



S/2479/2026
27 January 2026
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR A TRAINING COURSE
FOR AFRICAN STATES PARTIES ON SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS
IN A HIGHLY CONTAMINATED ENVIRONMENT
ALGIERS, ALGERIA
5 – 9 APRIL 2026**

1. On behalf of the Government of Algeria and the OPCW, the Technical Secretariat (the Secretariat) wishes to invite African States Parties to nominate participants for a training course on sampling and analysis in a highly contaminated environment, to be held in Algiers, Algeria, from 5 to 9 April 2026.
2. The course will be jointly organised by the Government of Algeria and the Secretariat. The main purpose of the course is to provide expert knowledge and skills to 25 specialists from African States Parties who would be responsible for conducting sampling and analysis tasks in a highly contaminated environment resulting from a chemical attack or a chemical incident.
3. African States Parties that do not yet have sampling and analysis capabilities are especially encouraged to nominate participants. Given the objectives of the course and its technical nature, applicants should have a solid technical background in chemistry and the management of hazardous chemical substances. Applicants are expected to be familiar with the principles of first response, including sampling and chemical emergency management. Previous practical experience in military or civil protection is desirable. Personal protective equipment will be worn for several hours each day, and participants must therefore be physically fit and able to wear such equipment for extended periods.
4. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor a limited number of participants from African States Parties. For sponsored participants, it will cover the costs of accommodation and meals. Further details regarding accommodation, the course venue, and transport will be issued to all confirmed participants at a later date.
5. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. In order for the Secretariat to keep costs to a minimum, sponsored participants are expected to arrive no earlier than Saturday, 4 April 2026, and depart no later than Friday, 10 April 2026.
6. The course will be conducted in English, and no interpretation services of any kind will be provided. Participants are therefore expected to have a good command of both written and spoken English.



7. Interested States Parties are invited to submit nominations as soon as possible and not later than 20 February 2026, making sure to provide all necessary contact information and valid passport details of the nominees. Endorsement by a candidate's National Authority is a prerequisite for consideration in the selection process. The endorsement process must be completed online before 20 February 2026 in Eventus (<https://eventus.opcw.org>), the OPCW event management system. States Parties and National Authorities are strongly encouraged to seek, support, and endorse applications from qualified women applicants.
8. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas, including transit visas, before travelling to Algeria.
9. The provisional programme for this course is included as the Annex 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: Mr Babatunde Olowookere (Tel.: +31 (0)653274684; Email: babatunde.olwoookere@opcw.org) and Ms Fildza Setiabudi (Tel.: +31 70 416 3462; Email: fildza.setiabudi@opcw.org).

Annex: Provisional Programme

Annex**TRAINING COURSE FOR AFRICAN STATES PARTIES ON SAMPLING AND
ANALYSIS IN A HIGHLY CONTAMINATED ENVIRONMENT****ALGIERS, ALGERIA****5 – 9 APRIL 2026****PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

Time	Activity
<i>Saturday, 4 April 2026</i>	
	Arrival of participants
<i>Sunday, 5 April 2026</i>	
07:00 – 08:00	Registration, meet-and-greet at the National Army Circle (CNA)
08:00 – 09:30	Opening ceremony
09:30 – 10:00	Official photography
10:00 – 10:15	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>
10:15 – 11:00	Presentation: Overview of the OPCW and Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention
11:00 – 12:00	Presentation: Introduction to chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals, an overview
12:00 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:15	Presentation: Principles of protection against chemical warfare agents, toxic industrial chemicals, and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
14:15 – 14:45	Presentation: Principles of detection of chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals: detection strategies and equipment
14:45 – 15:30	Presentation: Overview of sampling – general rules, hazards, equipment, and procedures
15:30 – 16:15	Presentation: Principles of decontamination, decontamination equipment, and methods
16:15 – 16:30	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>
16:30 – 17:15	Presentation: Sample preparation of collected toxic samples, laboratory analysis procedures for chemical warfare agents, and handling and analysis challenges
17:15 – 18:15	Presentation: Laboratory safety procedures while handling toxic chemical samples
18:15	End of day one
<i>Monday, 6 April 2026</i>	
07:00 – 08:00	Transfer from the CNA to the National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology of the National Gendarmerie (INCC/GN)
08:00 – 08:45	Presentation: Handling toxic chemical samples, chain of custody procedure at the OPCW

Time	Activity		
08:45 – 10:00	Group 1 practical session with PPE: Donning and doffing level C	Group 2 practical session with PPE: Donning and doffing level B	Group 3 practical session with PPE: Donning and doffing level A
10:00 – 10:15	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>		
10:15 – 12:00	Practical session: Level C, B, and A suits and self-contained breathing apparatus operation (respiration, capabilities and limitations, inspection, donning and doffing, seal checking, normal use, and emergency procedures)		
12:00 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>		
13:30 – 14:15	Demonstration: Familiarisation with detection equipment		
14:15 – 16:00	Practical session: Sample collection practice in level A and level C suits, and identifying hazards and sampling chemicals while wearing chemical protective clothing and respiratory protection equipment (team exercise)		
16:00 – 16:15	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>		
16:15 – 17:00	Presentation: Hot-zone management with an emphasis on the collection of samples		
17:00	End of day two – transfer from the INCC/GN to the CNA		
<i>Tuesday, 7 April 2026</i>			
07:00 – 08:00	Transfer from the CNA to the INCC/GN		
08:00 – 08:45	Presentation: Environmental and emergency sampling		
08:45 – 10:00	Practice: Analytical equipment used for sampling and analysis		
10:00 – 10:15	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>		
10:15 – 12:00	Practice: Analysis of chemical warfare agents in the laboratory and familiarisation with laboratory equipment		
12:00 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>		
13:30 – 16:00	Continuation of practice: Analysis of chemical warfare agents in the laboratory and familiarisation with laboratory equipment		
16:00 – 16:15	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>		
16:15 – 17:00	Accredited laboratory analysis of received samples: methods and general rules		
17:00	End of day three – transfer from the INCC/GN to the CNA		
<i>Wednesday, 8 April 2026</i>			
07:00 – 08:00	Transfer from the CNA to the INCC/GN		
08:00 – 10:00	Field exercise 1 (without PPE)		
10:00 – 10:15	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>		
10:15 – 11:00	Debrief of field exercise 1		
11:00 – 12:30	Field exercise 2 (half PPE)		
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>		
14:00 – 17:00	Field exercise 3 (full PPE)		
17:00	End of day four – transfer from the INCC/GN to the CNA		

Time	Activity
<i>Thursday, 9 April 2026</i>	
07:00 – 08:00	Transfer from the CNA to the INCC/GN
08:00 – 08:45	Presentation: Medical aspects, first aid for affected casualties, and antidotes
08:45 – 10:00	Practice: Administration of first aid and antidotes for chemical weapons casualties
10:00 – 10:15	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>
10:15 – 11:15	Equipment check, cleaning, and handover
11:15 – 12:15	After-action review, lessons learned, and course evaluation and feedback
12:15 – 13:30	Presentation of certificates
13:30 – 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30	End of day five – transfer from the INCC/GN to the CNA
<i>Friday, 10 April 2026</i>	
	Departure of course participants

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