



S/2281/2024

24 April 2024

ENGLISH and SPANISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR A COURSE
ON EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS INVOLVING
TOXIC CHEMICALS IN UNCONVENTIONAL ENVIRONMENTS
FOR STATES PARTIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
MURCIA, SPAIN
4 – 8 NOVEMBER 2024**

1. The Technical Secretariat (the Secretariat) wishes to invite States Parties from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC) to nominate representatives to participate in a course on emergency response to incidents involving toxic chemicals in unconventional environments, which is scheduled to take place from 4 to 8 November 2024 in Murcia, Spain.
2. The course will be jointly organised and supported by the Government of Spain, the Murcia City Council, and the Secretariat. Instructors from the Murcia Fire Brigade will provide training for up to 20 participants on the basics of assistance and protection under Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention), covering response to chemical warfare agents and incidents involving toxic industrial chemicals.
3. This course will offer hands-on sessions on chemical emergency response, including personal protective equipment (PPE), decontamination, and detection, among others, along with lessons learned and best practices to face incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals. 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 GRULAC region.
4. Given the objectives of the course, candidates must have a solid background in chemical emergency response on the ground, with a good level of experience working with self-contained breathing apparatus and chemical protective suits. Preference will be given to candidates from first responder units (fire brigades, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) response units, and civil defence, among others) and those who, at a minimum, took part in the assistance and protection training cycle. Individual protective suits will be worn for several hours each day, and participants must therefore be physically fit and able to wear such equipment for extended periods.
5. Participants should undertake the necessary steps to ensure their participation in the course by obtaining the necessary clearances from the relevant authorities, based on the invitation letter issued by the Secretariat.
6. Endorsement by the National Authority of the candidate's country is a prerequisite for being considered in the selection process. The Secretariat strongly encourages States Parties and National Authorities to seek, support, and endorse applications from qualified female candidates.



7. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor a maximum of 20 participants. Applicants 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. Participants are expected **to arrive to Murcia no earlier than Sunday, 3 November 2024, and to depart no later than Saturday, 9 November 2024**. The Secretariat will not cover expenses that are not related 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 (contact details are available in paragraph 14 below).
10. The course will be conducted in Spanish and no interpretation services of any kind will be available. Participants are therefore required to have a good working knowledge of Spanish, 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 communicated to participants at a later stage.
12. Interested applicants are invited to register their nominations online **no later than 15 June 2024** through Eventus—the OPCW event management system (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>). Please note that all questions in the online form 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. It is essential to attach a curriculum vitae during the application process.
13. Only selected participants with an OPCW acceptance letter will be accepted to attend this course. Those who have been selected 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 3451; Email: miguel.albaladejopomares@opcw.org), Mr Loic Luyeye (Tel: +31 70 416 3471; Email: loic.luyeye@opcw.org), and Ms Aureliarita Marcellus (Tel.: +31 70 416 3483; Email: aureliarita.marcellus@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.

Annex: Provisional Programme

Annex

**COURSE ON EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS
INVOLVING TOXIC CHEMICALS IN UNCONVENTIONAL ENVIRONMENTS
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PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
<i>Sunday, 3 November</i>	
	Arrival of participants
<i>Monday, 4 November</i>	
08:30 – 09:00	Transfer to the training centre
09:00 – 09:20	Opening ceremony
09:20 – 09:45	General guidelines
09:45 – 10:30	Dynamics of the course and presentation of instructors and participants
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 – 12:00	Delivery of materials and equipment
12:00 – 13:00	Familiarisation with respiratory protective equipment
13:00 – 15:00	<i>Lunch</i>
15:00 – 16:00	Familiarisation with chemical protective equipment
16:00 – 17:00	Familiarisation with decontamination equipment
17:00 – 18:00	Collective equipment for response to chemical emergencies
18:00 – 18:30	Transfer to the hotel
<i>Tuesday, 5 November</i>	
07:00 – 07:30	Transfer to the training centre
07:30 – 08:00	General guidelines for the day
08:00 – 09:00	Zoning
09:00 – 11:00	Ammonia exercise
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 13:30	Scenario 1
13:30 – 14:00	Collection of material
14:00 – 15:00	Briefing and feedback
15:00 – 15:30	Transfer to the hotel
15:30 –	<i>Lunch at the hotel</i>
<i>Wednesday, 6 November</i>	
07:00 – 07:30	Transfer to the training centre
07:30 – 08:00	General guidelines for the day
08:00 – 09:00	Sampling
09:00 – 11:00	Scenario 2
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 13:30	Scenario 3
13:30 – 14:00	Collection of material
14:00 – 15:00	Briefing and feedback
15:00 – 15:30	Transfer to the hotel
15:30 –	<i>Lunch at the hotel</i>
TBC	Cultural activity

<i>Thursday, 7 November</i>	
07:00 – 07:30	Transfer to the training centre
07:30 – 08:00	General guidelines for the day
08:00 – 10:00	Physico-chemical properties – Demonstration
10:00 – 10:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:30 – 13:30	Scenario 4
13:30 – 14:00	Collection of material
14:00 – 15:00	Briefing and feedback
15:00 – 15:30	Transfer to the hotel
15:30 –	<i>Lunch at the hotel</i>
TBC	Cultural activity
<i>Friday, 8 November</i>	
07:00 – 07:30	Transfer to the training centre
07:30 – 08:00	General guidelines for the day
08:00 – 08:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
08:30 – 12:00	Scenario 5
12:00 – 12:30	Collection of material
12:30 – 13:30	Briefing and feedback
13:30 – 14:15	Closing ceremony
14:15 – 14:45	Transfer
15:30 –	Official lunch hosted by the Murcia Fire Brigade