



S/2512/2026
25 March 2026
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR AN INTEGRATED ADVANCED COURSE
AND EXERCISE ON ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION FOR
PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING STATES PARTIES
RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL
3 – 11 AUGUST 2026**

1. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat) wishes to invite Portuguese-speaking States Parties to nominate representatives to participate in an integrated advanced course and exercise related to assistance and protection under Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention).
2. The integrated advanced course and exercise will be jointly organised by the Government of Brazil and the Secretariat, and 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 9 May to 9 June 2026;
 - (b) a hands-on integrated advanced course and exercise, from 3 to 11 August 2026 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and
 - (c) a one-day follow-up webinar in December 2026 (exact date to be determined).
4. The online essentials course will offer all participants 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 for success in the next training segment by addressing certain technical aspects that will be of use to them in chemical emergency response. The Secretariat may select up to 30 participants to participate in the online course, but only 25 participants will ultimately be invited at the end of this course 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 during the course.



6. Given the objectives of the integrated advanced course, candidates should have a background in the field of chemical emergency response. The target audience is 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. A medical certificate may be required to attend the hands-on training segment. Candidates will be selected in line with the requirements above.
7. The integrated advanced course will be conducted in Portuguese; therefore participants are required to have a good working knowledge of written and spoken Portuguese. No interpretation services of any kind will be provided during any of the segments of the training.
8. Applications must be submitted online via Eventus, the OPCW event management system (<https://eventus.opcw.org>), **no later than 15 April 2026**. 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. Candidates must attach their curriculum vitae and a copy of their valid passport to their application. 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.
9. 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 15 April 2026**. The Secretariat strongly encourages States Parties and National Authorities to seek, support, and endorse applications from qualified women candidates.
10. Participants should undertake 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.
11. 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 meals (lunch), and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses.
12. The Secretariat will seek the most economical options when making travel arrangements for sponsored participants. Participants are expected to arrive in Rio de Janeiro for the hands-on training **no earlier than 2 August 2026** and to depart **no later than 12 August 2026**. The Secretariat will not cover expenses that are not related to the course or that result 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 courses.

13. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before traveling to Brazil. Further details regarding logistics and the final programmes will be issued to participants at a later stage.
14. The provisional programmes for the online essentials course and the integrated advanced course and exercise are included as the annexes to this Note, and further details will be issued in due course. 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: Mr Babatunde Olowookere (Tel.: +31 (0)6 53 27 4684; Email: babatunde.olwookere@opcw.org); and Ms Aureliarita Marcellus (Tel.: +31 (0)6 40 24 2922; Email: aureliarita.marcellus@opcw.org).

Annexes:

Annex 1: Online Essentials Course, 9 May – 9 June 2026 – Provisional Programme

Annex 2: Hands-On Integrated Advanced Course and Exercise on Assistance and Protection for Portuguese-Speaking States Parties, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3 – 11 August 2026 – Provisional Programme

Annex 1

ONLINE ESSENTIALS COURSE 9 MAY – 9 JUNE 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 emergency

Annex 2

**HANDS-ON INTEGRATED ADVANCED COURSE
AND EXERCISE ON ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION
FOR PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING STATES PARTIES
RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL
3 – 11 AUGUST 2026**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
<i>Sunday, 2 August 2026</i>	
	Arrival of participants
<i>Monday, 3 August 2026 – ESSENTIALS OVERVIEW</i>	
09:00 – 10:00	Opening ceremony
10:00 – 10:15	Group photo
10:15 – 10:30	<i>Break</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Presentation: The Chemical Weapons Convention, the OPCW, and Article X
11:00 – 11:30	Stakeholder presentation by the National Authority
11:30 – 12:30	Presentation: Chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Presentation: Physico-chemical properties and their application in incident management
14:30 – 14:45	<i>Break</i>
14:45 – 16:45	Practical session: Physico-chemical properties and their application in incident management
16:45 – 17:00	Daily summary
<i>Tuesday, 4 August 2026 – PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT</i>	
09:00 – 10:00	Presentation: Personal protective equipment (PPE) – Respiratory protection (overview)
10:00 – 10:30	<i>Break</i>
10:30 – 11:30	Presentation: PPE – Chemical suits (overview)
11:30 – 12:30	Presentation: Equipment delivery and familiarisation (practice)
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 16:30	Practical session: PPE (rotation of 3 groups)
16:30 – 16:45	<i>Break</i>
16:45 – 17:00	Daily summary
<i>Wednesday, 5 August 2026 – DECONTAMINATION</i>	
09:00 – 10:00	Presentation: Decontamination principles (overview)
10:00 – 11:00	Presentation: Decontamination methodology, techniques, and procedures (overview)
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Break</i>
11:30 – 12:30	Presentation: Familiarisation with decontamination equipment (practice)
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 15:00	Practical session: Dry/wet decontamination for operators (rotation of 2 groups)
15:00 – 16:30	Practical session: Victim/mass decontamination (rotation of 2 groups)
16:30 – 16:45	<i>Break</i>
16:45 – 17:00	Daily summary

Time	Activity
Thursday, 6 August 2026 – DETECTION AND SAMPLING	
09:00 – 10:00	Presentation: Detection and identification (overview)
10:00 – 11:00	Presentation: Introduction to sampling
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Break</i>
11:30 – 12:30	Presentation: Detection and identification (practice)
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 16:30	Practical session: Sampling (rotation of 3 groups)
16:30 – 16:45	<i>Break</i>
16:45 – 17:00	Daily summary
Friday, 7 August 2026 – INCIDENT COMMAND AND EXERCISES	
09:00 – 10:00	Presentation: Incident command (review)
10:00 – 11:00	Presentation: The Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) (overview)
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Break</i>
11:30 – 12:30	Practical session: ERG
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 13:45	Pre-session briefing
13:45 – 15:00	Practical session: Exercise scenario 1 (rotation of 2 groups)
15:00 – 15:15	<i>Break</i>
15:15 – 16:45	Practical session: Exercise scenario 2 (rotation of 2 groups)
16:45 – 17:00	Daily summary
Saturday, 8 August 2026 – INCIDENT COMMAND AND EXERCISES (continued)	
09:00 – 10:00	Presentation: Initial care of victims on the ground
10:00 – 10:15	<i>Break</i>
10:15 – 10:30	Pre-session briefing
10:30 – 11:30	Practical session: Rescue operations in contaminated environments with PPE (rotation of 2 groups)
11:30 – 12:30	Practical session: Rescue operations in contaminated environments with PPE (rotation of 2 groups)
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 13:45	Pre-session briefing
13:45 – 16:00	Practical session: Exercise scenarios 3 and 4 (rotation of 2 groups)
16:00 – 16:15	<i>Break</i>
16:15 – 16:30	Daily summary
Sunday, 9 August 2026 – FREE DAY	
Monday, 10 August 2026 – COMPLEX EXERCISE SCENARIO 5	
09:00 – 09:30	Pre-session briefing
09:30 – 11:30	Practical session: Complex exercise scenario 5 (rotation of 2 groups)
11:30 – 11:15	<i>Break</i>
11:15 – 12:30	Practical session: Complex exercise scenario 5 (continued)
12:30 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
13:00 – 15:00	Practical session: Complex exercise scenario 5 (continued)
15:00 – 15:15	<i>Break</i>
15:15 – 16:30	Exercise debrief and preparation for the final exercise
16:30 – 17:00	Daily summary

Time	Activity
<i>Tuesday, 11 August 2026 – FINAL EXERCISE</i>	
09:00 – 09:30	Pre-session briefing
09:30 – 12:00	Final field exercise (full PPE)
12:00 – 12:15	<i>Break</i>
12:15 – 13:15	After-action lessons learned, course evaluation, and feedback
13:15 – 14:30	Equipment check, cleaning, and handover
14:30 – 15:30	Concluding remarks
15:30 – 16:30	<i>Lunch</i>
16:30	End of course
<i>Wednesday, 12 August 2026</i>	
	Departure of participants