



**OPCW**

**Technical Secretariat**

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International Cooperation and Assistance Division

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE ADVANCED COURSE FOR  
IBERIAN-AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN NATIONAL AUTHORITIES  
IN MADRID, SPAIN, FROM 19 TO 27 OCTOBER 1999**

1. The Technical Secretariat and the National Authority of Spain conducted an advanced training course for the personnel of Iberian-American and Caribbean National Authorities in Madrid and Huelva, Spain, from 19 to 27 October 1999.
2. The course was attended by 21 participants from 14 States Parties and one signatory State in the Latin American and Caribbean region – Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela. Experts from the Spanish National Authority also took part in the course.
3. The training course was opened by the President of the Spanish National Authority, Mr José de Carvajal Salido, and the Director of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the OPCW, Dr John Makhubalo.
4. Officials of the Technical Secretariat and representatives of the Spanish National Authority made presentations on a variety of issues related to the effective and comprehensive implementation of the Convention. The subjects covered by the training course included, inter alia, the setting up and the functioning of a National Authority, the preparation of national implementing legislation, the preparation of declarations and the identification of declarable activities and facilities, the protection of confidentiality, international cooperation and assistance provisions, and the conduct of OPCW inspections.
5. This advanced training course continued and further enhanced the exchanges of practical experiences among the National Authorities of States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, and thus built upon and complemented the results of the two previous regional implementation workshops. The Spanish National Authority shared its considerable practical experience in implementing the provisions of the Convention, in particular with respect to the provisions of Article VI and the related Parts of the Verification Annex.

6. During the training course, a practical exercise was conducted at a Schedule 3 plant site in Huelva, Palos de la Frontera. This exercise involved all aspects of escorting an OPCW inspection, from the arrival of the team members at the point of entry to their departure at the point of exit.
7. The participants observed the point of entry procedures at the hotel the day before the visit to the plant site. Upon arrival at the plant site, the participants were welcomed by facility representatives, who provided a comprehensive pre-inspection briefing and a site tour. For the main part of the exercise, the participants were divided into three groups, each of which in turn was led through activities in selected areas of the plant site: the Schedule 3 chemical production plant itself (where the appropriate records were kept), the laboratory/pilot plant/infirmary, and the health and safety office. The exercise activities at the plant site took one full working day. The preliminary findings document was prepared and discussed at the hotel on the following day, where the point of exit procedures were also performed. The conduct of the exercise at an actual Schedule 3 plant site gave the participants an opportunity to apply their theoretical understanding of the verification provisions of the Convention in a practical situation.
8. The participants felt that the advanced training course provided a valuable opportunity for them to learn from each other and to broaden their experience in practical aspects of implementing the Convention. The course also contributed further to the cooperation between the National Authorities in the Latin American and Caribbean region as well as Spain, and provided an effective framework for discussions of the practical aspects of the implementation process.