



S/1757/2019
28 May 2019
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON MEDICAL ASPECTS OF ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS
XI'AN, CHINA
14 – 18 OCTOBER 2019**

1. On behalf of the Government of China and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General wishes to invite Member States to nominate participants for an international course on the medical aspects of assistance and protection against chemical weapons, to be held in Xi'an, China from 14 to 18 October 2019.
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 organised jointly by the Government of China and the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”).
3. The course has been designed primarily for medical doctors, specialised medical personnel, and medical responders involved in emergency response to chemical incidents. The course will be particularly valuable for physicians and medical professionals involved in providing hospital care to chemical casualties.
4. The course will address the physiological effects of chemical warfare agents, acute and chronic health effects of exposure, concepts of medical countermeasures, including antidote therapy and advanced treatment pathways, as well as the principles of mass casualty management, triage, emergency response systems, and hospital emergency plans, among others.
5. The course, which will include theoretical lectures, demonstration sessions, and a practical exercise on chemical casualty management, will also facilitate the exchange of information and experience regarding medical assistance and protection practices for victims of this type of incident, 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.
6. Given the purpose of the course and its medical focus and technical nature, candidates will be selected carefully and should have a solid background in emergency medicine, toxicology, or health care associated with protection against chemical weapons and other toxic chemicals. They should belong to national emergency response agencies and other institutions that deal with chemical-related incidents.



7. All activities during the course will be conducted in English, and no interpretation services of any kind will be provided. Participants are therefore expected to have a good written and oral command of English.
8. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to China.
9. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor 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, 13 October 2019 and to depart no later than Saturday, 19 October 2019**. 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 must bear all costs resulting from changes they make, including cancellations, once the Secretariat has purchased their tickets.
11. Interested applicants are invited to register their nomination online through Eventus—the OPCW event management system—**no later than 5 August 2019**. The Eventus registration link is accessible via the OPCW website (<http://apps.opcw.org/eventus>). Please note that all questions marked with an asterisk (*) in the online system must be answered, and an endorsement letter from the relevant National Authority (Annex 3) must be attached in order for the nomination to be received and for the candidate to be considered for this event. Interested applicants who, for technical reasons, are unable to submit their application online via Eventus are requested to send the nomination form (Annex 2) along with the endorsement from the National Authority (Annex 3) via email (EmergAssistBr@opcw.org) with a reference to the name and location of the event in the subject line of the message. The selected participants will be contacted no later than two weeks after the submission deadline.
12. Additional information may be obtained from the Assistance and Protection Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the OPCW. The contact person is Mr Shahriar Khateri, Senior Programme Officer (Tel: +31 (0)70 416 3231; Email: Shahriar.khateri@opcw.org)

Annexes:

- Annex 1: Provisional Programme
Annex 2: Nomination Form
Annex 3: National Authority Endorsement Form

Annex 1

**INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON MEDICAL ASPECTS OF
ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS
XI'AN, CHINA
14 – 18 OCTOBER 2019**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
<i>Sunday, 13 October 2019</i>	
	Arrival of participants
<i>Monday, 14 October 2019</i>	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration of participants
09:00 – 09:45	Opening ceremony and group photograph
09:45 – 10:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:00 – 10:15	Course overview, administrative briefing
10:15 – 11:00	Introduction to the host country and the host institute
11:00 – 11:45	The Chemical Weapons Convention and its Article X on assistance and protection. Questions and answers
11:45 – 12:30	The implementation of the Convention in China
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Chemical warfare agents: classification, properties, and types of exposure
14:30 – 15:30	General principles of diagnosis, first aid, and treatment of patients exposed to chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals
15:30 – 15:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:45 – 16:30	Chemical casualty management and emergency pre-hospital care in hot, warm, and cold zones
16:30 – 16:45	Daily summary and discussion
18:00 – 21:00	Reception hosted by the OPCW
<i>Tuesday, 15 October 2019</i>	
08:30 – 09:15	Introduction to nerve agents, their mechanism of action, and signs and symptoms
09:15 – 10:00	Nerve agents: antidote therapy and medical treatment
10:00 – 10:15	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:15 – 11:00	Blister agents and sulfur mustard: toxic mechanism and clinical manifestation
11:00 – 11:30	Sulfur mustard: medical treatment of casualties
11:30 – 12:30	The long-term health effects of sulfur mustard exposure
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:15	Choking (lung damaging) agents, chemical warfare agents, and toxic industrial chemicals (I): Introduction, classification, and medical treatment
14:15 – 14:45	Choking (lung damaging) agents, chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals (II)
14:45 – 15:15	Blood agents
15:15 – 15:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:30 – 16:15	Incapacitating agents (psychochemical agents)
16:15 – 17:00	Riot control agents
17:00 – 17:30	Daily summary and discussion

Time	Activity
<i>Wednesday, 16 October 2019</i>	
09:00 – 09:30	Chemical warfare agents, terror, and sabotage agents
09:30 – 10:15	Psychological healthcare during chemical emergency situations
10:15 – 10:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:30 – 11:15	Combined chemical injuries
11:15 – 12:00	Mass casualty management: classification and evacuation procedures from the decontamination line to specialised medical posts and other levels of medical care
12:00 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:15	Triage of chemical casualties
14:15 – 15:00	Triage: Case review and exercise
15:00 – 15:15	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:15 – 16:00	Principles of decontamination of chemical casualties and pre-hospital and hospital procedures
16:00 – 16:30	Daily summary and discussion
18:00 – 21:00	Official dinner
<i>Thursday, 17 October 2019</i>	
09:00 – 09:45	Principles of protection against chemical weapons
09:45 – 10:30	Use of individual protection equipment (IPE)
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:45 – 12:00	Exercise: donning and doffing
12:00 – 12:30	Exercise: IPE and first aid procedures
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:15	Demonstration and exercise: situation simulation, group work
14:15 – 15:15	Demonstration and exercise: patient simulator
15:15 – 15:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:30 – 16:30	Demonstration (continued)
16:30 – 17:00	Day summary and discussion
<i>Friday, 18 October 2019</i>	
09:00 – 10:30	Course evaluation session and feedback from participants
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:45 – 11:45	Closing ceremony
12:00 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 18:00	Excursion
<i>Saturday, 19 October 2019</i>	
	Departure of participants

Annex 2

**INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON MEDICAL ASPECTS OF
ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS
XI'AN, CHINA, 14 – 18 OCTOBER 2019**

NOMINATION FORM

Please type or use BLOCK LETTERS

Family name of nominee ¹			
Given 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			
Area(s) of expertise			
Employer			
Position			
Contact address (please do not give a post office box number)	Street		
	Number	Postcode	
	City	Country	
Airport of departure			
Email address			
Telephone numbers, including country and city codes	Home		
	Work		
	Mobile		
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:		

¹ Please give the family name and the given name(s) exactly as they appear in the nominee's passport.

² For this and similar items, please tick the appropriate box.

Annex 3

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ENDORSEMENT BY THE NATIONAL AUTHORITY

This form must be signed, duly sealed, and uploaded when submitting
an application online (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>)

Please type or use BLOCK LETTERS

I, _____, Head/Chief Coordinator of the
National Authority of the State Party of _____, on behalf
of the Government of _____, hereby endorse the nomination
of Mr/Ms _____,
holding the position/designation of _____
in the Office/Division/Branch of _____,
as indicated in the attached nomination form, for participation in the international course on
medical aspects of assistance and protection against chemical weapons, to be held in Xi'an,
China, from 14 to 18 October 2019.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Official seal of the Organisation: