



S/2405/2025

16 May 2025

ENGLISH and FRENCH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR AN INTEGRATED ADVANCED COURSE AND EXERCISE FOR FRENCH-SPEAKING MEMBER STATES IN AFRICA

1. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat) wishes to invite States Parties in the Africa region to nominate representatives to participate in an integrated advanced course and exercise related to assistance and protection under Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention), which will begin with an online course on the essentials of responding to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals.
2. The integrated advanced course and exercise will be jointly organised by the Government of Tunisia in collaboration with the Secretariat. It will provide training for up to **20 sponsored participants** in the essentials of assistance and protection, with a focus on responding to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals.
3. The training course will be divided into the following segments:
 - (a) an online essentials course, from 30 June to 25 July 2025;
 - (b) a hands-on integrated advanced course and exercise, from 25 September to 2 October 2025 in Menzel Jemil, Tunisia; and
 - (c) a one-day follow-up webinar in 2026 (dates to be determined).
4. The online essentials course will offer all participants basic theoretical knowledge about the OPCW, the Convention, chemical warfare agents, toxic industrial chemicals, the physico-chemical properties of chemicals, personal protective equipment (PPE), decontamination, detection, identification, and monitoring, the Emergency Response Guidebook, the CAMEO Chemicals database, and the Incident Command System. It will prepare participants to successfully face the next training segment by addressing certain technical aspects that will be of use to them in chemical emergency response. The Secretariat may select up to 25 participants to participate in the online course, but only 20 participants will ultimately be selected at the end of this course to continue with the following hands-on training.



5. The hands-on integrated advanced course and exercise will consist of a combination of theory-based lectures, equipment demonstrations, and practical training sessions and exercises. It will also explore a variety of complex scenarios in combination with the final exercise, which will serve as an opportunity to practise and confirm the knowledge and skills acquired during the entire course.
6. Given the objectives of the integrated advanced course, candidates should have a background in the field of chemical emergency response. **The target audience is personnel from official institutions (civilians or military) belonging to front-line chemical emergency response units.** Candidates will be selected in line with this requirement.
7. The integrated advanced course will be conducted in **French**, therefore, participants are required to have a good working knowledge of written and spoken French. No interpretation services will be provided during any of the segments of the training.
8. Applications must be submitted online via Eventus, the OPCW event management system (<https://eventus.opcw.org>) **no later than 10 June 2025**. During the application process, it is essential that candidates attach their curriculum vitae and a copy of their valid passport.
9. Endorsement by a candidate's respective National Authority is a prerequisite to being considered in the selection process. The endorsement process must be completed online through Eventus **no later than 10 June 2025**. The Secretariat strongly encourages States Parties and National Authorities to seek, support, and endorse applications from qualified women candidates.
10. Participants should be physically fit and able to wear PPE during the practical sessions of the courses under hot, humid, tiring, and stressful conditions. Please note that a medical certificate may be required to attend the hands-on training segment.
11. Participants should undertake the necessary steps to ensure their participation in the entire cycle by obtaining the required clearances from the relevant authorities based on the invitation letter issued by the Secretariat.
12. The Secretariat expects to be able to **sponsor a maximum of 20 participants** for the hands-on training. 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.
13. The Secretariat will seek the most economical options when making travel arrangements for sponsored participants. Participants are expected to arrive in Tunisia for the hands-on training no earlier than 24 September 2025 and to depart no later than 3 October 2025. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the courses or resulting from unauthorised travel arrangement changes. Once the Secretariat has purchased their tickets, sponsored participants will be responsible for ensuring that they participate in the courses. In case of any unforeseen circumstances, participants should immediately contact the substantive officer responsible for the courses.

14. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before traveling to Tunisia. Further details regarding logistics and the final programmes will be issued to participants at a later stage.
15. The provisional programmes for the integrated advanced course and exercise are included as the annexes to this Note, and further details will be issued at a later date. Any questions may be addressed to the focal points for this training cycle in the Assistance and Protection Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the Secretariat, as follows: Mr Loïc Luyeye (Tel.: +31 (0)70 416 3451; Email: loic.luyeye@opcw.org) and Ms Maria Elena Bruno-Pousadela (Tel.: +31 (0)70 416 3217; Email: mariaelena.bruno-pousadela@opcw.org).

Annexes:

Annex 1: Online Essentials Course, 30 June – 25 July 2025 – Provisional Programme

Annex 2: Hands-on Integrated Advanced Course and Exercise on Response to Incidents Involving Chemical Warfare Agents and Toxic Industrial Chemicals, Menzel Jemil, Tunisia, 25 September – 2 October 2025 – Provisional Programme

Annex 1

ONLINE ESSENTIALS COURSE

30 JUNE – 25 JULY 2025

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Chapter 1: The Chemical Weapons Convention

- 1.1. Historical review
- 1.2. The Chemical Weapons Convention
- 1.3. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
- 1.4. Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention

Chapter 2: Technical aspects to respond to emergencies with toxic chemicals

- 2.1. Physical and chemical properties of substances
- 2.2. Toxicological values applied to the management of emergencies with chemicals
- 2.3. Dispersion of contaminants in the environment after an event with chemicals
- 2.4. Safety distances and planning zones

Chapter 3: Introduction to chemical agents

- 3.1. Chemical weapons
- 3.2. Chemical warfare agents
- 3.3. Exposure to chemical warfare agents
- 3.4. Toxic industrial chemicals

Chapter 4: Introduction to personal protective equipment (PPE)

- 4.1. Chemical protection suits
- 4.2. Respiratory protection
- 4.3. OPCW protection levels

Chapter 5: Introduction to decontamination

- 5.1. Decontamination overview
- 5.2. Decontamination stations and corridors
- 5.3. Decontamination processes
- 5.4. Decontamination systems

Chapter 6: Introduction to detection and identification

- 6.1. Recognition
- 6.2. Detection
- 6.3. Identification

Chapter 7: The Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG)

- 7.1. Introduction
- 7.2. The yellow section
- 7.3. The blue section
- 7.4. Operational guides (the orange section)
- 7.5. The green section

Chapter 8: The CAMEO Chemicals database

- 8.1. Overview
- 8.2. Searching for chemicals
- 8.3. Searching for chemicals by name
- 8.4. Searching chemicals by their United Nations number
- 8.5. Chemical reactivity

Chapter 9: The Incident Command System (ICS)

- 9.1. History of the ICS
- 9.2. ICS definitions
- 9.3. Structure and functions
- 9.4. Steps to be followed by the first responder with operational capacity
- 9.5. How can the population be protected during a chemical emergency?

Annex 2

**HANDS-ON INTEGRATED ADVANCED COURSE AND EXERCISE ON
RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS INVOLVING CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS AND
TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS
MENZEL JEMIL, TUNISIA, 25 SEPTEMBER – 2 OCTOBER 2025
PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

Time	Activity
<i>Wednesday, 24 September 2025</i>	
	Arrival of participants
<i>Thursday, 25 September 2025 – ESSENTIALS OVERVIEW</i>	
09:00 – 10:00	Opening ceremony
10:00 – 10:15	Group photo
10:15 – 10:30	<i>Break</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Presentation: The Chemical Weapons Convention, the OPCW, and Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention
11:00 – 11:30	Stakeholder Presentation by the National Authority
11:30 – 12:30	Presentation: Chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Presentation: Physico-chemical properties and their application in incident management
14:30 – 14:45	<i>Break</i>
14:45 – 16:45	Practical session: Physico-chemical properties and their application in incident management
16:45 – 17:00	End of day
<i>Friday, 26 September 2025 – PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT</i>	
09:00 – 10:00	Presentation: Personal protective equipment (PPE) – Respiratory protection (review)
10:00 – 10:30	<i>Break</i>
10:30 – 11:30	Presentation: PPE – Chemical suits (review)
11:30 – 12:30	Presentation: Delivering equipment and familiarisation (practice)
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Practical session: PPE A, B, C (rotation of 3 groups)
14:30 – 15:30	Practical session: PPE A, B, C (rotation of 3 groups)
15:30 – 16:30	Practical session: PPE A, B, C (rotation of 3 groups)
16:30 – 16:45	<i>Break</i>
16:45 – 17:00	End of day
<i>Saturday, 27 September 2025 – DECONTAMINATION</i>	
09:00 – 10:00	Presentation: Decontamination principles (review)
10:00 – 11:00	Presentation: Decontamination methodology, techniques, and procedures (review)
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Break</i>
11:30 – 12:30	Presentation: Familiarisation with decontamination equipment (practice)
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 15:00	Practical session: Dry/wet decontamination for operators (rotation of 2 groups)
15:00 – 16:30	Practical session: Victim/mass decontamination (rotation of 2 groups)
16:30 – 16:45	<i>Break</i>
16:45 – 17:00	End of day

Time	Activity
<i>Sunday, 28 September 2025 – DETECTION AND SAMPLING</i>	
09:00 – 10:00	Presentation: Detection and identification (review)
10:00 – 11:00	Presentation: Introduction to sampling
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Break</i>
11:30 – 12:30	Presentation: Detection and identification (practice)
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Practical session: Sampling (rotation of 3 groups)
14:30 – 15:30	Practical session: Sampling (rotation of 3 groups)
15:30 – 16:30	Practical session: Sampling (rotation of 3 groups)
16:30 – 16:45	<i>Break</i>
16:45 – 17:00	End of day
<i>Monday, 29 September 2025 – INCIDENT COMMAND AND EXERCISES</i>	
09:00 – 10:00	Presentation: Incident command (review)
10:00 – 11:00	Presentation: The Emergency Response Guide (ERG) (review)
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Break</i>
11:30 – 12:30	Practical session: The ERG
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 13:45	Pre-session briefing
13:45 – 15:00	Practical session: Exercise scenario 1 – (rotation of 2 groups)
15:00 – 15:15	<i>Break</i>
15:15 – 16:45	Practical session: Exercise scenario 2 – (rotation of 2 groups)
16:45 – 17:00	End of day
<i>Tuesday, 30 September 2025 – INCIDENT COMMAND AND EXERCISES (cont.)</i>	
09:00 – 10:00	Presentation: Initial care of victims on the ground
10:00 – 10:15	<i>Break</i>
10:15 – 10:30	Pre-session briefing
10:30 – 11:30	Practical session: Rescue operations in contaminated environments with PPE (rotation of 2 groups)
11:30 – 12:30	Practical session: Rescue operations in contaminated environments with PPE (rotation of 2 groups)
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 13:45	Pre-session briefing
13:45 – 16:00	Practical session: Exercise scenarios 3 and 4 (rotation of 2 groups)
16:00 – 16:15	<i>Break</i>
16:15 – 16:30	End of day
<i>Wednesday, 1 October 2025 – EXERCISE</i>	
09:00 – 10:00	Pre-session briefing
10:00 – 12:00	Practical session: Complex exercise scenario 5
12:00 – 12:15	<i>Break</i>
12:15 – 12:30	End of course briefing
12:30 – 13:00	Closing ceremony
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
<i>Thursday, 2 October 2025</i>	
	Departure of participants