 14:50 | Lecture: Decontamination, lessons learned, and best practices | |
| 14:50 – 15:40 | Lecture: Hazardous substance identification methods | |
| 15:40 – 16:00 | <i>Break/Coffee</i> | |
| 16:00 – 16:50 | Lecture: Management of chemical emergencies, lessons learned, and best practices | |
| 16:50 – 17:00 | Summary of the day | |
| 17:00 | Return to hotel | |
| <i>Tuesday, Day 2</i> | | |
| 08:00 – 08:30 | Transfer to training centre | |
| 08:30 – 10:30 | Lecture: Physicochemical properties of hazardous substances | |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | <i>Break/Coffee</i> | |
| 10:45 – 11:45 | Classroom exercise on the properties of hazardous substances | |
| 11:45 – 13:45 | Lab practices | |
| 13:45 – 15:00 | <i>Lunch</i> | |
| 15:00 – 16:15 | Team A Donning, sealing, and doffing Type 3/Level B or C suits Skill and Dexterity: Practice I | Team B Donning, sealing, and doffing Type 1/Level A suits Skill and Dexterity: Practice II |
| 16:15 – 16:30 | <i>Break/Coffee</i> | |
| 16:30 – 17:15 | Team B Donning, sealing and doffing Type 3/Level B or C suits Skill and Dexterity: Practice I | Team A Donning, sealing and doffing Type 1/Level A suits Skill and Dexterity: Practice II |
| 17:15 – 17:30 | Summary of the day | |
| 17:30 | Return to hotel | |

| Time | Activity | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Wednesday, Day 3 | | |
| 08:00 – 08:30 | Transfer to training centre | |
| 08:30 – 10:30 | Virtual reality workshop and chemical emergency management tools | |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | <i>Break/Coffee</i> | |
| 10:45 – 11:30 | Lecture: Chemical detection devices | |
| 11:30 – 12:15 | Lecture: Sampling and collection | |
| 12:15 – 13:00 | Explanation of practices and group distribution | |
| 13:00 – 13:30 | Recognition of equipment and materials | |
| 13:30 – 15:00 | <i>Lunch</i> | |
| 15:00 – 16:15 | Team A Practice Scenario 1 | Team B Practice Scenario 2 |
| 16:15 – 17:30 | Team B Practice Scenario 1 | Team A Practice Scenario 2 |
| 17:30 – 17:45 | Summary of the day | |
| 17:45 | Return to hotel | |
| Thursday, Day 4 | | |
| 08:00 – 08:30 | Transfer to training centre | |
| 08:30 – 09:15 | Lecture: Protocol of the Spanish National Police (Circular 50) CBRN ¹ agents | |
| 09:15 – 10:45 | Team A Practice Scenario 3 | Team B Practice Scenario 4 |
| 10:45 – 11:00 | <i>Break/Coffee</i> | |
| 11:00 – 12:30 | Team B Practice Scenario 3 | Team A Practice Scenario 4 |
| 12:30 – 13:00 | Collection of materials and equipment | |
| 13:00 – 13:30 | Exercise conclusions | |
| 13:30 – 15:00 | <i>Lunch</i> | |
| 15:00 – 17:15 | Practice Scenario 5 | |
| 17:15 – 17:30 | Summary of the day | |
| 17:30 | Return to hotel | |
| Friday, Day 5 | | |
| 08:00 – 08:30 | Transfer to training centre | |
| 08:30 – 09:30 | Separation into groups, distribution of roles, and review of exercise approach | |
| 09:30 – 09:45 | <i>Break/Coffee</i> | |
| 09:45 – 10:15 | Transfer to a chemical industrial complex | |
| 10:15 – 12:30 | Practice of joint intervention with chemical agents at a chemical industrial complex | |
| 12:30 – 13:00 | Collection of materials and equipment | |
| 13:00 – 13:30 | Transfer to training centre | |
| 13:30 – 14:00 | Closing ceremony and awarding of diplomas | |
| 14:00 – 15:30 | <i>Lunch</i> | |
| 15:30 – 16:00 | Return to hotel | |

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¹ CBRN: chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear.