



**AN INVITATION TO PROPOSE CANDIDATES FOR A COURSE  
ON MEDICAL DEFENCE AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

1. In May 1999 the National Authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in cooperation with the Secretariat will hold a six-day course on medical defence against chemical weapons. The course is primarily intended for qualified medical doctors responsible for planning, preparing and implementing national programmes of CW medical defence. The purpose of the course is to facilitate for States Parties to improve their protective programmes relating to chemical weapons (Article X, paragraph 5, second part) and to improve their capability to make use of medical assistance provided under Article X, paragraphs 8 – 11. The course curriculum is presented in annex 1 to this document.
2. The course will be held at the Centre for Treatment of Chemical Weapons Victims in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 15 – 20 May 1999. The course fee will be USD 1,000 per person, which includes accommodation, breakfast and lunch, medical insurance, the costs of course materials and handouts, and course-related travel within Iran. The fee does not include the costs of travel to and from Iran, and is payable in advance.
3. The course has been designed for medical doctors responsible for the planning and the implementation of national programmes related to medical defence against chemical weapons, as well as for medical doctors who might become actively involved in the treatment of CW casualties. The course will include not only theoretical lectures, but also case studies involving casualties of the use of chemical weapons during the period 1984 – 1988.
4. Throughout the course, the language of instruction will be English. It will not be possible for participants to follow the course unless they have a good working knowledge of that language. No interpretation facilities of any kind will be provided.
5. Background material on the subjects covered by the course will be made available to the participants upon confirmation of participation, to allow them to prepare themselves for the courses. Upon request, this material may be sent to the respective missions in The Hague and Brussels to be forwarded to participants.

6. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor a limited number of candidates nominated by the Member States of the OPCW, to cover their travel costs and course fees. When proposing candidates for the courses, Member States should specify whether sponsorship is a precondition for their participation.
7. Member States are invited to submit the names of candidates for participation in the course to the Secretariat not later than 31 March 1999. Applications received after that date will normally not be considered. All applications, together with the information requested in the form presented in annex 2, should be addressed to the Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands. Applications may also be submitted by fax (+31-70-306 3535) or by e-mail (webmaster@opcw.org).
8. Additional information pertaining to the course may be obtained from the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the OPCW, at the contact number and addresses specified in paragraph 7 above.

Annexes (English only):

1. Curriculum for the six-day course on medical defence against chemical weapons
2. Questionnaire to be completed by applicants for the Iranian/OPCW course on medical defence against chemical weapons

## **Annex 1**

### **CURRICULUM FOR THE SIX-DAY COURSE ON MEDICAL DEFENCE AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

**Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, 15 – 20 May 1999**

#### **1. GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Background to the course; the purpose of the course
- 1.2 An overview of chemical weapons, classification, chemical properties and action mechanisms
- 1.3 Protection against chemical weapons, including detection, personal and collective protection and contamination control

#### **2. NERVE AGENTS**

- 2.1 Physiology and pathophysiology
- 2.2 Clinical manifestations
- 2.3 Prophylaxis and treatment
- 2.4 Differential diagnosis of nerve agent poisoning and insecticide poisoning
- 2.5 Presentation of actual cases of nerve agent poisoning

#### **3. VESICANTS**

- 3.1 Physiology and pathophysiology of vesicants with an emphasis on sulfur mustard
- 3.2 Acute manifestations of vesicant poisoning
- 3.3 Chronic respiratory problems arising out of vesicant poisoning
- 3.4 Chronic dermatological problems
- 3.5 Chronic ophthalmological problems
- 3.6 An overview of cases of sulfur mustard agent poisoning

#### **4. OTHER CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS**

- 4.1 Cyanide poisoning
- 4.2 Lung irritants, including phosgene, poisoning
- 4.3 Various incapacitating agents
- 4.4 Toxins

#### **5. GENERAL ASPECTS OF MEDICAL DEFENCE AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

- 5.1 Organisation of a medical service for dealing with the casualties of chemical weapons
- 5.2 Triage of victims of chemical weapons
- 5.3 Performance reduction as a consequence of the use of protection
- 5.4 Psychological aspects of the use of chemical weapons

**Annex 2**

**QUESTIONNAIRE  
TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANTS FOR THE IRANIAN/OPCW COURSE ON  
MEDICAL DEFENCE AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

FAMILY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_ NATIONALITY: \_\_\_\_\_

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:

University/Institute Name, place, and country	Attended from/to (Month/Year)		Degree/diploma obtained	Main area of study

EXPERIENCE AND CAREER SUMMARY:

Please provide a short overview of your professional career, indicating any area(s) of special interest:

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HAVE YOU HAD ANY PREVIOUS TRAINING IN MEDICAL DEFENCE AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS?

Yes  No

If yes, please provide details:

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HAVE YOU HAD ANY ACTUAL EXPERIENCE EXAMINING OR TREATING PATIENTS WHO HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO CHEMICAL WEAPONS?

Yes  No

If yes, please provide details:

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WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT OR EXPECTED FUTURE INVOLVEMENT IN THE FIELD OF MEDICAL DEFENCE AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS?

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