



S/2514/2026
25 March 2026
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR A GENERAL TRAINING COURSE
ON THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
FOR NATIONAL AUTHORITIES AND RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS
IN THE LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION
SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA
20 – 22 JULY 2026**

1. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat) is pleased to announce that a three-day general training course on the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention) and the national obligations thereunder will be held in San José, Costa Rica, from 20 to 22 July 2026, for the personnel of National Authorities and relevant stakeholders in the Latin America and the Caribbean region.
2. The purpose of the course is to assist States Parties in complying with their obligations under the Convention by enhancing the knowledge and skills of the personnel of National Authorities and relevant stakeholders.
3. This general training course is intended primarily for personnel of National Authorities and relevant stakeholders who are responsible for the specific tasks related to the implementation of the Convention at the national level, and who have little or limited knowledge in this area. The course will include both theoretical and practical exercises. The provisional programme for the course is attached as the Annex to this Note.
4. The objectives of the training course are to:
 - (a) strengthen the understanding of the Convention and relevant obligations among personnel of National Authorities;
 - (b) improve the capacity of National Authorities to design and deliver national training courses on Convention implementation; and
 - (c) enhance the capacities of National Authorities to identify and engage relevant national stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention.
5. The course will be conducted in English, with Spanish interpretation services. Participants are therefore expected to have a good command, both written and oral, of English and/or Spanish.
6. States Parties whose nationals have not previously participated in basic or similar courses organised by the Secretariat are particularly encouraged to nominate candidates for participation. Priority will be given to candidates from such States Parties.



7. National Authorities are expected to identify new personnel or important national stakeholders who are suitable applicants, and to bring this opportunity to their attention. National Authorities are strongly encouraged to seek, support, and endorse applications from qualified women candidates for this event. Nominees who have previously participated in a basic course for personnel of National Authorities will not be considered.
8. Applicants nominated by their National Authority should submit their applications online through Eventus, the OPCW event management system (<https://eventus.opcw.org/Home?eventid=698>), **no later than Friday, 15 May 2026**. Please note that all questions marked with an asterisk (*) in the online application must be completed in order for the nomination to be received and for the candidate to be considered for this event.
9. All nominated persons must hold passports that will be valid for at least six months beyond the anticipated date of travel to Costa Rica. A photocopy of the personal identification page of the applicant's passport must be uploaded to Eventus as part of the application process. The personal information provided in the application must match the details shown in the applicant's passport, as this information will be used for the issuance of flight tickets should the application be successful. Participants are responsible for ensuring the accuracy of their personal information. Any inaccuracies may result in exclusion from the event or additional charges that will need to be borne by the participant.
10. All applications must be electronically endorsed by a designated approver from the National Authority. This will be followed by a final review by the Secretariat.
11. Nominated applicants are required to complete international cooperation and assistance e-learning modules 1 to 4 (before the application deadline of **15 May 2026**), which can be accessed through the OPCW website.¹ Access is free and requires one-time registration. After registering online, users can access the e-learning material.
12. Applicants are requested to submit certificates of completion of international cooperation and assistance e-learning modules 1 to 4 via email to Mr Victor Barros Correa (victor.barros-correia@opcw.org) well before the application deadline. Completion of other modules is optional.
13. The Secretariat will sponsor two participants per State Party. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the costs of travel, accommodation, meals, and medical insurance for the duration of the course, and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses. The Secretariat will not pay for medical assistance. Participants should therefore be fit to travel. All participants taking prescribed medication should arrive with supplies sufficient for the duration of the event.
14. The Secretariat will arrange accommodation for all sponsored participants. Participants who do not intend to use this accommodation are requested to indicate this no later than four weeks before the course starts, so that the Secretariat does not incur hotel

¹ <https://learn.opcw.org/course/index.php?categoryid=21>.

cancellation fees. In any case, the Secretariat will not cover the costs of any accommodation it has not arranged itself.

15. Participants are requested to obtain any necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Costa Rica. When applying for any required entry visas, participants should present a copy of the acceptance letter from the OPCW to the Embassy or Consulate of Costa Rica.
16. Additional information about the event and the general training course may be obtained from the Implementation Support Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division. The contact persons are Mr Rene Betancourt (Tel: +31 (0)6 46 959 285; Email: rene.betancourt@opcw.org) and Ms Elena Gjoreska (Tel: +31 (0)6 50 074 114; Email: elena.gjoreska@opcw.org).

Annex: Provisional Programme

Annex

**GENERAL TRAINING COURSE ON THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
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PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
<i>Monday, 20 July 2026</i>	
09:00 – 09:30	Participant registration
09:30 – 09:50	Welcoming remarks
09:50 – 10:00	Administrative announcements
10:00 – 10:15	Group photograph
10:15 – 10:35	<i>Tour-de-table</i> Interactive review of knowledge gained on e-learning modules 1 to 4
10:35 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:00 – 11:30	History of chemical weapons and the OPCW
11:30 – 12:00	Introduction to the Chemical Weapons Convention
12:00 – 12:30	The role of National Authorities in the implementation of the Convention: obligations, coordination, and national implementing legislation
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 14:30	Presentation by Ms M. Winkelried, coordinator of the National Authority of Peru
14:30 – 15:30	Breakout group exercise 1: The attributes of effective National Authorities
15:30 – 15:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:45 – 16:45	Plenary session: Reporting on guided group discussion conclusions: The attributes of effective National Authorities
16:45 – 17:15	Status of national implementation measures under Article VII in Latin America and the Caribbean
17:15 – 18:00	Welcome and networking activity
<i>Tuesday, 21 July 2026</i>	
09:00 – 09:10	Review of the previous day
09:10 – 09:50	Verification regime under the Convention; Q&A
09:50 – 10:30	Electronic declarations and introduction to the Electronic Declaration Information System (EDIS) and the Secure Information Exchange System (SIX) Q&A
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>

11:00 – 11:45	Introduction to declaration requirements under Article VI Q&A
11:45 – 12:30	Tools for the identification of scheduled chemicals and declarable activities monitored under Article VI Q&A
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 14:30	Best practices for the preparation of declarations under Article VI Q&A
14:30 – 14:50	Quiz on declarations under Article VI: Identification of scheduled chemicals and declarable activities
14:50 – 16:20	Breakout group exercise 2: Preparing declarations under Article VI
16:20 – 16:35	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:35 – 17:50	Plenary session: Reporting on preparation of declarations under Article VI
17:50 – 18:30	Administrative session (for sponsored participants only)
<i>Wednesday, 22 July 2026</i>	
09:00 – 09:10	Review of the previous day
09:10 – 09:30	Receiving Article VI inspections
09:30 – 09:50	Programmes of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division
09:50 – 10:15	The National Implementation Framework as a planning tool and the Mentorship/Partnership Programme
10:15 – 10:30	The role of Customs and the Convention
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:00 – 12:30	Breakout group exercise 3: Developing national action plans to roll out training and undertake other pertinent activities at the national level
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	Plenary session: Reporting on guided group discussion conclusions
15:30 – 16:10	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:10 – 17:00	Summary and closure: Post-training evaluation (mentee) Participant reflection on outcomes and closing remarks
17:00 – 17:30	Closing remarks