



NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON PRE-HOSPITAL
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF CHEMICAL INCIDENTS
DOHA, QATAR
17 – 20 FEBRUARY 2020**

1. On behalf of the Government of Qatar 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 pre-hospital medical assistance for the victims of chemical incidents, including incidents involving chemical warfare agents, which will be held in Doha, Qatar, from 17 to 20 February 2020.
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 Qatar and the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”).
3. The course, which will focus on pre-hospital care for chemical casualties, has been designed primarily for specialised paramedics, representatives of emergency services, and scene officers involved in providing pre-hospital care for chemical casualties and in the mitigation of the consequences of chemical incidents. Applicants from institutions that deal with disaster medicine will also be considered. The course will be particularly valuable for professionals and managers who work in the field of medical countermeasures to chemical emergencies, and who have a background in the medical aspects of emergency response to incidents involving chemical weapons and other toxic chemicals.
4. The participants will be provided with an overview of the nature of chemical warfare agents and other toxic chemicals and their effects. The course will enable paramedics and medical responders to gain an understanding of operating in a contaminated area and providing first aid to chemical casualties while wearing individual protective equipment. It will also provide an opportunity to discuss problems that they may encounter when participating in response operations to chemical incidents, including medical countermeasures in the event of a chemical attack during a mass-gathering event. The course, which will include both theoretical lectures and a practical component, will focus on pre-hospital care for patients exposed to toxic chemicals and on dealing with mass casualties, and will also facilitate the exchange of information and experiences regarding assistance and protection under Article X of the Convention. The provisional programme for the course is included as Annex 1 to this Note.



5. Given the purpose of the course and its medical focus and technical nature, candidates will be carefully selected and should have a background in pre-hospital emergency care, emergency medicine, and protection against chemical weapons and other toxic chemicals. They should also belong to national emergency response agencies and other institutions involved in dealing with chemical-related incidents. In addition, participants should be physically fit and be able to wear individual protective gear during the practical sessions.
6. 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 command of the English language, both written and oral.
7. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Qatar.
8. 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. The course materials and equipment will be provided by the organisers, at no cost to the participants. Further details regarding accommodation, the course venue, and transport will be issued to all confirmed participants at a later date.
9. 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, 16 February 2020, and to depart no later than Friday, 21 February 2020. 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. Participants who have not been sponsored are requested to make their own travel arrangements and to inform the Secretariat accordingly.
10. Interested applicants are invited to register their nomination online through Eventus—the OPCW event management system—**no later than 18 November 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 registration form must be answered and an endorsement letter from the relevant National Authority 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 via email the nomination form (Annex 2) along with an endorsement from the National Authority (see Annex 3) to 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.

11. Additional information may be obtained from the Assistance and Protection Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division. 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 PRE-HOSPITAL MEDICAL
ASSISTANCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF CHEMICAL INCIDENTS
DOHA, QATAR
17 – 20 FEBRUARY 2020**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
<i>Sunday, 16 February 2020</i>	
	Arrival of participants
<i>Monday, 17 February 2020</i>	
09:00 – 09:45	Opening ceremony
	Opening session: Introduction to the course, course programme, pre-course assessment
09:45 – 10:30	Lecture: The Chemical Weapons Convention, and assistance and protection under Article X
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:00 – 11:45	Lecture: History of chemical warfare and chemical incidents
11:45 – 12:30	Chemical warfare agents: classification, overview
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Lecture: Nerve agents
14:30 – 15:30	Lecture: Blister and lung-damaging agents
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:00 – 17:00	Lecture: Cyanide compounds and other toxic agents
<i>Tuesday, 18 February 2020</i>	
08:30 – 09:30	Lecture: Personal protective equipment
09:30 – 10:30	Practical training: Personal protective equipment, donning and doffing
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:45 – 11:45	Lecture: Triage of chemical casualties, dealing with mass casualty incidents
11:45 – 12:30	Discussion: Triage of chemical casualties/case practice
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Lecture: Principles of emergency medical care at the pre-hospital stage in case of emergencies related to toxic chemicals
14:30 – 15:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:00 – 16:00	Lecture: Incident command system
16:00 – 17:00	WISER (wireless information system for emergency response)
<i>Wednesday, 19 February 2020</i>	
09:00 – 13:00	Field training and practical session
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 16:00	Field training and practical session (continued)
<i>Thursday, 20 February 2020</i>	
09:00 – 11:00	Presentations by participants
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:30 – 12:30	Feedback from participants
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 15:00	Course conclusion and evaluation
15:00 – 16:00	Post-course evaluation and closing ceremony
<i>Friday, 21 February 2020</i>	
	Departure of participants

Annex 2

INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON PRE-HOSPITAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
FOR THE VICTIMS OF CHEMICAL INCIDENTS

DOHA, QATAR

17– 20 FEBRUARY 2020

NOMINATION FORM

Please submit the completed form so that it is received **by 18 November 2020** to:Assistance and Protection Branch, OPCW,
Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands
(Email: EmergAssistBr@opcw.org)Please type or use **BLOCK LETTERS**

Family name of nominee*			
First name(s)			
Date of birth	Day	Month	Year
Citizenship			
Gender**	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			
Areas of expertise			
Employer			
Position			
Contact address (please do not give a post-office box number)	Street		
	Number	Post code	
	City		
	Country		
Email address			

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

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

Airport of departure	
Telephone numbers, including country and city codes	Home
	Work
	Mobile
	Work
Has the nominee previously attended an OPCW basic assistance and protection course	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"/>

Annex 3**INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON PRE-HOSPITAL
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF CHEMICAL INCIDENTS
DOHA, QATAR
17 – 20 FEBRUARY 2020****ENDORSEMENT BY THE NATIONAL AUTHORITY**

This form must be signed, duly sealed, and uploaded while submitting your 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 Pre-hospital Medical Assistance for the Victims of Chemical Incidents, to be held in Doha, Qatar, from 17 to 20 February 2020.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Official seal of the Organisation: