



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

S/2012/2021

8 December 2021

ENGLISH and SPANISH only

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR A BASIC COURSE ON RESPONSE
TO INCIDENTS INVOLVING CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS AND
TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS FOR STATES PARTIES
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION
PANAMA CITY, PANAMA
21 – 25 MARCH 2022**

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 American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) to nominate representatives to participate in the eighth 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, and is scheduled to take place from 21 to 25 March 2022 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 2022 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 Latin America and the Caribbean 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. Participants should undertake the necessary steps to ensure their participation in the entire cycle by obtaining the necessary clearances from the relevant authorities, on the basis of the invitation letter issued by the Secretariat.
6. Endorsement by the National Authority is a prerequisite for a candidate being considered in the selection process.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. Sponsored participants are encouraged to use the tickets provided by the Secretariat. Participants are expected to arrive to Panama City no earlier than Sunday, 20 March 2022 and to depart no later than Saturday, 26 March 2022. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. Interested applicants are invited to register their nomination online through Eventus—the OPCW event management system—**no later than 15 January 2022**. The Eventus registration link is accessible via the OPCW website (<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.
13. 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 EmergAssistBr@opcw.org with a reference to the name and location of the event in the subject line of the message.

14. 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.
15. Additional information may be obtained from Mr Miguel Albaladejo Pomares in the Assistance and Protection Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division (Tel.: +31 70 416 3775; Email: miguel.albaladejopomares@opcw.org).
16. A provisional programme for the course is included as Annex 1 to this Note; further details will be issued at a later date. Questions may be addressed to the Assistance and Protection Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division.

Annexes:

Annex 1: Provisional Programme

Annex 2 (English only): Nomination Form

Annex 3: Endorsement Form

Annex 1

**BASIC COURSE ON RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS INVOLVING
CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS AND TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS
FOR STATES PARTIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION
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PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
<i>Sunday, 20 March</i>	
	Arrival of the OPCW team and participants; transfer to accommodation
<i>Monday, 21 March</i>	
09:00-09:45	Opening ceremony
09:45-10:00	Group photo
10:00-10:15	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
Module 1: Convention-related issues and Article X: chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals	
10:15-10:30	Information on the logistical and administrative aspects of the course; Introduction of participants
10:30-11:15	Presentation: the Chemical Weapons Convention
11:15-11:45	Presentation: Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention and its application
11:45-12:15	Presentation: the National Authority of Panama for the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention
12:15-12:30	Question and answer session
12:30-13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30-14:15	Transit of hazardous materials through the Panama Canal—Panama Canal Authority
14:15-15:00	Lecture: Chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemical substances: spread, consequences, symptoms, and treatment (I)
15:00-15:15	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:15-16:00	Presentation: Chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals: dissemination, effects, symptoms, and treatment (II)
16:00 -16:15	Question and answer session
16:15-17:00	Presentation: Chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals; dissemination, effects, symptoms, and treatment (III)
17:00-17:15	Question and answer session
<i>Tuesday, 22 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
Wednesday, 23 March	
Module 3: Decontamination, sampling, and analysis	
09:00 – 09:45	Presentation: Basic principles of decontamination
09:45 -10:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:00 – 11:00	Presentation: Decontamination of personnel and equipment
11:00 – 11:45	Presentation: Sample collection and analysis, chain of custody, and cross-contamination
11:45 – 12:30	Presentation: Pre-hospital and hospital care and management of victims of chemical weapons attacks
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:15	Presentation: Management of emergency response guidelines (ERG)
14:15 – 15:00	Presentation: the incident command system
15:00 – 15:15	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:15 – 16:00	Presentation: Operations in potentially contaminated areas; downwind hazard prediction, and WISER ¹ software
16:00 – 17:00	Presentation: Safety and Response in operations
Thursday, 24 March	
Module 4: Emergency response	
08:00	Departure to the facilities of the Canal Authority training centre
09:00 – 12:00	Table-top exercise: Introduction to operations in potentially contaminated areas
12:30 – 13:00	Recovery and demobilisation
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30 – 15:30	Evaluation exercise
15:30	<i>Departure to the Panama Canal facilities</i>
16:00	Panama Canal tour
Friday, 25 March	
Module 5: 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, 26 March	
	Departure of participants

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WISER = wireless information system for emergency responders.

Annex 2

**BASIC COURSE ON RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS INVOLVING
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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 M L
	Boots (number):
	Height (m):
	Weight (kg):
<p>Endorsement by the National Authority: (mandatory)</p> <p>Name of authorising person, signature, and stamp)</p>	

Annex 3

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ENDORSEMENT BY THE NATIONAL AUTHORITY

This form needs to be signed, duly sealed, and uploaded when an application is submitted
<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 on Response to
Incidents Involving Chemical Warfare Agents and Toxic Industrial Chemicals for States Parties
in Latin America and the Caribbean Region, Panama City, Panama, 21 to 25 March 2022.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Official seal of the Organisation: