



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

S/1812/2019

18 November 2019

ENGLISH and SPANISH only

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR A BASIC COURSE
ON RESPONSE TO CHEMICAL ATTACKS OR INCIDENTS
WITH TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS FOR STATES PARTIES
FROM THE LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGION
PANAMA CITY, PANAMA
23 – 27 MARCH 2020**

1. On behalf of the Government of Panama and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General wishes to invite States Parties from the Latin America and Caribbean region (GRULAC) to nominate representatives to participate in the ninth regional training cycle related to assistance and protection under Article X of the Chemicals Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), which will start with a basic course on response to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals, to take place from 23 to 27 March 2020 in Panama City, Panama.
2. The course will be jointly organised by the Government of Panama and the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”). It will provide training for up to 20 participants in the basics of assistance and protection under Article X of the Convention, which encompasses the response to chemical warfare agents and incidents with toxic industrial chemicals. This course will be the starting activity of the 2020 full training cycle for GRULAC States Parties.
3. This course will offer an introduction to basic toxicology, the types and uses of individual protective equipment, reconnaissance, detection, and decontamination. It will cover elements related to risk assessment, prevention, and response to chemical emergencies. The course is also aimed at facilitating the exchange of information and fostering networking among the participants, with a view to enhancing the implementation of Article X of the Convention in the GRULAC region.
4. Given the objectives of the course, candidates will be carefully selected and should have a background in the field of chemistry associated with assistance and protection against chemical warfare agents. Preference will be given to officers from emergency response units from institutions involved in civilian defence. Participants should be physically fit and able to wear individual protective gear during the practical sessions of the course.



5. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor a maximum of 20 participants. When proposing candidates for the course, States Parties should specify whether such sponsorship is a condition of their participation. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the cost of travel, accommodation, airport transfers, medical insurance, and meals (lunch), and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses.
6. Endorsement by the National Authority is a prerequisite for a candidate being considered in the selection process.
7. When choosing participants, the Secretariat will generally select only one participant from any given State Party. However, States Parties are encouraged to make several nominations that could eventually be considered in the selection process.
8. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. Participants are expected to arrive in Panama City no earlier than Sunday, 22 March 2020 and to depart no later than Saturday, 28 March 2020. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the course or that result from unauthorised changes to travel arrangements. Once the Secretariat has purchased their tickets, sponsored participants will be responsible for making sure they participate in the course. In case of any unforeseen circumstances, participants should immediately contact the substantive officer responsible for the course.
9. The course will be presented in Spanish and participants are required to have a good working knowledge of this language, both written and oral. No interpretation services will be provided in this course.
10. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Panama. Further details regarding logistics and the final programme will be issued to participants at a later stage.
11. Applicants are invited to register their nomination online through Eventus—the OPCW event management system—no later than 31 January 2020. The Eventus registration link is accessible via the OPCW website at: <https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>. Please note that all questions marked with an asterisk (*) must be answered in order for the nomination to be received and for the candidate to be considered for this event. The endorsement form attached as Annex 3 to this note must be uploaded during the registration process for the course.
12. Applicants who, for technical reasons, are unable to submit their application online via Eventus are requested to complete and send the nomination and endorsement forms attached as Annexes 2 and 3 to this note to apb@opcw.org with reference to the name and location of the event in the subject line.
13. Only selected participants with an OPCW acceptance letter will be accepted to attend this course. Those who have been selected to participate in the course will be contacted no later than two weeks after the submission deadline. States Parties are requested to inform the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of any administrative or other problems that may arise in connection with the attendance of any participant.

14. A provisional programme for the course is included as Annex 1 to this Note; further details will be issued at a later date. Any questions should be addressed to the Assistance and Protection Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division. The contact persons are Mr Justo Quintero Mendez, who can be reached at +31 (0)70 416 3775, email: justo.quinteromendez@opcw.org and Mr Victor Barros-Correia, who can be reached at +31 (0)70 4163430, email: victor.barros-correia@opcw.org.

Annexes

Annex 1:	Provisional Programme
Annex 2 (English only):	Nomination Form
Annex 3:	Endorsement Form

Annex 1

**BASIC COURSE FOR LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN
COUNTRIES ON RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS INVOLVING CHEMICAL
WARFARE AGENTS AND TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS
PANAMA CITY, PANAMA
23 – 27 MARCH 2020**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
<i>Sunday, 22 March</i>	
	Arrival of the OPCW team and participants, transfer to accommodation
<i>Monday, 23 March</i>	
09:00 – 09:15	Logistic and administrative information on the course
09:15 – 10:00	Opening ceremony
10:00 – 10:20	Group photo
Module 1: Convention-related issues and Article X; chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals	
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
<i>Tuesday, 24 March</i>	
Module 2: Protection and detection	
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

Time	Activity
Wednesday, 25 March	
Module 3: Decontamination, sampling, and analysis	
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>
Module 4: Emergency response	
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 ¹ software
Thursday, 26 March	
Module 5: Table-top exercise	
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
Friday, 27 March	
Module 6: Final session and evaluation	
09:30 – 10:00	Information session on the next stage
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
Saturday, 28 March	
	Departure of participants

¹ WISER = wireless information system for emergency responders.

Annex 2

**BASIC COURSE FOR LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN
COUNTRIES ON RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS INVOLVING CHEMICAL
WARFARE AGENTS AND TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS
PANAMA CITY, PANAMA
23 – 27 MARCH 2020**

NOMINATION FORM

Please type or use BLOCK LETTERS

Government body making the nomination	
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	
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
Fax numbers, including country and city codes	Home
	Work
Has the nominee previously participated in a course of this kind?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If so, when and where?

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

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

Is sponsorship a condition of participation?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Meal preferences	No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> If so, please describe
Sizes	Gloves S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/>
	Boots (number):
	Height (m):
	Weight (kg):
Endorsement by the National Authority: (mandatory) Name of authorising person, signature and stamp)	

Annex 3

**BASIC COURSE FOR LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN
COUNTRIES ON RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS INVOLVING CHEMICAL
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ENDORSEMENT BY THE NATIONAL AUTHORITY

This form must be signed, duly sealed, and uploaded when submitting the application electronically (<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 basic course for Latin American and Caribbean Countries on response to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals, Panama City, Panama, 23 to 27 March 2020.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Official seal of the Organisation:

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