



S/2074/2022
30 June 2022
ENGLISH 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 THE AFRICA REGION
MURCIA, SPAIN
7 – 11 NOVEMBER 2022**

1. On behalf of the Government of Spain and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General wishes to invite States Parties from the Africa Group to nominate representatives to participate in the basic course on response to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals, which is scheduled to take place from 7 to 11 November 2022 in Murcia, Spain.
2. The course will be jointly organised by the Government of Spain, the Murcia Fire Brigade, 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 Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), which encompasses the response to chemical warfare agents and incidents with toxic industrial chemicals.
3. This course will offer an introduction to basic chemical properties, the types and uses of individual protective equipment, reconnaissance, detection, decontamination, and incident command. 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 Africa 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 selecting 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 Murcia no earlier than Sunday, 6 November 2022, and to depart no later than Saturday, 12 November 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 with simultaneous interpretation into English. Participants are therefore required to have a good working knowledge of one of these languages, both written and oral.
11. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Spain. 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 21 August 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.
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. Additional information may be obtained from Mr Miguel Albaladejo Pomares (Tel.: +31 70 416 3775; Email: miguel.albaladejopomares@opcw.org) and Mr Babatunde Olowookere (Tel.: +31 70 416 3467; Email: babatunde.olwookere@opcw.org) in the Assistance and Protection Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division.
15. A provisional programme for the course is included as the Annex 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.

Annex: Provisional Programme

Annex

**BASIC COURSE ON RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS INVOLVING
CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS AND TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS
FOR STATES PARTIES IN THE AFRICA REGION
MURCIA, SPAIN
7 – 11 NOVEMBER 2022**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
<i>Sunday, 6 November 2022</i>	
	Arrival of participants
<i>Monday, 7 November 2022</i>	
08:00 – 08:30	General guidelines for the course
08:30 – 09:00	Opening ceremony
09:00 – 09:15	Group photo
09:15 – 09:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
09:30 – 10:00	Presentation: The Convention and the OPCW; Implementation of Article X of the Convention in Africa
10:00 – 10:30	Presentation: Implementation of the Convention in Spain
10:30 – 11:30	Presentation: The Murcia Fire Brigade
11:30 – 12:30	Presentation: Chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Presentation: Chemical dispersion in the environment
15:00 – 16:00	Presentation: Principles of protection against chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals (first responders and civilians)
16:00 – 16:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:15 – 17:15	Presentation: Chemical emergency management
17:15 – 17:30	Summary of the day
<i>Tuesday, 8 November 2022</i>	
08:00 – 08:30	Transfer to the training centre
08:30 – 09:30	Presentation: Respiratory protection—self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), mask, and canister
09:30 – 10:30	Presentation: Chemical suits
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:45 – 11:45	Practice: Respiratory protection—donning and doffing
11:45 – 12:45	Practice: Respiratory protection—practice and calculation of air consumption
12:45 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00 – 16:00	Practice: Chemical suits
16:00 – 16:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:15 – 17:15	Presentation: Medical treatment—antidotes
17:15 – 17:30	Summary of the day
17:30 – 18:00	Transfer to the hotel

Time	Activity
<i>Wednesday, 9 November 2022</i>	
08:00 – 08:30	Transfer to the training centre
08:30 – 09:30	Presentation: Sampling and analysis
09:30 – 10:30	Presentation: Detection and identification
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:45 – 11:45	Practice: Sampling level B
11:45 – 12:45	Practice: Sampling level B
12:45 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Practice: Sampling level B
15:00 – 16:00	Practice: Sampling level B
16:00 – 16:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:15 – 17:15	Presentation: Emergency Management – Gas and contaminant dispersion
17:15 – 17:30	Summary of the day
17:30 – 18:00	Transfer to the hotel
20:00 – 22:00	Official dinner
<i>Thursday, 10 November 2022</i>	
08:00 – 08:30	Transfer to the training centre
08:30 – 09:30	Presentation: Decontamination procedures and techniques
09:30 – 10:30	Presentation: Decontamination equipment and tools
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:45 – 11:45	Practice: Decontamination
11:45 – 12:45	Practice: Decontamination
12:45 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Practice: Exercise I
15:00 – 16:30	Practice: Exercise I
16:30 – 16:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:45 – 17:00	Summary of the day
17:00 – 17:30	Transfer to the hotel
<i>Friday, 11 November 2022</i>	
08:00 – 08:30	Transfer to the training centre
08:30 – 09:30	Presentation: Exercise II
09:30 – 10:30	Presentation: Exercise II
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:45 – 11:15	Final discussion and lessons learned
11:15 – 11:30	Evaluation
12:00 – 12:30	Closing ceremony
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>