



S/2447/2025

29 September 2025

ENGLISH and FRENCH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**LABORATORY EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE COURSE FOR
FRENCH-SPEAKING MEMBER STATES IN THE AFRICA REGION, ALGIERS,
ALGERIA, 7 – 11 DECEMBER 2025****PURPOSE OF THE COURSE**

1. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat) wishes to inform Member States in the Africa region that it will hold a laboratory equipment maintenance course in French from 7 to 11 December 2025 in Algiers, Algeria. The course will be co-organised by the OPCW and the National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology of the Gendarmerie Nationale (NICC/GN), with support from the National Authority of Algeria.
2. The objective of the course is to assist qualified personnel (namely, analytical chemists from industry, academic institutions, and government laboratories) in acquiring the experience and practical knowledge needed to develop their capacity to perform basic preventive and curative maintenance of laboratory equipment, and to facilitate the adoption of good practices in the area of preventive maintenance of equipment in analytical chemistry laboratories. This training is being implemented within the scope of the capacity-building programmes on the peaceful applications of chemistry under Article XI of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

COURSE CONTENT

3. The five-day programme will include theoretical lectures as well as practical sessions, among others on:
 - (a) the theory of gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) systems and the related operating principles (electron ionization and chemical ionization mode), hardware considerations, tuning, mass calibration and instrument validation, and troubleshooting;
 - (b) the theory of universal detectors, their applications, and troubleshooting;
 - (c) sampling, sample preparation methods, and GC-MS analysis, including spectra interpretation;
 - (d) aspects that lead to equipment failure in the event of an incident;
 - (e) consumables and spare parts for GC-MS systems;



- (f) basic information for maintenance of GC-MS systems, the importance of maintenance schedules, and preventive maintenance plans;
 - (g) practical steps in troubleshooting and other relevant aspects of laboratory maintenance; and
 - (h) laboratory quality assurance and health and safety measures.
4. The training will accommodate a maximum of 10 participants from OPCW Member States in the Africa region. Participants will be selected based on their qualifications and experience in consultation with NICC/GN.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

5. The course is open to those who:
- (a) have a minimum of a first degree (BSc or equivalent) in chemical or environmental sciences or technologies or engineering from a recognised university or institution;
 - (b) have been working in research or academic institutions, chemical industry, or governmental agencies for at least one year; and
 - (c) are currently using gas chromatography and GC-MS equipment.
6. The course will be conducted in French. Candidates must therefore have a strong command of both written and spoken French.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

7. Applications will be carefully screened on the basis of the criteria specified in paragraphs 5 and 6 above. The Secretariat may decide to interview applicants.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

8. Interested candidates are invited to submit their applications through Eventus—the OPCW event management system (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>). Applicants must first create an account and then register for the event. Each application must be endorsed digitally in the Eventus platform by the respective National Authority or Permanent Representation of the applicant's country to the OPCW. Only nominations endorsed by the National Authority or Permanent Representation will be considered. The National Authorities are strongly encouraged to support and endorse applications from suitable women candidates for the course.
9. Applications must be accompanied by the following:
- (a) an updated curriculum vitae;
 - (b) a photocopy of the personal identification pages of the candidate's passport;
 - (c) a one-page description of the candidate's practical experience; and
 - (d) a letter of recommendation from the supervisor of the candidate at his or her institution addressing the candidate's qualifications in line with paragraphs 5 and 6 above and attesting to the relevance of the course to the work of the institution.

10. Applications must be submitted to the Secretariat **no later than 31 October 2025**. Incomplete or improperly completed applications cannot be considered.
11. Additional information may be obtained by email from the International Cooperation Branch of the OPCW. The contact persons are Mr Farid Tata, Senior Project Assistant (email: farid.tata@opcw.org), and Mr Roman Warchol, Senior Programme Officer (email: roman.warchol@opcw.org).

--- 0 ---