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27 February 2026  
ENGLISH only

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL INTEGRATED  
ADVANCED COURSE AND EXERCISE ON ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION  
SPIEZ, SWITZERLAND  
3 – 9 JUNE 2026**

1. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat) wishes to invite all Member States to nominate representatives to participate in the international 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 chemical incidents.
2. The international integrated advanced course and exercise under Article X of the Convention is being organised by the Secretariat in conjunction with the Government of Switzerland and the Nuclear, Biological, Chemical, and Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Mine Action Centre of Competence of the Swiss Armed Forces. In order to strengthen the capacities of States Parties, the course will provide training for up to 25 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 1 April to 15 May 2026;
  - (b) a hands-on integrated advanced course and exercise, from 3 to 9 June 2026, in Spiez, Switzerland; and
  - (c) a follow-up webinar in December 2026 (exact date to be determined).
4. The online essentials course will begin with 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. Up to 35 participants may be selected to participate in the online course, but only a maximum of 25 participants will be invited to continue with the subsequent 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 reinforce the knowledge and skills acquired in the course.
6. The target audience for the course is chiefly personnel from front-line chemical emergency response units within official civilian or military institutions. Participants should be physically fit and able to wear PPE during the practical sessions of the course under hot, humid, tiring, and stressful conditions. Please note that a medical certificate may be required to attend the hands-on training segment.
7. Applications must be submitted online via Eventus, the OPCW event management system (<https://eventus.opcw.org>), **no later than 27 March 2026**. Candidates must attach their curriculum vitae and a copy of their valid passport to their application. Please note that all questions marked with an asterisk (\*) in the online registration system must be answered in order for the nomination to be received and for the candidate to be considered for this event. A photocopy of the personal identification page of the applicant's passport is mandatory. The personal information provided in the application must match the details as shown in the passport, as this will be used for the issuance of flight tickets should an application be successful. Participants are responsible for ensuring the accuracy of their personal information. Any inaccuracies may result in exclusion from the training course or additional charges that will need to be borne by the participants.
8. 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 27 March 2026**. The Secretariat strongly encourages States Parties and National Authorities to seek, support, and endorse applications from qualified women candidates.
9. Participants should take 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.
10. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor a maximum of 25 participants for the hands-on training. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the costs of travel, accommodation, airport transfers, medical insurance, and lunches, and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses.
11. The Secretariat will seek the most economical options when making travel arrangements for sponsored participants. Participants are expected to arrive in Switzerland for the hands-on training no earlier than 2 June 2026, and to depart no later than 10 June 2026. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the course 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 course. In case of any unforeseen circumstances, participants should immediately contact the substantive officers responsible for the course.

12. The integrated advanced course and exercise will be conducted in English; therefore, participants are required to have a good working knowledge of written and spoken English. No interpretation services will be provided during any of the segments of the training.
13. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Switzerland. Further details regarding logistics and the final programmes will be issued to participants at a later stage.
14. The provisional programmes for the courses 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: Mr Loïc Luyeye (Tel.: +31 70 416 3471; Email: [loic.luyeye@opcw.org](mailto:loic.luyeye@opcw.org)) and Ms Fildza Setiabudi (Tel.: +31 70 416 3462; Email: [fildza.setiabudi@opcw.org](mailto:fildza.setiabudi@opcw.org)).

Annexes:

Annex 1: Online Essentials Course, 1 April – 15 May 2026 – Provisional Programme

Annex 2: Hands-on Integrated Advanced Course and Exercise on Assistance and Protection, Spiez, Switzerland, 3 – 9 June 2026 – Provisional Programme

## **Annex 1**

### **ONLINE ESSENTIALS COURSE**

**1 APRIL – 15 MAY 2026**

### **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**

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**

- 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 for chemicals by United Nations number
- 8.5. Chemical reactivity

## **Chapter 9: The Incident Command System**

- 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 the population can be protected during a chemical incident

## Annex 2

**HANDS-ON INTEGRATED ADVANCED COURSE AND EXERCISE  
ON ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION  
SPIEZ, SWITZERLAND  
3 – 9 JUNE 2026**

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

Time	Activity
<b><i>Tuesday, 2 June 2026</i></b>	
	Arrival of participants
<b><i>Wednesday, 3 June 2026 – ESSENTIALS OVERVIEW</i></b>	
08:00 – 08:30	Opening remarks
08:30 – 08:45	Group photo
08:45 – 09:30	Presentation: The Chemical Weapons Convention, the OPCW, and Article X of the Convention
09:30 – 10:00	<i>Break</i>
10:00 – 10:30	Administrative information
10:30 – 12:00	Formation of the working group, preparation of PPE
12:00 – 12:45	<i>Lunch</i>
12:45 – 14:45	Material preparation
14:45 – 15:15	<i>Break</i>
15:15 – 17:15	Mask and PPE instruction
<b><i>Thursday, 4 June 2026 – PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND DETECTION</i></b>	
08:00 – 09:30	PPE instruction
09:30 – 10:00	<i>Break</i>
10:00 – 12:00	PPE instruction (continued)
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
13:00 – 14:30	Detection devices
14:30 – 14:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
14:45 – 16:15	Detection devices (continued)
16:15 – 16:30	<i>Break</i>
16:30 – 17:30	C-Alarm instruction
<b><i>Friday, 5 June 2026 – FIELD PROCEDURES</i></b>	
08:00 – 12:00	Field procedures (detection, sampling, decontamination)
12:00 – 12:45	<i>Lunch</i>
12:45 – 15:45	Exercise
15:45 – 16:15	<i>Break</i>
16:15 – 17:15	Mask maintenance
<b><i>Saturday, 6 June 2026 – EXERCISE</i></b>	
09:00 – 10:45	Introduction to field mission
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 – 12:00	Introduction to Exercise “Pronto ”
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
13:00 – 16:00	Exercise “Pronto”
16:00 – 17:00	Introduction to Exercise “Magnus”

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b><i>Sunday, 7 June 2026</i></b>	
	Excursion and individual time
<b><i>Monday, 8 June 2026 – EXERCISE</i></b>	
08:00 – 18:15	Exercise “Magnus” (including lunch and coffee breaks)
<b><i>Tuesday, 9 June 2026 – EXERCISE</i></b>	
08:00 – 12:00	Final exercise
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
13:00 – 14:45	Return of equipment
14:45 – 15:00	Course evaluation
15:00 – 17:30	<i>Transfer and break</i>
17:30 – 18:15	Closing session
18:30 – 20:00	Official dinner
<b><i>Wednesday, 10 June 2026</i></b>	
	Departure of participants