



OPCW
Organisation for the Prohibition
of Chemical Weapons



**CHEMEX
GRULAC**
2025
SANTO DOMINGO,
REPUBLICA DOMINICANA

The mission of the OPCW

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The mission of the OPCW is to achieve a world free of chemical weapons and the threat of their use, a world in which chemistry is used only for peace, progress, and prosperity. With its 193 States Parties and its robust verification regime, the CWC is the most successful disarmament treaty in history. For its extensive efforts in eliminating chemical weapons, the OPCW received the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize.

Since its establishment in 1997, the OPCW has been serving as an important mechanism for international peace and security. All declared chemical weapons stockpiles were destroyed under the Organisation's verification. The United States was the last possessor State and completed the destruction of its declared chemical weapons stockpile on 7 July 2023. On the same date, the OPCW confirmed that all declared chemical weapons stockpiles in all its Member States were verified as irreversibly destroyed.

The mission of the OPCW goes beyond the destruction of all declared chemical weapons stockpiles. With thousands of new chemicals produced every year and accelerated technological progress in areas such as artificial intelligence, the threat of chemical weapons re-emergence becomes increasingly acute. In addition, the ever-changing international security environment is re-shaping the global non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

The Organisation continues to work on preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons and to ensure that toxic chemicals are not used for hostile or prohibited purposes. Many different types of toxic chemicals are legally produced around the world and used in a wide range of peaceful applications. These dual-use chemicals are utilised in many areas of daily life, for example in the production of pesticides, plastics, pigments, herbicides, and pharmaceuticals. OPCW industry inspections ensure that these dual-use chemicals are not diverted, and that chemistry is used exclusively for peaceful purposes.

The OPCW supports its Member States in implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention on a national level. This includes providing support to national legislation and training to strengthen regional capabilities to respond to chemical emergencies.

CHEMEX GRULAC 2026

CHEMEX GRULAC 2026 is a large-scale, multi-component training and exercise programme for first responders and medical professionals from across Latin America and the Caribbean, hosted by the Dominican Republic and organised in cooperation with the OPCW. The event is taking place from 27 April to 7 May 2026 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

The exercise brings together more than 100 participants from 23 countries and is delivered with financial support from the European Union and the Governments of Canada and Spain. Its objective is to strengthen national and regional capacities to respond effectively to chemical emergencies, including incidents involving toxic industrial chemicals and chemical warfare agents.

CHEMEX GRULAC combines theoretical instruction with hands-on training and real-time simulation exercises. It is designed to enhance national capabilities in assistance and protection, a core provision of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and to strengthen coordination among first responders, medical services, and relevant authorities. Participants include first responders, including firefighters, police officers, and civil defence personnel as well as health professionals, including physicians and nurses, working at hospitals or other medical facilities.

The programme culminates in a full-scale exercise simulating a chemical emergency, testing the entire response chain from incident site operations to hospital-based care under realistic, high-pressure conditions.

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