



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

International Cooperation and Assistance Division

S/531/2005

18 November 2005

ARABIC, ENGLISH AND FRENCH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SECOND
REGIONAL ASSISTANCE-AND-PROTECTION COURSE
FOR AFRICAN STATES PARTIES
TSHWANE, SOUTH AFRICA
8 – 12 MAY 2006**

1. On behalf of the Government of South Africa and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General wishes to invite States Parties in Africa to nominate representatives to participate in the second regional assistance-and protection course for African States Parties, which will take place from 8 to 12 May 2006 in Tshwane, South Africa.
2. The course will be jointly organised by the Government of South Africa and the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”), and will provide training for up to 30 participants from the region on how to plan for and build a response team for civilian protection, civilian defence, and rescue operations in contaminated areas, as well as for measures against incidents involving chemical-warfare agents and toxic chemicals. The course will also give an overview of the kinds of assistance the OPCW, the host country, and other Member States in Africa can provide.
3. The course will offer a basic introduction to the use of individual and collective protective equipment, to monitoring, detection, and decontamination, and to sampling techniques. It will also facilitate the exchange of information and experiences regarding the implementation of Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention and provide a forum for Member States to discuss how they can cooperate in the future and what further offers they might make to the OPCW under Article X. The course will conclude with a practical emergency-response exercise.
4. Given the purpose of the course and its technical nature, candidates will be carefully selected. They should have a background in the chemistry associated with assistance and protection against chemical-warfare agents and toxic chemicals. Preference will be given to officers from emergency-response units involved in civilian protection. In addition, participants should be physically fit and be able to wear individual protective gear for several hours during practical sessions of the course. Some practical experience with protective equipment is desirable.



5. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor a limited number of participants from Member States. For sponsored participants, it will cover the costs of accommodation, breakfast, and dinner. The National Authority of South Africa will also provide all participants with course materials, local transport, and lunch at no cost to either the participants or the OPCW. Further details regarding accommodation, the course venue, and transport will be issued to all confirmed participants at a later date.
6. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. Sponsored participants will be allowed to purchase tickets locally only if this leads to further savings for the Secretariat and if the Secretariat authorises it. In order for the Secretariat to keep costs to a minimum, sponsored participants are expected to arrive no earlier than Sunday, 7 May 2006, and to depart no later than Saturday, 13 May 2006. 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 changes it has not authorised to travel arrangements. Sponsored participants shall 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.
7. All activities during the course will be conducted in English, and no interpretation services of any kind will be provided. Participants are therefore expected to have a good command of the English language, both written and oral.
8. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to South Africa.
9. Interested applicants are invited to complete the nomination form that is included as Annex 2 to this Note, making sure in particular to provide all contact details. Completed forms should be sent, along with a brief curriculum vitae, to the Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands. Nominations may also be submitted by fax to +31 (0)70 416 3209, or by e-mail to EmergAssistBr@opcw.org. All materials must be received by the Secretariat **no later than 1 March 2006**. Please be advised that participants must present an OPCW acceptance letter in order to register for the course.
10. Additional information may be obtained from the Assistance and Protection Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, at the contact address given above.

Annexes (English only):

Annex 1: Provisional Programme

Annex 2: Nomination Form

Annex 1

**SECOND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION COURSE
FOR AFRICAN STATES PARTIES
TSHWANE, SOUTH AFRICA
8 – 12 MAY 2006**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

| <i>Monday, 8 May 2006</i> | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 8:00 – 08:40 | Opening |
| 8:45 – 09:30 | Introduction to the course |
| 9:30 – 10:10 | Introduction to the OPCW |
| 10:10 – 10:30 | <i>Tea</i> |
| 10:30 – 11:10 | Lecture: the Chemical Weapons Convention |
| 11:15 – 11:50 | Lecture: chemical-warfare agents |
| 11:55 – 12:35 | Lecture: toxic industrial chemicals |
| 12:35 – 13:30 | <i>Lunch</i> |
| 13:30 – 14:10 | Lecture: assessing threats and recognising attacks |
| 14:15 – 14:55 | Lecture: individual protection |
| 15:00 – 15:40 | |
| 15:40 – 16:00 | <i>Tea</i> |
| 16:00 – 16:40 | Practical: individual protection |
| 16:45 – 17:30 | |
| <i>Tuesday, 9 May 2006</i> | |
| 8:00 – 08:40 | Practical: individual protection |
| 8:45 – 09:30 | |
| 9:30 – 10:10 | Lecture: detection |
| 10:10 – 10:30 | <i>Tea</i> |
| 10:30 – 11:10 | Lecture: detection and sampling |
| 11:15 – 11:50 | Practical: detection |
| 11:55 – 12:35 | |
| 12:35 – 13:30 | <i>Lunch</i> |
| 13:30 – 14:10 | Lecture: decontamination |
| 14:15 – 14:55 | |
| 15:00 – 15:40 | Practical: decontamination |
| 15:40 – 16:00 | <i>Tea</i> |
| 16:00 – 16:40 | Practical: decontamination (continued) |
| 16:45 – 17:30 | |
| <i>Wednesday, 10 May 2006</i> | |
| 8:00 – 08:40 | Practical: decontamination (continued) |
| 8:45 – 09:30 | |
| 9:30 – 10:10 | |
| 10:10 – 10:30 | <i>Tea</i> |
| 10:30 – 11:10 | Lecture: incident scenarios and possible consequences |
| 11:15 – 11:50 | Lecture: incident layout |
| 11:55 – 12:35 | Lecture: command and control |

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| <i>Wednesday (continued)</i> | |
| <i>12:35 – 13:30</i> | <i>Lunch</i> |
| <i>13:30 – 14:10</i> | Tabletop exercise: incident management |
| <i>14:15 – 14:55</i> | |
| <i>15:00 – 17:30</i> | Excursion |
| <i>Thursday, 11 May 2006</i> | |
| <i>8:00 – 08:40</i> | Practical: incident management |
| <i>8:45 – 09:30</i> | |
| <i>9:30 – 10:10</i> | |
| <i>10:10 – 10:30</i> | <i>Tea</i> |
| <i>10:30 – 11:10</i> | Practical (continued) |
| <i>11:15 – 11:50</i> | |
| <i>11:55 – 12:35</i> | |
| <i>12:35 – 13:30</i> | <i>Lunch</i> |
| <i>13:30 – 14:10</i> | Practical (continued) |
| <i>14:15 – 14:55</i> | |
| <i>15:00 – 15:40</i> | |
| <i>15:40 – 16:00</i> | <i>Tea</i> |
| <i>16:00 – 16:40</i> | Practical (continued) |
| <i>16:45 – 17:30</i> | |
| <i>Friday, 12 May 2006</i> | |
| <i>8:00 – 08:40</i> | Practical: incident management (continued) |
| <i>8:45 – 09:30</i> | |
| <i>9:30 – 10:10</i> | |
| <i>10:10 – 10:30</i> | <i>Tea</i> |
| <i>10:30 – 11:10</i> | Emergency-response exercise |
| <i>11:15 – 11:50</i> | |
| <i>11:55 – 12:35</i> | |
| <i>12:35 – 13:30</i> | <i>Lunch</i> |
| <i>13:30 – 15:40</i> | Visit to Protechnik Laboratories |
| <i>15:40 – 16:00</i> | <i>Tea</i> |
| <i>16:00 – 16:40</i> | Exercise feedback |
| <i>16:45 – 17:30</i> | Closure |

Annex 2

**SECOND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION COURSE
FOR AFRICAN STATES PARTIES
TSHWANE, SOUTH AFRICA
8 – 12 MAY 2006**

NOMINATION FORM

Please submit the completed form, **along with a brief curriculum vitae, by 1 March 2006** to:

The Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW

Attn: Assistance and Protection Branch

Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands

Fax: + 31 (0)70 416 3209; e-mail: EmergAssistBr@opcw.org.

Please type or use BLOCK LETTERS.

| | | |
|-----|--|---|
| 1. | Family name of nominee | |
| 2. | First name(s) | |
| 3. | Date of birth | Day Month Year |
| 4. | Citizenship | |
| 5. | Gender* | Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. | Passport number | |
| 7. | Date of issue | Day Month Year |
| 8. | Expiry date | Day Month Year |
| 9. | Place of issue | |
| 10. | Areas of expertise | |
| | | |
| | | |
| 11. | Employer | |
| | | |
| 12. | Position | |
| 13. | Contact address (Please do not give a post-office box number) | Street |
| | | Number Post code |
| | | City |
| | | Country |
| 14. | E-mail address | |
| 15. | Telephone numbers, including country and city codes | Home |
| | | Work |
| | | Mobile |
| 16. | Fax numbers, including country and city codes | Home |
| | | Work |

* For this and all like items, please tick the appropriate box.

| | | |
|-----|---|--|
| 17. | Has the nominee previously taken part in a course of this kind? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If so, when and where? |
| 18. | Is sponsorship a condition of participation? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |