



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

International Cooperation and Assistance Division

S/1155/2014

4 February 2014

ENGLISH and SPANISH only

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
FOR THE THIRD REGIONAL ADVANCED ASSISTANCE-AND-PROTECTION
COURSE ON CHEMICAL-EMERGENCY RESPONSE
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
19-24 MAY 2014**

1. On behalf of the Government of Argentina and the OPCW, the Director-General wishes to invite Member States in the Latin American and Caribbean region to nominate participants for the third advanced regional assistance-and-protection course on Chemical-Emergency Response for States Parties in the Latin America and Caribbean region, which will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 19 to 24 May 2014.
2. The course is related to assistance and protection against chemical weapons under Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), and will be jointly organised by the Government of Argentina and the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”).
3. The course objectives are to:
 - (a) provide advanced training on the proper use of individual and collective protective equipment, and the monitoring, detection, sampling, and decontamination techniques used in different scenarios, by means of field exercises with chemical-warfare agents;
 - (b) provide training on appropriate responses and countermeasures in complex emergency operations, and on rescue techniques to be used in incidents involving chemical-warfare agents;
 - (c) facilitate the exchange of information and experience regarding the implementation of Article X of the Convention; and
 - (d) provide a forum to discuss future cooperation among participating Member States, as well as what further offers Member States might make to the OPCW under Article X.

The provisional programme for the course is set out in Annex 1 to this Note.



4. Given the purpose of the course, and its technical nature, applicants will be carefully selected. They should have a solid background in the chemistry associated with protection against chemical weapons. They should also belong to national emergency-response agencies involved in dealing with chemical-related incidents. It is of particular importance for the success of the training that participants be physically fit and able to wear protective gear for several hours during the practical sessions of the course.
5. This advanced course is part of a pilot project that is being implemented for the Latin America and Caribbean region, which starts with a basic course in Santiago de Chile in March. Participants on that basic course are strongly encouraged to apply for this course and will be given preference.
6. Other applicants wishing to be accepted on this course should have taken one or more OPCW basic courses on assistance and protection against chemical weapons and/or participated in OPCW protective capacity-building training provided by the Secretariat.
7. The course will be conducted in Spanish, and no interpretation services will be provided. Participants are therefore expected to have a good command of both spoken and written Spanish.
8. Only applicants supported by their National Authority and/or their Permanent Representation to the OPCW will be considered.
9. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Argentina.
10. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor the participation of a limited number of participants. Applicants 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 also provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses.
11. Course materials, equipment, and local transport during the course will be provided by the Government of Argentina, at no cost to participants or to the OPCW.
12. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. 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 advance.
13. To keep costs to a minimum, sponsored participants are expected to arrive no earlier than **Sunday, 18 May 2014**, and to depart no later than **Sunday 25 May 2014**. The Secretariat's approval is required for any changes to the arrival or departure dates of sponsored participants. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the course, or that result from unauthorised changes to travel arrangements. Sponsored participants shall bear all the costs resulting from any changes they make, including cancellations, once the Secretariat has purchased their tickets. Participants who will attend the course on a non-sponsored basis are requested to make their own travel arrangements and to inform the Secretariat accordingly.

14. Further details regarding accommodation, the course venue, and transport will be communicated to participants in due course.
15. Interested applicants are invited to register their nomination form, together with a brief curriculum vitae, via the OPCW website at <http://www.opcw.org/events>. Please, note that all the required questions (indicated by *) need to be answered, otherwise the application cannot be considered.
16. Interested applicants who, for technical reasons, are unable to submit an application online at <http://www.opcw.org/events>, are requested to send their nomination form (Annex 2 to this Note) and their curriculum vitae by email to EmergAssistBr@opcw.org. In this case, the subject line of the email should contain the words "Argentina advanced course 2014". Exceptionally, if the other options are not possible, applications may also be sent by fax to +31 (0)70 416 3209. All information must be received by the Secretariat **no later than 21 March 2014**.
17. Please be advised that participants must present an OPCW acceptance letter in order to be able to register for the course.
18. Additional information may be obtained from the Assistance and Protection Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division:

Telephone: Mr Justo A. Quintero Méndez +31 (0)70 416 3775
Ms Maria Elena Bruno Pousadela +31 (0)70 416 3217

Email: Justo.QuinteroMendez@opcw.org

Annexes:

Annex 1: Provisional Programme
Annex 2: Nomination Form

Annex 1

**THIRD ADVANCED REGIONAL ASSISTANCE-AND-PROTECTION
COURSE ON CHEMICAL-EMERGENCY RESPONSE
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
19 - 24 MAY 2014**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
Sunday, 18 May 2014	
	Arrival of participants
Monday, 19 May 2014	
08:30 – 09:15	Administrative and practical information on the course
09:30 – 10:30	Opening ceremony
10:30 – 10:45	Official photograph
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:00 – 11:45	Lecture: the Chemical Weapons Convention and Article X
11:45 – 12:15	Lecture: the National Authority of Argentina
12:15 – 12:45	Lecture: the Argentine emergency-response system
12:45 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Revision: chemical emergencies
15:00 – 16:00	Revision: characteristics of chemical-warfare agents (chemical weapons)
16:00 – 16:15	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:15 – 17:15	Revision: personal protection equipment
17:15 – 18:15	Revision: detection and sampling
18:30	Reception
Tuesday, 20 May 2014	
07:30 – 08:30	Transfer to Federal Police Cadet Academy
08:30 – 08:45	Welcome to the Federal Police Cadet Academy
08:45 – 09:45	Revision: division of scenarios into zones and control techniques
09:45 – 10:45	Revision: decontamination
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:00 – 11:45	Revision: rescue and transfer of victims
11:45 – 12:45	Revision: planning and response
12:45 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 14:30	Forming of groups and handover of equipment
14:30 – 15:30	Field training: personal protection equipment
	Exercise with protection level A (Group A): sealing drainage pipes, practical training
	Exercise with protection level B (Group B): transfer of liquids using pumps, practical training
15:30 – 16:30	<i>Hygiene and coffee/tea break</i>
16:30 – 17:30	Field training exercise: personal protection equipment
	Exercise with protection level A (Group B): sealing drainage pipes, practical training
	Exercise with protection level B (Group A): transfer of liquids using pumps, practical training

Time	Activity
17:30 – 18:15	<i>Hygiene break and return of equipment</i>
18:15	Return to hotel
Wednesday, 21 May 2014	
11:00 – 12:00	Transfer to Federal Police Cadet Academy
12:00 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Field training: rescue and decontamination (Group A) detection and sampling (Group B)
14:30 – 15:30	Field training: rescue and decontamination (Group B) detection and sampling (Group A):
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Hygiene and coffee/tea break</i>
16:00 – 16:30	Explanation of exercise
16:30 – 17:30	Exercise: Part one: scenario – public building: “bank” (Group A) Exercise: Part one: scenario – public transport: “bus” (Group B)
17:30 – 18:00	<i>Hygiene and coffee/tea break</i>
18:00 – 18:30	Explanation of the exercise
18:30 – 19:30	Exercise: Part two: night work. scenario – transport of dangerous goods: “cistern” (all participants)
19:30 – 20:00	<i>Hygiene break and return of equipment</i>
20:00	Return to hotel
Thursday, 22 May 2014	
08:15 – 09:15	Transfer to Federal Police Cadet Academy
09:15 – 09:30	Description of exercise and equipment
09:30 – 10:30	Exercise: Part three: scenario – public building: “bank” (Group B) Exercise: Part three: scenario – public transport: “bus” (Group A)
10:30 – 11:30	<i>Hygiene break and coffee/tea break</i>
11:30 – 12:30	Equipment show at the Federal Fire Fighter Corps
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Information session: Part one: planning of final exercise
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:30 – 16:30	Exercise: Part four: scenario – public transport: “train” (all participants)
16:30 – 17:00	<i>Hygiene break and return of equipment</i>
17:30	Return to hotel
Friday, 23 May 2014	
08:15 – 09:15	Transfer to Federal Police Cadet Academy
09:15 – 10:00	Presentation: leadership in complex emergencies
10:00 – 10:45	Presentation: incident response system and unified command
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:00 – 11:45	Presentation: decision making
11:45 – 12:15	Demonstration: decontamination techniques
12:15 – 13:00	Introduction to the Cadet School training centre
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30 – 15:30	Information session: planning of final exercise.
15:30 – 16:30	Exercise: Part five: scenario: spillage of chemicals in a helicopter and rescue operations (all participants)
16:30 – 17:00	<i>Hygiene break and return of equipment</i>

Time	Activity
17:00 – 17:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i> Group discussion: conclusions
17:30	Return to the hotel
Saturday 24 May 2014	
08:30 – 09:30	Transfer to Federal Police Cadet Academy
09:30 – 10:15	Group presentations - conclusions
10:15- 10:45	Discussion and exchange of experiences about the exercise
10:45 – 11:00	Course evaluation
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:15 – 12:30	Closing ceremony and handover of diplomas
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 17:00	Social event (sightseeing in Buenos Aires)
Sunday, 25 May 2014	
	Departure of participants

Annex 2
THIRD ADVANCED REGIONAL ASSISTANCE-AND-PROTECTION COURSE
ON CHEMICAL-EMERGENCY RESPONSE
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
19 - 24 MAY 2014

NOMINATION FORM

If you are unable to submit your application online via the OPCW website at <http://www.opcw.org/events>, please submit this completed form, together with a brief curriculum vitae, by email to **EmergAssistBr@opcw.org** by **21 March 2014**.

Please type or use BLOCK LETTERS.

	Family name of nominee ¹	
	First name(s)	
	Date of birth	Day Month Year
	Citizenship	
	Gender ²	Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
	Passport number	
	Date of issue	Day Month Year
	Expiry date	Day Month Year
	Place of issue	
	Areas of expertise	
	Employer	
	Position	
	Contact address (Please do not give a post-office box number)	Street
		Number Post code
		City
		Country
	Airport of departure	
	Email address	
	Telephone numbers, including country and city codes	Home
		Work
		Mobile
	Fax numbers, including country and city codes	Home
		Work
	Has the nominee taken part in a course of this kind before?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If so, when and where?
	Is sponsorship a condition of participation?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

¹ Please give the family name and the first name(s) exactly as they appear in the nominee's passport.
² For this and similar items, please tick the appropriate box.

	Does the nominee have any special dietary requirements?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
		If so, please describe:	

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