



S/2185/2023

27 June 2023

ENGLISH and FRENCH only

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT****CHEMEX AFRICA (MULTI-COMPONENT CHEMICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE  
CAPACITY-BUILDING EXERCISE FOR THE AFRICA REGION)  
ALGIERS, ALGERIA  
23 SEPTEMBER – 5 OCTOBER 2023****INVITATION TO STATES PARTIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VIP DAY  
ON 3 OCTOBER 2023 AND TO NOMINATE COMPANIES TO PARTICIPATE IN  
THE EQUIPMENT EXHIBITION FROM 3 TO 5 OCTOBER 2023**

1. The multi-component chemical emergency response capacity-building exercise for the Africa region (“CHEMEX Africa”), co-organised by the OPCW Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) in partnership with the Government of Algeria, will take place in Algiers, Algeria, from 23 September to 5 October 2023, as previously announced.<sup>1</sup>
2. Organised within the framework of implementation of Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) and the OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Africa Programme”), CHEMEX Africa is being funded through a generous voluntary contribution from the Government of Canada and benefits from significant logistical and technical support provided by the Government of Algeria.
3. The objective of CHEMEX Africa is to enhance African States Parties’ capacities to respond to chemical emergencies, including incidents and attacks perpetrated by non-State actors. As part of the event, first responder teams from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) will receive training from instructors from the East African Community (EAC), who will be supported by technical teams from North Africa and the Sahel and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). As outlined previously, representatives of other States Parties may attend as observers and evaluators (kindly note that the closing date for registrations has passed).
4. The provisional programme for CHEMEX Africa includes:
  - (a) opening presentations and introductory briefings (23 September 2023);
  - (b) a basic assistance and protection course (23 to 25 September 2023);

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<sup>1</sup> See Notes S/2087/2022 (dated 10 August 2022) and S/2142/2023 (dated 21 March 2023).



- (c) specialised training on sampling and analysis, delivered by Algerian experts (26 and 27 September 2023);
  - (d) advanced assistance and protection training (28 and 30 September 2023);
  - (e) a rest and recovery day, featuring a cultural programme organised by the Algerian National Authority for the Convention (29 September 2023);
  - (f) live exercise preparation (1 and 2 October 2023);
  - (g) a live exercise and the VIP Day (3 October 2023);
  - (h) a debriefing and evaluation (4 October 2023); and
  - (i) an equipment exhibition (3 to 5 October).
5. The culmination of the Programme will be the VIP Day on 3 October 2023 mentioned above. It will include a scenario-based live exercise as well as an equipment exhibition. For the VIP Day, States Parties are invited to consider nominating visitors of the most appropriate level of participation, be it at the level of ambassador or other. Several ambassadors of participating countries accredited to Algeria are expected to attend, along with high-level representatives from the Secretariat and other multilateral bodies.
6. Further details on nominations as well as logistical information for the VIP Day are included in Annex 1 hereto. The Secretariat will have limited resources, so sponsored attendance for the event will be on an exceptional basis only. Participants in the VIP Day will be expected to cover their own travel-related costs.
7. From 3 October (VIP Day and final exercise) and continuing until 5 October, there will be an exhibition of response, inspection, and laboratory equipment related to chemical emergencies and incidents involving toxic chemicals. In this regard, States Parties are invited to nominate companies or commercial entities that wish to take part in the exhibition, which is being held as part of the CHEMEX Africa VIP Day. Nominations for the equipment exhibition should be sent to the Secretariat via email ([chemex@opcw.org](mailto:chemex@opcw.org)) **no later than Monday, 31 July 2023.**
8. Exhibitors must bear all costs related to travel, accommodation, and organisation of their exhibits. Further details on nominations as well as logistical information for exhibitors are included in Annex 2 hereto.
9. For any queries or questions not addressed in this Note, States Parties are invited to contact the Project Manager for CHEMEX Africa, Mr Babatunde Olowookere, Programme Officer in the Assistance and Protection Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division (E-mail: [chemex@opcw.org](mailto:chemex@opcw.org)).
10. Within the framework of the Africa Programme, the Secretariat has invested considerably in building capacity in chemical emergency preparedness and response in Africa, and together with the Algerian authorities, looks forward to welcoming States Parties to CHEMEX Africa to showcase some of this capacity.

Annexes:

Annex 1: CHEMEX Africa VIP Day

Annex 2: CHEMEX Africa Equipment Exhibition

## Annex 1

### CHEMEX AFRICA VIP DAY

1. The CHEMEX Africa VIP Day will be held on 3 October 2023, and will offer an opportunity to view the final exercise, which is the culmination of the CHEMEX Africa Programme. Commentary will be provided, and VIPs will be seated in a viewing area offering an unrivalled position to watch the scenario-based exercise unfold. The VIP Day will be co-located with the equipment exhibition at the Algerian Society of Fairs and Exports, Palais des Expositions, Pins Maritimes, Algiers.
2. The VIP Day is expected to run from 10:00 to 16:00. A full programme will be sent to participants in due course and will provisionally include the items listed below:
  - (a) a formal welcome ceremony hosted by Algeria;
  - (b) an opportunity to view the final scenario-based exercise from a VIP viewing area, which will include live commentary and an opportunity to ask technical experts questions in real-time as the exercise proceeds;
  - (c) an official lunch offered by the Algerian Government in honour of the invited VIPs and representatives of States Parties participating in the exercise; and
  - (d) an opportunity to visit the equipment exhibition to see some of the equipment used to deal with emergencies and incidents involving toxic chemicals, along with an opportunity to talk to exhibitors.
3. Participation is open to ambassadors or alternate representatives from the embassies of the countries represented at CHEMEX Africa which are accredited to Algeria. Participation is also open to representatives of regional and other multilateral organisations whose Member States are either involved in CHEMEX Africa or have mandates which are complementary to the work of the OPCW. These VIPs will join high-level representatives from the Secretariat as well as high-level representatives from donor countries and organisations.
4. Given the protocol requirements for high-level visitors, registration of VIPs and/or their alternates will be managed by the National Authority of Algeria. Requests for registration and participation in the VIP Day should therefore be addressed to the Algerian National Authority by email ([seciac@mdn.dz](mailto:seciac@mdn.dz)) with a copy to the Secretariat ([chemex@opcw.org](mailto:chemex@opcw.org)) **no later than Monday, 31 July 2023**.
5. Regrettably, the OPCW and the host country are unable to cover costs associated with participation in the VIP Day, and logistical arrangements will need to be made independently. The Algerian National Authority can be contacted (Email: [seciac@mdn.dz](mailto:seciac@mdn.dz)) should facilitation be required to obtain visas or other such formalities.

## Annex 2

### CHEMEX AFRICA EQUIPMENT EXHIBITION

1. An exhibition of response, inspection, and laboratory equipment related to chemical emergencies and incidents involving toxic chemicals will take place from 3 to 5 October 2023 at the exhibition centre of the Algerian Society of Fairs and Exports, Palais des Expositions, Pins Maritimes, Algiers. Further information on the exhibition centre can be found online (<https://www.safex.dz>).
2. Participation in the exhibition is open to companies in OPCW Member States that are specialised in manufacturing and/or marketing equipment for the detection, identification, and monitoring of toxic chemicals, and for evacuation, decontamination, and protection against chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives (CBRNe) threats.
3. Nominations of companies or commercial entities that wish to take part in the exhibition should be received via email ([chemex@opcw.org](mailto:chemex@opcw.org)) **no later than Monday, 31 July 2023**. Requests concerning size requirements for the exhibition space or other special requests should be included and will be honoured wherever possible. Companies or commercial entities will be able to use the exhibition space free of charge. The exhibition hall will be available from 28 September to 1 October 2023 inclusive for exhibitors to set up. Specific queries relating to setting up should be addressed to the exhibition hall (Email: [amokrane@safex.dz](mailto:amokrane@safex.dz); Tel: +21 36 6072 2995) or to the Algerian National Authority (Email: [seciac@mdn.dz](mailto:seciac@mdn.dz); Tel: +21 32 172 0249). Exhibitors will be able to dismantle exhibits at the end of the event on the afternoon of Thursday, 5 October 2023.
4. The exhibition space is meant to be a forum for a variety of stakeholders to promote their work in support of the goals of the Convention. No inflammatory, provocative, or divisive exhibits may be displayed; the Secretariat reserves the right to request the removal of any exhibits that do not comply with these rules.
5. Exhibitors must abide by the rules pertaining to exhibits at the exhibition centre premises, including the following:
  - (a) Exhibitors may not alter the venue space or contents. No painting, holes, or other modifications or adjustments may be made to the ceilings, walls, windows, or floors.
  - (b) Exhibitors will be held responsible and financially liable for any necessary repairs to or replacement of exhibition centre property damaged (beyond normal wear and tear), as determined by the fair market value of goods or services.
  - (c) Exhibitors must remove all personal property, garbage, and other items that were not present at the exhibition space at the time the exhibitor took control thereof.
  - (d) No advertising materials, including banners, are permitted outside the designated areas.
  - (e) No candles or open flames are permitted.

- (f) No obstruction of any form in the aisles and walkways, nor any excessive noise that inconveniences other exhibitors or the CHEMEX Africa event will be permitted.
- (g) Exhibitors must not impinge on the activities or space of other exhibitors.
- (h) Exhibitors must provide the OPCW and the exhibition centre with a list of names and contact information of those who will be installing, maintaining, and dismantling the exhibits, including emergency contact information for the principal exhibitors.

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