



S/2469/2025

8 December 2025

ENGLISH and SPANISH only

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN “CHEMEX GRULAC”  
(MULTICOMPONENT CHEMICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE  
CAPACITY-BUILDING EXERCISE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN)  
SANTO DOMINGO, THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
27 APRIL – 7 MAY 2026**

1. Within the framework of the implementation of Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention), the OPCW Technical Secretariat (the Secretariat) continues to develop the capacity of States Parties in the area of assistance and protection against incidents and attacks involving both chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals.
2. In this context, and thanks to generous donations by the European Union and the Governments of Canada and Spain, the Secretariat will deliver “CHEMEX GRULAC”—the Multicomponent Chemical Emergency Response Capacity-Building Exercise for the Latin American and Caribbean Group—to create synergies in the region by establishing and developing operational procedures and mechanisms for joint action among different institutions during an emergency. The analysis of national and regional needs, along with fostering a culture of awareness of chemical threats, are also fundamental parts of the programme.
3. CHEMEX GRULAC is a multidisciplinary and multicomponent programme designed for States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean. It falls under the ambit of Article X of 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. Its primary goal is to enhance the response capability of GRULAC States to respond to emergencies involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals, regardless of their source.
4. The Secretariat is pleased to invite nominations from interested GRULAC States Parties that wish to participate in CHEMEX GRULAC, which is to be held in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic, from 27 April to 7 May 2026.
5. CHEMEX GRULAC will be conducted entirely in Spanish. Participants are therefore required to have a good working knowledge of Spanish, both written and oral.
6. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor a maximum of 82 regional participants, including international instructors. When proposing nominees for the course, States Parties should specify whether such sponsorship is a condition for their participation. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the cost of travel, accommodation,



airport transfers, medical insurance, and meals, and it will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses. Representatives of States Parties wishing to attend the exercise as observers or evaluators will need to bear the cost of travel, accommodation, and meals themselves. Applications from women first responders are particularly welcome, and States Parties and National Authorities are strongly encouraged to endorse applications from qualified women applicants.

7. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to the Dominican Republic. Further details regarding logistics and the final programme will be communicated to participants at a later stage.
8. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. Participants are expected to arrive in the Dominican Republic no earlier than Sunday, 26 April 2026, and to depart no later than Friday, 8 May 2026. The Secretariat will not cover expenses that are not related to the programme 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 programme. In case of any unforeseen circumstances, participants should immediately contact the focal points for the programme (contact details are available in paragraph 16 below).
9. Other States Parties that wish to participate as observers are also invited to register expressions of interest, although the Secretariat is unable to consider sponsorship for participation as observers or evaluators.
10. The Government of the Dominican Republic will host the event and handle all security, safety, medical, and on-site logistical arrangements for the exercise. In addition, the OPCW, as co-organiser, will provide additional support as necessary. The incoming participants will be met at the point of entry and will be escorted to the site of the exercise by representatives from the host country, which will also facilitate border crossings and customs formalities.

## **CONDUCT OF CHEMEX GRULAC**

11. CHEMEX GRULAC will take place over 11 days from 27 April to 7 May 2026, and will include two main segments that will run simultaneously, as follows:
  - (a) First responder segment: This segment includes several modules covering subjects such as chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals, personal protective equipment (PPE), detection and identification, decontamination, rescue operations, sampling, and incident command, enabling a response to chemical incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic chemicals. Participants will be required to work with PPE for prolonged periods of time, so physical fitness is a prerequisite.
  - (b) Medical segment: this segment will comprise three main components, namely, prehospital care, hospital preparedness (HOSPREP), and medical management of exposure to chemical warfare agents and toxic chemicals. Practical sessions will include hands-on training in the use of PPE and response procedures for chemical incidents, so participants must be physically fit.

12. The programme will end with a VIP Day including a large-scale exercise involving all participants.
13. Given the purpose of the programme and the characteristics of each segment, nominees should meet the following specific requirements:
  - (a) First responder segment: Candidates for this segment must have a background in chemical emergency response in the field, with a good level of experience working with a self-contained breathing apparatus and chemical protective suits. Preference will be given to candidates from first responder units (fire brigades, hazardous materials (HAZMAT) teams, chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives (CBRNE) response units, and civil defence, among others).
  - (b) Medical segment: Candidates for this segment should be health professionals (such as physicians or nurses) who work at hospitals or other medical facilities designated to attend to victims in a chemical emergency, or other health workers involved in the coordination and planning of health services, as well as those involved in the design, preparedness, and management of hospitals facing chemical emergencies. Individuals with previous experience and knowledge of chemical emergencies, accreditation in CBRNE programmes, previous participation in national or regional HOSPREP events, or individuals who have responsibilities related to operational and clinical aspects of the response to chemical emergencies or other relevant experience may also be considered in the selection process.
14. All interested applicants are invited to register their nomination for the corresponding segment online through Eventus—the OPCW event management system—no later than **Thursday, 15 January 2026**. The Eventus registration link is accessible via the OPCW website (<https://eventus.opcw.org>). Please note that all questions marked with an asterisk (\*) in the online registration form must be answered for the application to be considered. Applicants must attach a curriculum vitae and a photocopy of the personal identification pages of their passport during the application process. Incomplete applications cannot be considered.
15. All observers, evaluators, and participants (whether serving as part of a unit or as individual experts) are requested to obtain the necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to the Dominican Republic.
16. Additional information may be obtained from the focal points for this programme in the Assistance and Protection Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the Secretariat: Mr Miguel Albaladejo Pomares (Tel.: +31 70 416 3451; Email: [miguel.albaladejopomares@opcw.org](mailto:miguel.albaladejopomares@opcw.org)); Mr Eduardo Herrera Reyes (Tel.: +31 70 416 3466; Email: [eduardo.herrera@opcw.org](mailto:eduardo.herrera@opcw.org)); and Ms Maria Elena Bruno-Pousadela (Tel.: +31 70 416 3217; Email: [mariaelena.bruno-pousadela@opcw.org](mailto:mariaelena.bruno-pousadela@opcw.org)).
17. The provisional programme for CHEMEX GRULAC is attached as the Annex to this Note and further details will be shared in due course.

Annex: CHEMEX GRULAC, Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic,  
27 April – 7 May 2026 – Provisional Programme

**CHEMEX GRULAC**  
**SANTO DOMINGO, THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**  
**27 APRIL – 7 MAY 2026**

## First responder segment (FRS); Medical segment (MDS)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
26 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	30 Apr	1 May	2 May	3 May	4 May	5 May	6 May	7 May	8 May
Arrival of participants	Registration	<u>FRS:</u> Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	Decontamination and initial prehospital care	<u>FRS:</u> Detection and sampling	<u>FRS:</u> Incident command	Field exercises	Free day and cultural visit	Field exercises	Final exercise: Dry run	Final exercise and VIP Day	Briefing	Departure of participants
		<u>MDS:</u> Chemical warfare agents and PPE		<u>MDS:</u> Hospital set-up and initial medical care	<u>MDS:</u> Advanced medical care and incident command							
	Opening ceremony	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		Lunch				
	Group photo	PPE practical session	Decontamination practical session	<u>FRS:</u> Detection and sampling practical session	Tabletop exercise	Field exercises		Field exercises		Delivery of certificates	Evaluation	
Lunch							Technical lectures		Closing ceremony			Lunch

— 0 —