



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

International Cooperation and Assistance Division

S/664/2007

3 December 2007

ARABIC, ENGLISH, and FRENCH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
FOR THE FOURTH REGIONAL ASSISTANCE-AND-PROTECTION COURSE
FOR AFRICAN STATES PARTIES
TSHWANE, SOUTH AFRICA
19 – 23 MAY 2008**

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 fourth regional assistance-and-protection course for African States Parties, which will take place from 19 to 23 May 2008 in Tshwane, South Africa.
2. The course will be jointly organised by the Government of South Africa and the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”). Providing training for up to 25 participants from the region, the course will cover the following topics: planning and building a support team for civilian protection and defence; rescue and decontamination operations in contaminated areas; and appropriate responses and countermeasures in the event of incidents involving chemical-warfare agents or toxic chemicals. The course will also provide an overview of the kinds of assistance the OPCW, the host country, and other States Parties in Africa can provide, and will help participating States Parties to establish a basic capability in protection from chemical weapons, which will directly benefit their civilian populations.
3. The course will offer an 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 States Parties to discuss how they can cooperate in the future and what further offers they might make to the OPCW under that Article. 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 according to the following criteria:
 - (a) All activities during the course will be conducted in English, and no interpretation services of any kind will be available. All participants are therefore expected to have a good oral and written command of English.



- (b) Preference will be given to first responders from emergency-response units, such as fire-fighters, ambulance personnel, and police officers.
 - (c) Participants must be physically fit and capable of wearing individual protective gear for several hours at a time in hot weather. Some practical experience with protective equipment is desirable.
5. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor a limited number of participants from States Parties. 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, 18 May 2008**, and to **depart no later than Saturday, 24 May 2008**. 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 in travel arrangements that it has not authorised. 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. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to South Africa.
 8. Interested applicants are invited to complete the nomination form that is included as Annex 2 to this Note, making sure to provide all contact details and to indicate their dietary preferences, especially if they require halal or vegetarian meals. 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 February 2008**. Please be advised that participants must present an OPCW acceptance letter in order to register for the course.
 9. Additional information may be obtained from the Assistance and Protection Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, at the contact address given above.

Annexes:

Annex 1: Provisional Programme

Annex 2: Nomination Form (English only)

Annex 1

**FOURTH REGIONAL ASSISTANCE-AND-PROTECTION COURSE
FOR AFRICAN STATES PARTIES
TSHWANE, SOUTH AFRICA
19 – 23 MAY 2008**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
<i>Monday, 19 May 2008</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 – 15:40	Lecture: individual protection
15:40 – 16:00	<i>Tea</i>
16:00 – 17:30	Practical: individual protection
<i>Tuesday, 20 May 2008</i>	
8:00 – 09:30	Practical: individual protection
9:30 – 10:10	Lecture: detection
10:10 – 10:30	<i>Tea</i>
10:30 – 11:10	Lecture: detection and sampling
11:15 – 12:35	Practical: detection
12:35 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:55	Lecture: decontamination
15:00 – 15:40	Practical: decontamination
15:40 – 16:00	<i>Tea</i>
16:00 – 17:30	Practical: decontamination (continued)

<i>Wednesday, 21 May 2008</i>	
8:00 – 10:10	Practical: decontamination (continued)
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
12:35 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:55	Tabletop exercise: incident management
15:00 – 17:30	Excursion
<i>Thursday, 22 May 2008</i>	
8:00 – 10:10	Practical: incident management
10:10 – 10:30	<i>Tea</i>
10:30 – 12:35	Practical: incident management (continued)
12:35 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 15:40	Practical: incident management (continued)
15:40 – 16:00	<i>Tea</i>
16:00 – 17:30	Practical: incident management (continued)
<i>Friday, 23 May 2008</i>	
8:00 – 10:10	Practical: incident management (continued)
10:10 – 10:30	<i>Tea</i>
10:30 – 12:35	Emergency-response exercise
12:35 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 15:40	Visit to Protechnik Laboratories
15:40 – 16:00	<i>Tea</i>
16:00 – 16:40	Exercise feedback
16:45 – 17:30	Closure

Annex 2

**FOURTH REGIONAL ASSISTANCE-AND-PROTECTION COURSE
FOR AFRICAN STATES PARTIES
TSHWANE, SOUTH AFRICA
19 – 23 MAY 2008**

NOMINATION FORM

Please submit the completed form, **along with a brief curriculum vitae, by 1 February 2008** 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
17.	City of departure	

* Family name and the first name should be as it appears in the Passport.

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

18.	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?
19.	Is sponsorship a condition of participation?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
20.	Dietary preferences	None <input type="checkbox"/> Halal <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/> : ----- -----