



### NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

#### **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR AN ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION COURSE FOR INCIDENT COMMANDERS FROM AFRICAN STATES PARTIES TSHWANE, SOUTH AFRICA 21 AUGUST – 1 SEPTEMBER 2023**

1. On behalf of the Government of South Africa and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General wishes to invite States Parties in Africa to nominate representatives to participate in an assistance and protection course for incident commanders from African States Parties, which will take place from 21 August to 1 September 2023 in Tshwane, South Africa.
2. The course will be jointly organised by the Government of South Africa and the OPCW Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”), and will provide training for incident commanders who are involved in coordinating chemical emergency incidents. The course will cover the following topics:
  - (a) planning and building a support team for civilian protection and defence;
  - (b) rescue and decontamination operations in contaminated areas; and
  - (c) appropriate responses and countermeasures in the event of incidents involving chemical warfare agents or toxic chemicals.
3. The course will help participating States Parties enhance the abilities and skills of their national incident commanders to coordinate incidents involving chemical weapons and other toxic chemicals, as well as in how to manage chemical incidents.
4. The course will also provide an overview of the kinds of assistance the OPCW, the host country, and other States Parties in Africa can provide in the area of assistance and protection.
5. The course will include individual and team procedures, tactics, and processes to deliver required operational readiness and to understand the complexity of hot/warm/cold zone management during chemical incidents.
6. The course will offer an introduction to the use of individual and collective protective equipment, to monitoring, detection, and decontamination, and to sampling techniques. It will also facilitate the exchange of information and experiences regarding the implementation of Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), and provide a forum for States Parties to discuss how they can cooperate



in the future and what further offers they might make to the OPCW under Article X. The course, which will include a visit to Protechnik Laboratories, will conclude with a table-top and field emergency response exercise.

7. Given the purpose of the course and its technical nature, candidates will be carefully selected according to the following criteria:
  - (a) All participants should be incident commanders/trainers, or be involved in developing an emergency response system in their own countries.
  - (b) All participants must have a good oral and written command of English, as all activities during the course will be conducted in English and no interpretation services of any kind will be available.
  - (c) Preference will be given to incident commanders from emergency response units, such as firefighters, ambulance personnel, and police officers.
  - (d) Participants must be physically fit and capable of wearing individual protective gear for several hours at a time in hot weather. Some practical experience with protective equipment is desirable.
8. For this course, the Secretariat expects to be able to **sponsor a maximum of 20 participants** from States Parties. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the costs of travel, accommodation, airport transfers, medical insurance, and meals (lunch), and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses. The National Authority of South Africa will also provide all participants with course materials and local transport, at no cost to either the participants or the OPCW. 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. Sponsored 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, 20 August 2023**, and to **depart no later than Saturday, 2 September 2023**. 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 changes in travel arrangements that it has not authorised. 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.
10. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to South Africa.
11. Participants are requested to prepare a short presentation on their chemical emergency response system, to be presented during the second week of the training.

12. Interested applicants are invited to register their nomination through Eventus—the OPCW event management system—**no later than 20 June 2023**. The Eventus registration link is accessible via the OPCW website (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>). Please note that all questions marked with an asterisk (\*) in the online registration form must be answered.
13. Applications from female first responders are particularly welcome, and National Authorities are strongly encouraged to support and endorse applications of suitably qualified female applicants.
14. Additional information on the course may be obtained from the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the Secretariat. The contact person is Mr Babatunde Olowookere, who can be reached by telephone (+31(0) 70 416 34671) or by email ([babatunde.olwookere@opcw.org](mailto:babatunde.olwookere@opcw.org)).

Annex:           Provisional Programme

## Annex

**ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION COURSE  
FOR INCIDENT COMMANDERS FROM AFRICAN STATES PARTIES  
TSHWANE, SOUTH AFRICA  
21 AUGUST – 1 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b><i>Monday, 21 August 2023</i></b>	
09:00 – 09:40	Opening
09:40 – 10:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:00 – 12:15	Lecture: The Convention and the OPCW
12:15 – 13:10	<i>Lunch</i>
13:10 – 13:50	Lecture: National implementation of the Convention
13:50 – 14:40	Lecture: Overview of Protechnik Laboratories
14:40 – 15:20	Lecture: Chemical warfare agents
15:20 – 15:40	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:40 – 17:00	Lecture: Chemical warfare agents (continued)
19:00 –	<i>Dinner hosted by the OPCW</i>
<b><i>Tuesday, 22 August 2023</i></b>	
07:30 – 09:40	Lecture: Toxic industrial chemicals
09:40 – 10:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:00 – 11:30	Lecture: Personal protective equipment (PPE)
11:30 – 12:15	Practical session: PPE
12:15 – 13:10	<i>Lunch</i>
13:10 – 15:20	Practical session: PPE (continued)
15:20 – 15:40	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:40 – 16:20	Practical session: PPE (continued)
16:20 – 17:00	Practical session: Drills to be followed for speedy decontamination
<b><i>Wednesday, 23 August 2023</i></b>	
07:30 – 09:40	Lecture: Detection of chemical agents
09:40 – 10:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:00 – 10:45	Lecture: Detection of chemical agents (continued)
10:45 – 12:15	Demonstration of detection equipment
12:15 – 13:10	<i>Lunch</i>
13:10 – 15:20	Practical session: Detection of chemical agents
15:20 – 15:40	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:40 – 17:00	Practical session: Detection of chemical agents (continued)
<b><i>Thursday, 24 August 2023</i></b>	
07:30 – 08:15	Lecture: Dispersion methods
08:15 – 09:00	Lecture: Factors affecting dispersion
09:00 – 09:40	Lecture: Principles of decontamination
09:40 – 10:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:00 – 10:40	Lecture: Hazardous materials (HAZMAT) decontamination
10:40 – 12:15	Practical session: HAZMAT decontamination
12:15 – 13:10	<i>Lunch</i>

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
13:10 – 15:20	Practical session: HAZMAT decontamination (continued)
15:20 – 15:40	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:45 – 17:00	Practical session: HAZMAT decontamination (continued)
<b><i>Friday, 25 August 2023</i></b>	
07:30 – 09:40	Lecture: Implementation of Article X of the Convention
09:40 – 10:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:00 – 12:15	Lecture: OPCW delivery of assistance operations
12:15 – 13:10	<i>Lunch</i>
13:10 – 13:50	Lecture: Assessing chemical threats
13:50 – 15:20	Video on chemical, biological, and radiological defence (CBRD)
15:20 –	<i>Afternoon barbecue (braai)</i>
<b><i>Saturday, 26 August 2023</i></b>	
08:15 – 09:00	<i>Breakfast</i>
09:30 – 17:00	Social activity
<b><i>Sunday, 27 August 2023</i></b>	
–	Rest day
<b><i>Monday, 28 August 2023</i></b>	
07:30 – 09:40	Participant presentations
09:40 – 10:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:00 – 12:15	Participant presentations (continued)
12:15 – 13:10	<i>Lunch</i>
13:10 – 15:20	Participant presentations (continued)
15:20 – 15:40	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:40 – 17:00	Participant presentations (continued)
<b><i>Tuesday, 29 August 2023</i></b>	
07:30 – 09:40	Lecture: Incident management
09:40 – 10:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:00 – 12:15	Table-top exercise: Incident management
12:15 – 13:10	<i>Lunch</i>
13:10 – 15:20	Table-top exercise: Incident management (continued)
15:20 – 15:40	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:40 – 17:00	Table-top exercise: Incident management (continued)
<b><i>Wednesday, 30 August 2023</i></b>	
07:30 – 09:40	Practical session: Incident management
09:40 – 10:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:00 – 12:15	Practical session: Incident management (continued)
12:15 – 13:10	<i>Lunch</i>
13:10 – 15:20	Practical session: Incident management (continued)
15:20 – 15:40	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:40 – 17:00	Practical session: Incident management (continued)
<b><i>Thursday, 31 August 2023</i></b>	
07:30 – 09:40	Practical session: Incident management (continued)
09:40 – 10:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:00 – 12:15	Practical session: Incident management (continued)
12:15 – 13:10	<i>Lunch</i>
13:10 – 15:40	Visit to Protechnik Laboratories

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
15:40 – 17:30	<i>Final braai</i>
<b><i>Friday, 1 September 2023</i></b>	
07:30 – 10:00	Field exercise: Incident management
10:00 – 10:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:30 – 10:45	Exercise feedback
10:45 – 11:30	Evaluation of the course by the participants and instructors
11:30 – 12:15	Closing ceremony
12:15 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
13:00	Departure

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