



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

International Cooperation and Assistance Division

S/1195/2014

3 July 2014

ENGLISH and SPANISH only

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR A REGIONAL COURSE ON MEDICAL ASPECTS OF ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS FOR STATES PARTIES IN THE LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGION
HAVANA, CUBA
20 – 23 OCTOBER 2014**

1. On behalf of the Government of Cuba and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General wishes to invite Member States to nominate participants for a course on medical aspects of assistance and protection against chemical-warfare agents, which will be held in Havana, Cuba, from 20 to 23 October 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 Cuba and the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”).
3. The course has been designed primarily for specialised personnel like physicians, paramedics, emergency services personnel, and first responders confronted with incidents involving toxic chemicals, including chemical-warfare agents. The course will be particularly valuable for stakeholders who are involved in providing medical countermeasures to chemical emergencies and who have a background in the medical aspects of emergency response to incidents involving toxic chemicals and chemical-warfare agents.
4. The course will address matters related to protection during chemical emergencies, the psychological preparation of first responders, and the medical response and rehabilitation of victims of toxic chemicals and chemical weapons, amongst others.
5. The course, which will include theoretical lectures, demonstration sessions and a table-top exercise focused on the mitigation of chemical incidents, will also facilitate the exchange of information and experiences regarding medical assistance and protection practices to victims of this type of incident in the GRULAC¹ region, in line with the provisions of Article X of the Convention. The provisional programme for the course is included as Annex 1 to this Note.

¹ GRULAC = Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.



6. Given the purpose of the course and its medical focus and technical nature, candidates will be carefully selected and should have a solid background in emergency medicine, toxicology, or chemistry associated with protection against chemical weapons and other toxic chemicals. They should belong to national emergency-response agencies and other institutions involved in dealing with chemical-related incidents.
7. Activities during the course will be conducted in Spanish with interpretation into English.
8. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Cuba.
9. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor the participation of a limited number of participants. 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 course venue, and transport will be issued to all confirmed participants at a later date.
10. 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 order for the Secretariat to keep costs to a minimum, sponsored participants are expected to arrive no earlier than **Sunday, 19 October 2014, and to depart no later than Friday, 24 October 2014**. 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 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.
11. 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, including an e-mail address. Completed forms should be sent, along with endorsement information from the National Authority or Permanent Representation and 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. In this case, the subject line of the e-mail should contain the words "Cuba medical training". All materials must be received **no later than 8 August 2014**. Please be advised that participants must present an OPCW acceptance letter in order to be able to register for the course.

12. 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 María Elena Bruno-Pousadela +31 (0)70 416 3217
E-mail: MariaElena.Bruno-Pousadela@opcw.org
Fax: +31 (0)70 416 3209

Annexes:

Annex 1: Provisional Programme
Annex 2: Nomination Form

Annex 1

**REGIONAL COURSE ON MEDICAL ASPECTS OF ASSISTANCE AND
PROTECTION AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS FOR STATES PARTIES IN THE
LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGION**

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20 – 23 OCTOBER 2014**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
Sunday, 19 October 2014	
	Arrival of Participants. Accommodation at the "Hotel Quinta Avenida"
Monday, 20 October 2014	
08.30 – 09:00	Registration of participants
09:00 – 09:30	Opening ceremony
09:30 – 09:45	Official group photograph
09.45 – 10:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
10:00 – 10:45	Lecture: The Chemical Weapons Convention and Article X on Assistance and Protection. Questions and answers (OPCW)
10:45 – 11.30	Lecture: The implementation of Article X in Cuba. Questions and answers (National Centre for Chemical Safety (CNSQ))
11.30 – 12.15	Lecture: Principles of protection against chemical weapons Questions and answers (Ministry of the Armed Forces)
12:15 – 13.00	Lecture: Medical assistance during chemical incidents. Emergency pre-hospital care. Questions and answers (Integrated System for Medical Emergencies (SIUM))
13.00 – 14.30	<i>Lunch</i>
14.30 – 15.15	Lecture: Psychological health care during chemical emergency situations. Questions and answers (Latin American Centre for Disaster Medicine)
15.13 – 15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:30 – 17:00	Demo session: Management of injured persons by first responders in the field. Questions and answers (SIUM)
18:00	Welcome reception hosted by the OPCW
Tuesday, 21 October 2014	
09.00 – 10.00	Presentation: Clinical picture and treatment of nerve agents. Questions and answers (National Centre for Toxicology (CENATOX))
10:00 – 10:45	Presentation: Clinical picture and treatment of blister agents. Questions and answers (CENATOX)
10.45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 – 11:45	Presentation: Clinical picture and treatment of choking agents. Questions and answers (CENATOX)
11:45 – 12:30	Presentation: Toxic chemicals of general effect. Questions and answers (CENATOX)
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 14:45	Presentation: Organisation of health services in hospital care. Mass admission plan of poisoned people. Questions and answers (CENATOX)

14:45 – 15:00	Coffee break
15:00 – 16:30	Demo session: Use of individual protective equipment. Composition and use of first aid kits. Questions and answers (CENATOX)
Wednesday, 22 October 2014	
08.00	Departure to CENATOX
08:45 – 09:00	Introduction to practical exercise. Questions and answers (SIUM)
09:00 – 10:00	Demo session: Treatment of injured persons by first responders in the field. Triage, victim classification, and evacuation procedures, from the decontamination line to the specialised medical posts and other levels of medical care. Questions and answers (Cuban Red Cross, SIUM)
10:00 – 10:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:15 – 12:15	Demo session: Response procedures in case of a massive incident with toxic chemicals. Questions and answers (CENATOX)
12:15	Return to hotel
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30	Departure to a hospital
15:00 – 17:00	Demo session: Organisation of health services in hospital health care. Triage, victim classification, and evacuation procedures, from the decontamination line to the specialised medical posts and other levels of medical care. Questions and answers (SIUM)
17:00	Return to the hotel
Thursday, 23 October 2014	
09:00 – 10:00	Presentation: Comprehensive rehabilitation treatment for patients injured by toxic chemicals. Questions and answers (Ministry of Public Health)
10:00 – 11:00	Break into working groups: Table-top exercise. Scenario: Massive incident with toxic chemicals (SIUM)
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:15 – 12:00	Group work, continued
12:00 – 13:00	Presentation of results and discussion of group work
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30 – 15:15	Course evaluation and handing out of certificates
15:15 – 15:30	Closing ceremony
Friday, 24 October 2014	
	Return of participants

Annex 2

**REGIONAL COURSE ON MEDICAL ASPECTS OF ASSISTANCE AND
PROTECTION AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS FOR STATES PARTIES IN THE
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**HAVANA, CUBA
20 – 23 OCTOBER 2014**

NOMINATION FORM

**Please submit the completed form by 8 August 2014 to:
The 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.

	Family name of nominee ²			
	First name(s)			
	Date of birth	Day	Month	Year
	Citizenship			
	Gender ³	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			
	E-mail address			
	Telephone numbers, including country and city codes	Home		
		Work		
		Mobile		

² Please give the family name and the first name exactly as they appear in the nominee's passport.

³ For this and similar items, please tick the appropriate box.

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