



S/1411/2016

26 August 2016

ENGLISH and SPANISH only

**NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL****CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR A REGIONAL BASIC COURSE  
ON RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS INVOLVING CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS  
AND TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS  
MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY  
8 – 12 MAY 2017**

1. On behalf of the Government of Uruguay and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General wishes to invite Member States from the GRULAC<sup>1</sup> region to nominate representatives to participate in the fifth regional training cycle in assistance and protection, which will start with a basic course on response to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals, to take place from 8 to 12 May 2017 in Montevideo, Uruguay.
2. The course will be jointly organised by the Government of Uruguay and the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”). It will provide training for up to 20 participants in the basics of response to attacks with chemical warfare agents and incidents with toxic industrial chemicals, in line with the provisions of Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”).
3. The course will be the initial step of a three-stage regional training cycle that will take place in 2017. Graduates of this basic course will continue towards the second stage of the cycle, which will consist of an advanced assistance and protection course that will be conducted in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 15 to 19 May 2017. Selected participants for this basic course will automatically receive an invitation letter to join the advanced course in Argentina the following week.
4. This course will offer an introduction to the toxicological aspects of chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals and the types and uses of individual protective equipment. It will also provide information related to reconnaissance, detection, and decontamination techniques as well as elements related to response management during chemical emergencies. The course is also aimed at facilitating the exchange of information and fostering networking among the participants and graduates from such previous courses, with a view to enhancing the implementation of Article X of the Convention in the GRULAC region.
5. Given the objectives of the three-stage training cycle, candidates will be carefully selected. They should be active as first responders and be members of emergency

<sup>1</sup> GRULAC = Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.



response units from institutions involved in civilian defence. A background in the field of chemistry associated with chemical agents and toxic chemicals is desirable. Participants should be physically fit and able to wear individual protective gear during the practical sessions of the course.

6. Participants will be required to continue to the subsequent training stages, to which end they should obtain the necessary administrative clearances to ensure their participation in the whole cycle.
7. Only candidates endorsed by their Member State's National Authority will be considered in the selection process. Although several candidates may apply for the course, the Secretariat will be inclined to select only one participant from a given Member State.
8. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor a maximum of 20 participants. When proposing candidates for the course, Member States should specify whether such sponsorship is a condition of their participation. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the costs of travel, accommodation, transfers to and from the airport, medical insurance, and meals, and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses.
9. Further details regarding accommodation, the course venue, transport, and the final programme will be issued to participants in due course.
10. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Uruguay (and further on to Argentina). To that end, selected participants will receive two acceptance letters, one for the basic course and one for the advanced course, so that they may obtain the necessary visas in a timely fashion, taking into account that the courses are organised back to back.
11. When making travel arrangements for selected participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. Participants are expected to arrive in Montevideo **no earlier than Sunday, 7 May 2017**, travel to Buenos Aires **on Saturday, 13 May 2017**, and depart from Buenos Aires **on Saturday, 20 May 2017**. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the course or that result from unauthorised changes to travel arrangements. Sponsored participants must bear all costs resulting from changes they make, including cancellations, once the Secretariat has purchased their tickets.
12. All GRULAC Member States are encouraged to nominate candidates for this course, which will be conducted in Spanish. Participants will be therefore required to have a good working knowledge of Spanish, both written and oral, since no interpretation services will be provided during the course.
13. Nominated applicants are invited to complete the nomination form that is included as Annex 2 to this Note, giving their full name, passport details, address, fax and telephone numbers, email address, areas of expertise, and present functions.

14. The completed nomination form, together with a brief curriculum vitae for each nominee, should be submitted to the Assistance and Protection Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands. Nominations may also be submitted by email to [EmergAssistBr@opcw.org](mailto:EmergAssistBr@opcw.org) with a reference to the title and location of the course in the subject line of the message. Nominations should be submitted as soon as possible, but **no later than 10 December 2016**, in order to allow sufficient time for the Secretariat and selected participants to make the necessary arrangements.
15. A provisional programme for the basic course 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, International Cooperation and Assistance Division.

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Annexes:

Annex 1: Provisional Programme  
Annex 2 (English only): Nomination Form

## Annex 1

**REGIONAL BASIC COURSE ON RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS INVOLVING  
CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS AND TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS  
MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY  
8 – 12 MAY 2017**

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b><i>Sunday, 7 May 2017</i></b>	
	Arrival of the OPCW team and participants, transfer to accommodation
<b><i>Monday, 8 May 2017</i></b>	
09:00 – 09:15	Logistic and administrative information on the course
09:15 – 10:00	Opening ceremony
10:00 – 10:20	Group photo
<b>Module 1: Convention-related issues and Article X: chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals</b>	
10:20 – 11:15	Presentation: The Chemical Weapons Convention
11:15 – 11:30	Question-and-answer session
11:30 – 11:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:45 – 12:15	Presentation: Article X of the Convention and its implementation
12:15 – 12:30	Question-and-answer session
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Presentation: Chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals: dissemination, effects, symptoms and treatment (I)
14:30 – 14:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
14:45 – 15:30	Presentation: Chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals: dissemination, effects, symptoms and treatment (II)
15:30 – 16:00	Question-and-answer session
16:00 – 16:45	Presentation: Chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals; dissemination, effects, symptoms and treatment (III)
16:45 – 17:00	Question-and-answer session
18:00	Welcome cocktail hosted by the OPCW
<b><i>Tuesday, 9 May 2017</i></b>	
<b>Module 2: Protection and detection</b>	
09:00 – 10:00	Presentation: Principles of respiratory protection
10:00 – 11:00	Presentation: Respiratory and body protection; heat stress
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:15 – 12:30	Presentation: Individual protective equipment; donning and doffing
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	Practical session: Donning and doffing
15:30 – 15:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:45 – 16:30	Presentation: Basic principles of detection and identification of chemical warfare agents

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b>Wednesday, 10 May 2017</b>	
<b>Module 3: Decontamination, sampling and analysis</b>	
09:00 – 10:15	Presentation: Basic principles of decontamination
10:15 – 10:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:30 – 11:15	Presentation: Decontamination of personnel and equipment
11:15 – 12:30	Presentation: Sampling and analysis
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
<b>Module 4: Emergency response</b>	
13:30 – 14:30	Presentation: Prevention and risk assessment
14:30 – 15:30	Presentation: Response to chemical emergencies
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:00 – 16:45	Presentation: Incident command system
16:45 – 17:30	Presentation: Operations in potentially contaminated areas; downwind-hazard prediction: WISER <sup>2</sup> software
<b>Thursday, 11 May 2017</b>	
09:00 – 09:30	Table-top exercise: Introduction: Operations in potentially contaminated areas
09:30 – 10:30	Table-top exercise (cont'd): Operations in potentially contaminated areas
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:00 – 12:30	Table-top exercise (cont'd): Operations in potentially contaminated areas
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 15:00	Table-top exercise (cont'd): Operations in potentially contaminated areas
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:30 – 16:30	Presentation: Recovery and demobilisation
<b>Friday, 12 May 2017</b>	
<b>Module 6: Final session and evaluation</b>	
09:30 – 10:00	Information session on the next stage: advanced training in Argentina
10:00 – 10:15	Question-and-answer session
10:15 – 10:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:30 – 11:30	Discussion on acquired knowledge
11:30 – 12:00	Course evaluation
12:00 – 12:30	Closing ceremony
<b>Saturday, 13 May 2017</b>	
	Transfer of participants to Buenos Aires, Argentina

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WISER = wireless information system for emergency responders.

**Annex 2**

**REGIONAL BASIC COURSE ON RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS INVOLVING  
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**NOMINATION FORM**

Please submit the completed form, along with a brief curriculum vitae, by **10 December 2016**

to: The Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW

Attention: Assistance and Protection Branch

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

Email: EmergAssistBr@opcw.org

or Fax: + 31 (0)70 416 3209

(Please indicate the title and location of the course in the subject line of the email)

**Please type or use BLOCK LETTERS**

Family name of nominee <sup>3</sup>			
First name(s)			
Date of birth	Day	Month	Year
Citizenship			
Gender <sup>4</sup>	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>	
Passport number			
Date of issue	Day	Month	Year
Date of expiry	Day	Month	Year
Place of issue			
Employer			
Position			
Please describe your current functions			
Contact address (Please do not give a post office box number)	Street		
	Number	Postcode	
	City		
	Country		

3

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

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

Airport of departure	
Email address	
Telephone numbers, including country and city codes	Home
	Work
	Mobile
Endorsement by National Authority <b>for the full cycle</b> (three training courses in 2017) (only one candidate per Member State will be selected)	(Name, signature, and stamp of institution)
Is sponsorship a condition of participation?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>