



S/2394/2025

15 April 2025

ENGLISH and FRENCH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR HOSTING "CHEMEX AFRICA 2"
(MULTICOMPONENT CHEMICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE
CAPACITY-BUILDING EXERCISE FOR THE AFRICA REGION)**

1. The Technical Secretariat of OPCW (the Secretariat) is seeking an interested African State Party to host the second edition of the two-week multicomponent chemical emergency response capacity-building exercise for the Africa region (CHEMEX Africa 2), scheduled for the first quarter of 2026. The Secretariat hereby wishes to invite interested African States Parties to express their interest in hosting the exercise, with a view to discussing their potential participation in the project.
2. CHEMEX Africa 2 intends to build on the positive results achieved in the first edition of the exercise and will focus on developing the resilience and capacities of African subregions to respond to chemical attacks perpetrated by non-State actors; expanding the pool of OPCW-trained emergency response instructors on the continent; and establishing a robust network of trained chemical emergency responders, thereby improving overall safety across Africa.
3. As part of CHEMEX Africa 2, teams of instructors from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) will provide a two-week multicomponent training on chemical emergency response to first responder teams from the East African Community (EAC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the SADC. The trainers will receive technical assistance from confirmed OPCW-trained instructors from the EAC, as well as experts from the National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology of the National Gendarmerie (INCC/GN) of Algeria, and will be supervised by OPCW training partners from various States Parties, including the Czech Republic, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, among others. The exercise will be monitored by international observers, including potentially from Canada, France, the United States of America, and the European Union.
4. The exercise is designed to promote synergies through demonstrated South-South cooperation in this field by means of participation of instructors from the SADC, as well as OPCW-trained instructors from the EAC, and technical experts from INCC/GN. The project is also aimed at cementing the technical and financial support of international donors contributing to OPCW efforts in connection with assistance and protection against the use or threat of use of chemical weapons or toxic chemicals. A further aim is to promote the engagement of African States Parties from other regional economic communities by showcasing the impact of assistance and protection efforts in Africa.



5. Organised within the framework of the OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Africa Programme), CHEMEX Africa 2 falls under the ambit of Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention), which focuses, inter alia, on assisting States Parties in strengthening national programmes for the development and improvement of a protective capacity against chemical weapons.
6. CHEMEX Africa 2 consists of a briefing and pre-exercise workshop; a basic assistance and protection course; a specialised skills demonstration and training; a field exercise; and an African stakeholder and VIP demonstration, exercise, and exhibition.
7. The project will be implemented to achieve the short- and long-term outcomes listed below, which can be achieved and measured through the annual assistance and protection training cycle for African States Parties under Article X of the Convention in the years following the completion of the project.

SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES

8. The project is expected to develop the theoretical and practical knowledge of participating States Parties in the area of response to chemical emergencies, to widen the field of participation and increase the engagement of African technical partners in the annual delivery of specialised training to an audience of African first responders, and to expand the assistance and protection portion of the Africa Programme to other regional economic communities in Africa.

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

9. The project is expected to strengthen the capacity of African States Parties to respond to and reduce the deleterious effects of chemical incidents or attacks. Such strengthened capacity will be observable through increased submissions pursuant to paragraph 4 of Article X of the Convention, indicating the development and adoption of programmes for protective purposes at a national level.
10. Given the purpose and focus of the exercise, interested States Parties should have facilities or institutions that could be used for the practical exercise. The Secretariat will hold two meetings ahead of CHEMEX Africa 2 to prepare for the effective and orderly conduct of the exercise and associated training.

INITIAL PLANNING MEETING

11. Once a host country and supporting States Parties have been identified, the Secretariat will host the initial planning meeting, tentatively scheduled for the third quarter of 2025. This meeting will focus, inter alia, on host nation support issues, details and scope of involvement of supporting States Parties, and logistical aspects of their participation. At the end of the initial planning meeting, all stakeholders will have a clear overview of the exercise and the associated training components, the necessary tasks for each contributor, and the steps leading from the initial meeting to the conduct of the exercise.

FINAL PLANNING MEETING

12. The selected host country will host the final planning meeting in early 2026. The main objective of this meeting is to follow up on the preparations and ensure that any corrective action is taken to ensure the orderly conduct of CHEMEX Africa 2. Upon the conclusion of this meeting, all stakeholders will have confirmed their state of preparation, clarified and resolved outstanding issues, and defined tasks for the final preparations for CHEMEX Africa 2.

CONDUCT OF CHEMEX AFRICA 2

13. CHEMEX Africa 2 will unfold over a two-week period in the first quarter of 2026 and will consist of five components, as follows:
 - (a) Component one – briefing/pre-exercise lecture/workshop (led by the Secretariat);
 - (b) Component two – basic assistance and protection course (led by SADC and EAC teams and mentors);
 - (c) Component three – specialised skills demonstration and training (led by the INCC/GN team);
 - (d) Component four – field exercise (led by SADC and EAC teams and mentors); and
 - (e) Component five – African stakeholder/VIP demonstration and exercise/exhibition (led by the Secretariat).
14. Any State Party interested in hosting CHEMEX Africa 2 should send a letter of interest addressed to the Head of the Assistance and Protection Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR, The Hague, the Netherlands (with a copy by email to apb@opcw.org).
15. All letters from States Parties interested in hosting the exercise must be received by the Secretariat no later than **28 July 2025**.
16. Additional information may be obtained from Mr Babatunde Olowookere (Tel.: +31(0)70 416 3467; Email: babatunde.olowookere@opcw.org) of the Assistance and Protection Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division.

Annex: CHEMEX Africa 2 – Provisional Programme

Annex
CHEMEX AFRICA 2
PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Stakeholders	CHEMEX Africa 2															
			Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Free	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11	Remaining departures	
	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri		
Trainees (EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, and SADC)		Arrival of trainees	Basic course				Specialist training (2 teams)	Specialist training (2 teams)		Practical and exercise prep	Practical and exercise prep	Training and field exercise prep	Full-scale exercise prep and practice	Exercise demo/ Evening departures		
Trainers (SADC,EAC, and INCC/GN)	Arrival of participants	Support team briefing and prep														
Technical team donors																
Technical team partner SP 1																
Technical team partner SP 2																
OPCW Secretariat																
Technical teams INCC/GN				Arrival of teams	Briefing & observation	Prep specialist training	Conduct training	Conduct training		Incorporate specialist teams into exercise			Skills demo			
African Union/ Regional economic community reps													VIP arrivals	Visitors Programme: Equipment Expo; Demos; Reception		
Participating SP representatives																
African Embassy representatives																
Donor Embassy representatives																