



S/2182/2023

12 June 2023

ENGLISH and SPANISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR A TRAINING COURSE ON THE
DETECTION, SAMPLING, AND IDENTIFICATION OF CHEMICAL
WARFARE AGENTS AND TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS
BOGOTA, COLOMBIA
14 – 18 AUGUST 2023**

1. On behalf of the Government of Colombia and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) wishes to invite States Parties in the Latin America and the Caribbean region to nominate participants for a training course on the detection, sampling, and identification of chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals in Bogota, Colombia, from 14 to 18 August 2023.
2. The course will be jointly organised by the Government of Colombia and the Secretariat. The main purpose of the training is to provide expert knowledge and skills to 20 specialists from States Parties in the Latin America and the Caribbean region who are responsible for the detection, sampling, and identification of chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals in contaminated environments following a chemical attack or an incident involving toxic chemicals.
3. States Parties in the Latin America and the Caribbean region that do not yet have sampling and analysis capabilities are particularly encouraged to nominate participants. Participants must also be qualified to use and wear personal protective equipment, including a self-contained breathing apparatus and have experience in doing so. Participants must therefore be physically fit and able to wear such equipment for prolonged periods. Previous practical experience in military or civil protection is desirable.
4. Applicants are expected to be familiar with the principles of first response, including sampling and chemical emergency management, and will be carefully selected in line with the objectives of the course and their stated area of expertise. Ideally, participants should have completed any of the full training cycles for the Latin America and the Caribbean region held by the OPCW in previous years.
5. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor a maximum of 20 participants. When nominating candidates for the course, States Parties in the region should specify whether sponsorship is a condition of their participation. 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 Secretariat strongly encourages applications from qualified female candidates.



6. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. In order for the Secretariat to keep costs as low as reasonably practicable, participants are expected to arrive no earlier than Sunday, 13 August 2023 and to depart no later than Saturday, 19 August 2023. 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 the event of any unforeseen circumstances, participants should immediately contact the substantive officer responsible for the course (see paragraph 10 below for contact details).
7. The course will be conducted in Spanish, and no interpretation services of any kind will be provided. Participants are therefore expected to have a good command of both written and spoken Spanish. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas, including transit visas, before travelling to Colombia.
8. Interested applicants are invited to register their nomination online through Eventus—the OPCW event management system—no later than 3 July 2023. The 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 system must be answered in order for the nomination to be received, and for the candidate to be considered for this event. National Authorities are strongly encouraged to endorse applications through Eventus.
9. Only selected participants with an OPCW acceptance letter will be able to participate in this course. Candidates who have been selected to participate will be contacted no later than two weeks after the submission deadline. States Parties are requested to inform the International Cooperation and Assistance Division (ICA) of any administrative or other problems that may arise in connection with the attendance of any selected participant.
10. The provisional programme for the course is included as the Annex to this Note. Further details will be issued in due course. Any questions should be addressed to the ICA Assistance and Protection Branch. The focal points for this training course are Mr Eduardo Herrera (Tel.: +31 (0)70 416 3466, Email: eduardo.herrera@opcw.org) and Ms Sonja Pecak (Tel.: +31 (0)70 416 3498; Email: sonja.pecak@opcw.org).

Annex: Provisional Programme

Annex

**TRAINING COURSE ON THE DETECTION, SAMPLING, AND IDENTIFICATION
OF CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS AND TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS
BOGOTA, COLOMBIA
14 – 18 AUGUST 2023**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
<i>Sunday, 13 August 2023</i>	
	Arrival of participants
<i>Monday, 14 August 2023</i>	
07:30 – 08:00	Transfer to the training centre
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 Chemical Weapons Convention and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). Implementation of Article X of the Convention in Latin America and the Caribbean
10:00 – 10:45	Presentation: Implementation of the Convention in Colombia
10:45 – 11:15	Presentation: Dual-use toxic chemicals
11:15 – 12:00	Presentation: Chemical weapons
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:00 – 13:45	Presentation: Sampling collection equipment and collection kit 1
13:45 – 14:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Presentation: Sampling collection equipment and collection kit 2
15:00 – 16:00	Presentation: Cross contamination
16:00 – 16:15	Summary of the day
16:15 – 16:30	Transfer to the hotel
19:00 – 21:00	Welcome dinner (offered by the OPCW)
<i>Tuesday, 15 August 2023</i>	
07:30 – 08:00	Transfer to the training centre
08:00 – 08:45	Presentation: Individual protection against toxic chemicals
08:45 – 09:30	Presentation: The different levels of personal protective equipment
09:30 – 09:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
09:45 – 10:30	Presentation: Respiratory protection
10:30 – 11:15	Practice: Respiratory protection
11:15 – 12:00	Practice: Donning and doffing
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:00 – 13:45	Presentation: Dissemination methods
13:45 – 14:30	Presentation: Neutralisation procedures
14:30 – 14:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
14:45 – 15:45	Presentation: Reconnaissance
15:45 – 16:00	Summary of the day
16:00 – 16:30	Transfer to the hotel

Time	Activity
<i>Wednesday, 16 August 2023</i>	
07:30 – 08:00	Transfer to the training centre
08:00 – 08:45	Presentation: OPCW designated laboratories
08:45 – 09:30	Presentation: Chemicals database
09:30 – 09:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
09:45 – 10:30	Presentation: Chemical detection
10:30 – 12:00	Practice: Chemical detection in the field
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:00 – 13:45	Presentation: Chain of custody
13:45 – 14:30	Presentation: Incident command system
14:30 – 14:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
14:45 – 15:45	Practice: Incident command system
15:45 – 16:00	Summary of the day
16:00 – 16:30	Transfer to the hotel
<i>Thursday, 17 August 2023</i>	
07:30 – 08:00	Transfer to the training centre
08:00 – 08:45	Presentation: Medical module
08:45 – 09:30	Presentation: Operations in collapsed structures
09:30 – 09:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
09:45 – 10:30	Practice: Medical module
10:30 – 11:15	Practice: Solid sample collection
11:15 – 12:00	Practice: Liquid sample collection
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:00 – 13:45	Practice: Clandestine chemical laboratory
13:45 – 14:30	Practice: Sample collection in high-risk environments
14:30 – 14:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
14:45 – 15:45	Practice: Sample collection in high-risk environments (continued)
15:45 – 16:00	Summary of the day
16:00 – 16:30	Transfer to the hotel
<i>Friday, 18 August 2023</i>	
06:00 – 07:00	Transfer to the training centre
07:00 – 08:00	Presentation: Decontamination procedures
08:00 – 08:45	Presentation: Decontamination levels
08:45 – 09:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
09:00 – 12:00	Practice: Decontamination procedures
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:00 – 13:45	Practice: Decontamination equipment
13:45 – 14:30	Final discussion and lessons learned
14:30 – 14:45	Evaluation
14:45 – 15:00	Closing ceremony