



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

International Cooperation and Assistance Division

S/1115/2013

12 July 2013

ENGLISH and SPANISH only

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR A REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION UNDER ARTICLE X OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION AND ISSUES OF REGIONAL COORDINATION
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
15 – 17 OCTOBER 2013**

1. On behalf of the Government of Argentina and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General wishes to invite States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean to submit nominations for a regional workshop on Article X and issues of regional coordination in the area of assistance and emergency response, to be held from 15 to 17 October 2013 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The workshop will be conducted under the European Union Council Decision 2012 on support for OPCW activities.
2. This workshop is designed as a forum for managers, planners, and policy makers who are involved in the protection of their civilian populations against chemical weapons and incidents involving toxic industrial chemicals, or who would be responsible for the provision of emergency assistance under Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”). It will provide information on the following:
 - (a) The Convention and the status of implementation of its Article X;
 - (b) Preparedness of the OPCW to respond in case of a request for assistance;
 - (c) Regional coordination issues related to delivery of assistance and emergency response; and
 - (d) Regional approaches to capacity-building in assistance and protection.
3. The workshop will provide an overview of assistance and protection activities in the region and is intended to foster comprehensive discussion and analysis of assistance-and-protection-related issues in accordance with Article X of the Convention, with special focus on matters related to regional coordination and delivery of emergency assistance in cases of chemical attack and incidents involving toxic industrial chemicals. Working sessions will be conducted in order to identify strengths and weaknesses, as well as to develop recommendations aimed at reinforcing the emergency-response capabilities of the region.
4. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor the attendance at the workshop of a limited number of participants from States Parties of the Latin America and Caribbean



regional group. 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. Further details regarding accommodation, the workshop venue, and transport will be issued to all confirmed participants at a later date. The workshop will be held in the Spanish language; no interpretation services will be available.

5. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. Participants are expected to arrive **no earlier than Monday, 14 October 2013** and to depart **no later than Saturday, 19 October 2013**. 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 workshop, or that result from unauthorised changes to travel arrangements. Sponsored participants shall bear all costs resulting from changes they make, including cancellations, once the Secretariat has purchased their tickets. Selected participants who are not sponsored are requested to make their own travel arrangements.
6. Each State Party represented at the workshop will be required to give a presentation lasting from 7 to 10 minutes on its national emergency-response system, which will provide information on the general, legal, and coordination requirements, as well as other elements that could enhance the individual and collective response capability in the region.
7. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas, including transit visas, before travelling to Argentina.
8. 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 the contact details it requests. Completed nomination 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. They 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 31 August 2013**. Please be advised that participants must present an OPCW acceptance letter in order to register for the workshop.
9. Those individuals who have been selected to participate will be contacted no later than two weeks after the submission deadline. States Parties are requested to inform the International Cooperation and Assistance Division (ICA) of any administrative or other problems that may arise in connection with the attendance of any participant.
10. The provisional programme for the workshop is included as Annex 1 to this Note; further details will be issued at a later date. Any questions may be addressed to the Assistance and Protection Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division. The contact persons are Mr Justo Quintero Méndez, who can be reached at +31 (0)70 416 3775 and Ms María Elena Bruno-Pousadela, who can be reached at +31 (0)70 416 3217.

Annexes: Annex 1: Provisional Programme
 Annex 2: Nomination Form

Annex 1

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION UNDER
ARTICLE X OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
AND ISSUES OF REGIONAL COORDINATION
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
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PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
Monday, 14 October 2013	
	Arrival of participants – Check-in at the hotel
Tuesday, 15 October 2013	
08:45 – 09:00	Administrative and practical information on the course
09:00 – 09:30	Opening ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OPCW • ANCAQ¹
09:30 – 09:40	Workshop objectives (OPCW-ANCAQ)
09:40 – 10:00	Official photograph
10:00 – 10:20	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
Module 1: The Chemical Weapons Convention and its Article X: overview and status	
10:20 – 11:15	Presentation: The Convention and the implementation of its Article X (OPCW)
11:15 – 11:30	Questions and answers
11:30 – 12:15	Presentation: National protection programmes against chemical weapons (OPCW)
12:15 – 12:30	Questions and answers
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
Module 2: OPCW preparedness to respond / regional coordination	
14:00 – 14:45	Presentation: OPCW preparedness to respond in case of a request for assistance. Offers of assistance under paragraph 7 of Article X: contributions to the voluntary fund, bilateral agreements, and offers of assistance (OPCW)
14:45 – 15:15	Presentation: Regional coordination issues in assistance and protection within the GRULAC ² region (ANCAQ)
15:15 – 15:30	Presentation: Cooperation with international organisations and non-governmental organisations (OPCW)
15:30 – 15:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:45 – 17:00	Group discussion: Consideration of the legal frameworks and mechanisms already in place in the region, or those that should be developed in order to assure the proper and timely provision of assistance between Member States in the region
17:00 – 17:30	Reports from groups
19:30	<i>Official dinner</i>

¹ ANCAQ = Argentina's National Authority for the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention

² GRULAC = Group of Latin American and Caribbean States

Time	Activity
<i>Wednesday, 16 October 2013</i>	
Module 3: Needs and capacities of States Parties	
09:00 – 10:30	National presentations of participating States Parties on their needs and capacities in terms of regional coordination.
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:45 – 11:45	National presentations (continued)
11:45 – 12:45	Presentation: OPCW training programmes for the region and Chemical Weapons Convention Assistance and Protection Centres (CWCAPC) (OPCW)
12:45 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	Group discussion: States Parties' needs and capacities. Ways for fulfilment of States Parties' needs and use of their capacities within the OPCW's concept of assistance
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:00 – 17:45	Group discussion report
<i>Thursday, 17 October 2013</i>	
09:00 – 09:45	The way forward (OPCW)
09:45 – 10:30	Panel discussion on the way forward
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:00 – 12:00	Summary of conclusions and recommendations
12:00 – 12:30	Closing remarks
Afternoon	Departure of participants

Annex 2

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION UNDER
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15 – 17 OCTOBER 2013**

NOMINATION FORM

Please submit the completed form by **31 August 2013** to:
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.	Gender**	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Date of birth		
5.	Contact address (Please do not give a post-office box number)	Street	Number
		Post code	City
		Country	
6.	E-mail address		
7.	Telephone numbers, including country and city codes	Home	
		Work	
		Mobile	
8.	Fax numbers, including country and city codes	Home	
		Work	
9.	Passport number		
10.	Date of issue		
11.	Place of issue		
12.	Expiry date		
13.	Area(s) of expertise		
14.	Nominated by:		
15.	Is sponsorship a condition of participation?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

* Please give the first and family names exactly as they appear in the nominee's passport.

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

16.	Brief recommendation from the National Authority	
17.	Signature, with seal or stamp, of an authorised representative of the National Authority	
		_____ Date: _____