



S/2118/2022  
30 November 2022  
ENGLISH only

### NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

#### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR AN ONLINE WUPPERTAL COURSE ON EXPLOSION PROTECTION AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT IN CHEMICAL PROCESS INDUSTRIES 1 SEPTEMBER – 6 OCTOBER 2023

1. The Federal Government of Germany, the University of Wuppertal, and the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) wish to inform OPCW Member States about an online course on explosion protection and safety management in chemical process industries for Member States in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

#### **Purpose of the course**

2. The online course, supported by the Federal Government of Germany, will be held from 1 September to 6 October 2023 at the University of Wuppertal in Germany, and was developed by the Chair of Chemical Safety and Fire Defence.
3. The course will accommodate a total of 24 participants from Member States in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.
4. The course is intended for participants with a background in chemistry, chemical engineering, or the chemical industry who are currently working at a chemical or manufacturing industrial facility or who, because of their involvement in the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), are called upon to interact with the chemical industry at various levels (for example, in relation to formulating, analysing, or implementing chemical safety policies in their home countries).
5. The course has been designed using the “train-the-trainer” approach for participants who are in a position and ready to share the gained knowledge and expertise in their home countries for the full implementation of the Convention.

#### **Duration of the course**

6. The course will be held from 1 September to 6 October 2023.

#### **Content**

7. The course will be delivered in an interactive online format in a total of 13 sessions. This includes combined parts of lectures, self-learning content, discussions, and group exercises, with a final presentation to be followed by a final exam at the end of the



course. The course will begin with a briefing on the Convention, particularly those provisions related to how it is implemented in terms of the chemical industry. Subsequently, the focus will shift to the following topics:

- (a) management of hazardous substances (chemical transportation, handling, and storage);
  - (b) human factors (organisational and communication aspects);
  - (c) explosion protection (hazard assessment approach, determination of substance properties, zoning, ignition sources, explosion protection measures, etc.); and
  - (d) group exercises (explosion hazard assessment approach based on examples from process industries).
8. During the course, participants will be expected to gain the skills they require to implement modern technical safety practices and to fulfil their responsibilities to develop sustainable safety management related to the chemical industry. Moreover, participants will be encouraged to contribute to the development of a culture of safety in their working environments.

#### **Admission requirements**

9. Participants are expected to meet the following criteria:
- (a) hold a degree or diploma in chemistry or chemical engineering, or have extensive experience working or dealing with the chemical industry;
  - (b) be involved in promoting chemical safety management in their home countries or other States Parties;
  - (c) be prepared to disseminate the knowledge and expertise gained during the course for the full implementation of the Convention; and
  - (d) membership in a chemical industry association is desirable, but not required.
10. All course activities 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.

#### **Selection procedure**

11. Applications will be carefully screened based on the criteria specified in paragraph 9. Eligible candidates from government, industry, or academia who have work experience in or who interact with the chemical sector in their country are especially encouraged to apply through their National Authority.

#### **Control of success**

12. In order to ensure that participants gain a profound understanding of the topics and exercises taught during the course for their subsequent use and dissemination of the methods and techniques learned, a final exam will take place at the end of the course.

### **Application procedure**

13. Interested applicants from National Authorities and their relevant stakeholders are invited to apply online through Eventus—the OPCW event management system (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>). Applicants should create an account in Eventus and then register for the training course. Only complete applications will be considered. The following documents must be submitted via Eventus:
  - (a) a current curriculum vitae, detailing previous work experience;
  - (b) a one-page cover letter that explains why the candidate is applying for the course, the candidate’s expectations of the course, and how it would benefit the candidate’s work, institution, and country; and
  - (c) a letter of recommendation from the candidate’s supervisor confirming his or her qualifications in line with paragraph 9, and attesting to the relevance of this course to the work of the candidate’s place of employment.
14. Please note that an endorsement from the National Authority must be obtained for candidates to be considered for this event. Applications will automatically be shared with the National Authority upon registration through Eventus for its endorsement online.
15. Interested applicants who are unable to submit their application online via Eventus are requested to contact the Secretariat via email at [icb.events@opcw.org](mailto:icb.events@opcw.org), copying Dr Alexey Leksin ([leksin@uni-wuppertal.de](mailto:leksin@uni-wuppertal.de)) of the University of Wuppertal, for further guidance.
16. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview.
17. All applications must be received by the University of Wuppertal and the Secretariat **no later than 28 February 2023**. Additional information about the programme may be obtained from Dr Alexey Leksin (Tel.: +49 202 439 2065; Email: [leksin@uni-wuppertal.de](mailto:leksin@uni-wuppertal.de)), Mr Taeon Kim, Programme Officer (Tel.: +31 (0)70 416 3469), or Ms Julia González, Senior Project Assistant (Tel.: +31 (0)70 416 3239).