



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

S/2414/2025

18 June 2025

ENGLISH and SPANISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE
ON MEDICAL RESPONSE TO TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS
AND CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS
RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL
1 – 5 SEPTEMBER 2025**

1. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat) wishes to invite OPCW Member States to nominate participants for a training course on the medical management of persons exposed to toxic industrial chemicals and chemical warfare agents. The training course will be jointly organised by the National Authority of Brazil, the Brazilian Air Force, and the Secretariat, and will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 1 to 5 September 2025.
2. The purpose of this training course is to strengthen medical preparedness and response capabilities at hospitals in the aftermath of an attack involving chemical warfare agents or toxic industrial chemicals. It will also promote the exchange of experience, therapeutic approaches, and treatment protocols, as well as strategies for addressing gaps in medical capabilities.
3. The course will address the following: general concepts of chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals; the identification, diagnosis, treatment, and medical management of persons exposed to chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals; lessons learned from incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals; hospital preparedness and response; and medical follow-up for individuals dealing with the long-term effects of exposure to chemical warfare agents or toxic industrial chemicals.
4. The Secretariat expects to sponsor a maximum of 26 participants (13 women and 13 men) from interested Member States. The profiles of interested candidates should meet the criteria listed below:
 - (a) This training course is designed for health professionals who work at hospitals that may attend to victims in a chemical emergency, health professionals who work at medical facilities designated for this purpose, and health professionals who work at the coordination level of health services.
 - (b) Applications may be accepted from physicians, nurses, and other health professionals from all regions, including health professionals from civilian and military hospitals, or other medical institutions.



- (c) Candidates should be involved, or plan to be involved, in medical preparedness and response to chemical incidents at their respective institutions; this includes health professionals who work with vulnerable populations that may be affected in the above-described scenarios.
5. The Secretariat strongly encourages Member States and National Authorities to seek, support, and endorse applications from qualified women candidates.
 6. Consideration for the selection process will be given only to candidates who have completed their application through Eventus—the OPCW event management system (<https://eventus.opcw.org>). A complete application should include:
 - (a) all the personal information requested in the application form (using one's national passport as a reference for names);
 - (b) an endorsement of the candidate by the National Authority of their country, specifying whether sponsorship is a condition of their participation;
 - (c) a curriculum vitae, as well as any other additional relevant information, which should be uploaded to Eventus; and
 - (d) valid passport information, including a copy of the personal identification pages of the passport, which are to be uploaded to Eventus. **Passports must be valid for at least six months from the start date of the event.**
 7. Additional information provided by candidates in the Eventus platform will be carefully considered. This may include: previous experience and participation in emergency training (including emergency chemical training); accreditation in chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) programmes, and/or programmes on medical treatment in disaster situations; participation in previous national or regional events on relevant subjects; roles and responsibilities with regard to emergency-related medical education; and the coordination of medical services, preparedness, response, and follow-up to incidents involving chemical warfare agents or toxic industrial chemicals.
 8. The course will be conducted in English and Spanish; simultaneous interpretation into Spanish and English, respectively, will be provided. Applicants must therefore be proficient in either English or Spanish to participate.
 9. For selected participants, the Secretariat will cover the costs of travel, accommodation, airport transfers, medical and travel insurance, and meals. In addition, a limited subsistence allowance will be provided (after the event) to cover sundry expenses.
 10. The Secretariat will seek the most economical options when making travel arrangements for sponsored participants. Participants are expected to **arrive no earlier than Sunday, 31 August and to depart no later than Saturday, 6 September 2025**. The Secretariat will not cover expenses that are not related to the course or that result from unauthorised changes in travel arrangements. Once the Secretariat has purchased their tickets, sponsored participants will be responsible for ensuring their participation. In the case of unforeseen circumstances, participants should immediately contact the substantive officers responsible for the course (see contact information in paragraph 13 below) and subsequently submit a formal letter explaining the reasons for their cancellation. In addition, all necessary visas (if required) should be obtained by participants before travelling to Brazil.

11. Interested applicants are requested to register their nomination online through Eventus **no later than Friday, 18 July 2025**. Applications should include an endorsement from the candidate's respective National Authority.
12. Only selected participants with an OPCW acceptance letter will be allowed to participate in this course. Candidates who have been selected to participate will be contacted no later than five working days after the submission deadline. Member States are requested to inform the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the Secretariat of any administrative or other problems that may arise in relation to the attendance of any selected participant.
13. For technical matters, the focal points for this training course are Mr Eduardo Herrera (Tel: +31 70 416 3466; Email: eduardo.herrera@opcw.org) and Ms Toko Okazaki (Email: toko.okazaki@opcw.org). Administrative questions relating to this training course may be addressed to Ms María Elena Bruno-Pousadela (Tel: +31 70 416 3217; Email: mariaelena.bruno-pousadela@opcw.org) in the Assistance and Protection Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division.

Annex: Provisional Programme

Annex

**INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON MEDICAL RESPONSE
TO TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS
RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL
1 – 5 SEPTEMBER 2025**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity	Presenter
<i>Sunday, 31 August 2025</i>		
	Arrival of participants at the hotel	
<i>Monday, 1 September 2025 – Galeão Air Force Hospital</i>		
08:00 – 08:30	Registration	
08:30 – 09:15	Opening ceremony and group photo	OPCW and Brazilian representatives
09:15 – 09:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>	
09:30 – 09:45	Course overview, administrative briefing	Air Force Team
09:45 – 10:40	Introduction of the host country and the host institute; introduction of participants	Air Force Team
10:40 – 11:15	The Chemical Weapons Convention and Article X on assistance and protection – Medical Action Plan	OPCW
11:15 – 12:00	Implementation of the Convention in Brazil	National Authority
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
13:00 – 14:00	Preparing a hospital for the care of victims of incidents involving chemical warfare agents or toxic industrial chemicals – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Air Force Team
14:00 – 15:00	Adapting the hospital environment to hot, warm, and cold zones (perspectives on receiving victims at the hospital) – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Electronuclear Medical Assistance Foundation
15:00 – 16:00	Communications on a chemical event in the hospital – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Air Force Team
16:00 – 16:15	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>	
16:15 – 17:00	Chemical warfare agent detection – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Brazilian Army CBRN Defence Institute – Army Laboratory
17:00 – 17:45	Practical demonstration of detection of chemical warfare agents – Practical session	
17:45 – 17:55	Daily summary and discussion	Air Force Team – OPCW
18:30 – 20:00	Reception	To be confirmed
<i>Tuesday, 2 September 2025</i>		
08:00 – 08:30	Neurotoxic agents – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Air Force Team
08:30 – 09:00	Choking agents – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Air Force Team
09:00 – 09:30	Blister agents – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Air Force Team
09:30 – 10:00	Use of white phosphorus – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Air Force Team
10:00 – 10:20	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>	

Time	Activity	Presenter
10:20 – 10:50	Haematotoxic agents – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Ministry of Defense Team
10:50 – 11:30	Riot agents and disabling agents – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Air Force Team
11:30 – 12:00	Mixed dirty bomb (chemical-radiological) – Basic concepts and theoretical review	OPCW
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
13:00 – 13:35	New chemical warfare agents – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Brazilian Army CBRN Defence Institute (IDQBRN) – Army Laboratory
13:35 – 14:10	Toxic industrial chemicals with potential terrorist uses – Basic concepts and theoretical review (online)	Air Force Team
14:10 – 14:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
14:30 – 15:00	Chemical burns – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Air Force Team
15:00 – 15:30	Chemical burns by smoke inhalation – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Air Force Team
15:30 – 16:00	Regenerative medicine – New therapeutic proposals for the treatment of chemical burns	Air Force Team
16:00 – 16:15	<i>Coffee break</i>	
16:15 – 16:45	Chemical dispersal devices	OPCW
16:45 – 16:55	Summary of the day and discussion	Air Force Team – OPCW
<i>Wednesday, 3 September 2025</i>		
08:00 – 08:35	Difficulty of performing in hospital with personal protective equipment (PPE)	Air Force Colonel (Retired) – Dr Heitor
08:35 – 09:10	PPE levels A and B	CBRN Defence Battalion Team
09:10 – 09:45	Intra-hospital PPE levels C and D – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Air Force 1st Lieutenant – Nurse Barbosa
09:45 – 10:20	PPE donning and doffing – Hands-on session	CBRN Defence Battalion Team
10:20 – 10:35	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10:35 – 12:00	PPE donning and doffing – Hands-on session (cont.)	CBRN Defence Battalion Team
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
13:00 – 14:00	“What awaits you?” – Actions to be taken with the team in the face of unknown agents	Air Force Team
14:00 – 14:30	Similarities and differences among patients exposed to ionising radiation vs chemicals	OPCW
14:30 – 15:00	Nursery management of hospitalised patients exposed to chemicals	International instructor
15:00 – 18:00	Cultural visit	
20:00 – 22:00	<i>Dinner</i>	To be confirmed

Time	Activity	Presenter
Thursday, 4 September 2025		
08:00 – 08:40	Transport and evacuation of contaminated patients to the hospital	Air Force Team
08:40 – 09:20	Decontamination of victims, members of the response team, and materials in a hospital environment – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Air Force Team
09:20 – 10:00	Interview with a chemical weapons victim (mustard gas)	International expert
10:00 – 10:10	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10:10 – 12:10	Practical session: – receiving patients transported by aircraft and ambulance – decontamination of victims – medical procedures	Air Force Team
12:10 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
13:00 – 15:00	Clinical simulation (use of medical manikins)	Air Force Team
15:00 – 15:20	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15:20 – 16:50	PPE withdrawal dynamics – Hands-on session	Air Force Team
16:50 – 16:55	Summary of the day and discussion	Air Force Team – OPCW
Friday, 5 September 2025		
08:00 – 08:40	Management of corpses of victims of chemical agents – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Air Force Team
08:40 – 09:20	“What Awaits You?” – Actions to be taken with the team in the face of unknown agents - Basic concepts and theoretical review	International Expert
09:20 – 10:00	Psychological approach to chemical weapons victims and the response team – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Air Force Team
10:00 – 10:15	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>	
10:15 – 10:55	Innovation of chemical warfare agents with the use of artificial intelligence – Basic concepts and theoretical review	Air Force Colonel (Retired) – Dr Heitor
10:55 – 11:30	Course evaluation session and participant feedback	Air Force Team – OPCW
11:30 – 12:00	Closing ceremony 1) Ministry of Defense and the Brazilian Air Force 2) OPCW 3) National Authority	
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
Saturday, 6 September 2025		
All day	Departure of participants	