INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON CIVIL DEFENCE IN PROTECTION AND
ASSISTANCE AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS, AND THE
THIRD REGIONAL MEETING OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES IN
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
BRASILIA, BRAZIL
25 – 27 MARCH 2002

1. The Ministry of National Integration, with the participation of the National Authority of Brazil, and the co-sponsorship of the Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (hereinafter the “Secretariat”), jointly invites representatives of Member States of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to participate in the International Seminar on Civil Defence in Protection and Assistance Against Chemical Weapons. This is being organised in conjunction with the Third Regional Meeting of National Authorities in Latin America and the Caribbean, so that other implementation issues related to the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter the “Convention”) can also be addressed.

2. The International Seminar on Civil Defence in Protection and Assistance Against Chemical Weapons will take place from 25 - 27 March 2002 (the programme is contained in annex 1). On 25 and 26 March, the assistance and protection experts and the representatives of National Authorities will participate in joint sessions. On 27 March 2002, the representatives of National Authorities, in the broader framework of the Third Regional Meeting of National Authorities in Latin American and the Caribbean, will continue their discussions on issues relating to the implementation of the Convention (the programme for 27 March for National Authorities is contained in annex 2). Experts in the field of civil protection attending the international seminar on assistance and protection will continue their own discussions on that same day.

3. The International Seminar on Civil Defence in Protection and Assistance Against Chemical Weapons is a timely initiative that will benefit the implementation of Article X of the Convention (which contains its assistance and protection provisions), thus facilitating its process of implementation in the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

4. During their meeting last March in Viña del Mar, Chile, the representatives of Latin American National Authorities expressed a special interest in establishing an assistance and protection network in the region. This international seminar is a
response to that interest, but also reflects the Secretariat’s wish for future meetings of National Authorities to focus on specialised discussions of matters which are of practical interest and value.

5. The process of consultations in Latin America and the Caribbean has been stimulated by the meetings of regional National Authorities held in Lima, Peru, in 2000, and in Viña del Mar, Chile, in 2001, and has provided an important impetus to ensuring effective compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Third Regional Meeting of National Authorities is being convened to further encourage this process.

6. The Secretariat will be able to sponsor the participation of a limited number of representatives of Member States in each of the above-mentioned events. Nominations should be sent using only the application form appropriate for each event, and should specify whether sponsorship is a precondition for the participation of the proposed candidates. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the costs of travel, accommodation, and medical insurance, and will also provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover other related costs, such as meals. Participants who neither need nor intend to use the accommodation provided by the Secretariat are requested to inform the Secretariat about this as early as possible, so that cancellation fees can be avoided. The daily subsistence allowance will remain unchanged for those participants who opt to make their own accommodation arrangements. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek to use the most economic options available. Tickets will be purchased by the Secretariat, and will be sent to participants. Participants will be allowed to purchase tickets locally only when this leads to further savings to the Secretariat, and only when it has authorised this in advance. Any costs due to changes or cancellations made by participants after the tickets have been purchased shall be borne by the participants. Non-sponsored participants are requested to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements, although, if necessary, the Secretariat can arrange accommodation at reduced rates.

7. Depending on the requirements of confirmed participants and the availability of the relevant resources, English and Spanish simultaneous interpretation services may be provided throughout both the international seminar and the meeting of National Authorities. All participants are expected to arrive early on 25 March 2002, and will depart on 28 March 2002, and are requested to obtain any necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Brazil.

8. Member States and other States are invited to submit the names of those individuals they have selected for participation for both of these events to the Secretariat not later than Wednesday 6 March 2002. The completed nomination forms should be sent to the International Cooperation and Assistance Division. It is important that all the details requested on the forms be provided, and that the forms are fully filled in, so that the Secretariat can communicate directly with the proposed participants. Please be advised that an OPCW acceptance letter is a prerequisite for the registration of the participants sponsored by the Secretariat.

9. Application procedure for participants attending the International Seminar on Civil Defence in Protection and Assistance Against Chemical Weapons, 25 - 27 March 2002. Individuals nominated to attend the international seminar on
assistance and protection are required to fill in the application form contained in annex 3 ONLY. Further information can be obtained from the office of the Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands. Nominations may also be submitted by fax (+31 (0)70 306 – 3535, or by e-mail to: EmergAssistBr/opcw@opcw. The staff member available for further information is Ms Imen Ben Brahim (tel.: +31 (0)70 416-3217).

10. Application procedure for participants attending the Third Regional Meeting of National Authorities in Latin America and the Caribbean, 27 March 2002. Individuals nominated to attend the National Authorities regional meeting are required to fill in BOTH application forms, one contained in annex 3, and the other contained in annex 4. Further information can be obtained from the office of the Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands. The two forms should be submitted together, and may also be submitted by fax (+31 (0)70 306-3535, or by e-mail to: ipb@opcw.org. The following staff member will be available for further information: Ms Maria Elena Bruno-Pousadela (tel.: +31 (0)70 416-3825).

Annexes:

Annex 1: Provisional programme for the International Seminar on Civil Defence in Protection and Assistance Against Chemical Weapons
Annex 2: Provisional programme for the Third Regional Meeting of National Authorities in Latin America and the Caribbean
Annex 3: Registration form for the International Seminar on Civil Defence in Protection and Assistance Against Chemical Weapons
Annex 4: Registration form for the Third Regional Meeting of National Authorities in Latin America and the Caribbean
ANNEX 1

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON CIVIL DEFENCE IN PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS
BRASILIA, BRASIL
25 – 27 MARCH 2002

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

25 March

Joint participation by assistance and protection experts and National Authority representatives

18:00-20:00

Registration

Opening Ceremony

20:00 - 20:15

Statement by the Director-General of the OPCW

H.E. Mr José M. Bustani

20:15 - 20:25

Statement by the Minister of Science and Technology

H.E. Mr Ronaldo Mota Sargenberg

20:25 - 20:45

Statement by the Minister of National Integration

H.E. Mr Ney Suassuna

Greetings and welcome to the participants; the goals and importance of the seminar

20:45 - 21:00

Statement by the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil; opening of the international seminar

H.E. Mr Fernando Henrique Cardoso

21:00 - 22:30

Welcome cocktail buffet

26 March

Joint participation by assistance and protection experts and National Authority representatives

08:00 - 09:00

Registration

Brazilian Civil Defence and Global Population Security

09:10 - 10:00

Brazilian civil defence and global population security; focusing on the importance of a broad concept of risk assessment in disaster reduction management

Col. Wilson, National Secretary of Civil Defence
The structure of the Brazilian national system of civil defence (SINDEC), and Brazilian national civil defence policy

10:10 - 10:30  Coffee break

The Chemical Weapons Convention

10:40 - 11:30  Overview of the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, Article X on assistance and protection  
               OPCW

Risk Assessment and Risk Reduction

11:40 - 12:10  Risk assessment and risk reduction  
               International assistance/capacity-building by the OPCW  
               OPCW

12:10 - 14:00  Lunch break

National Protection Programme – Discussion

14:30 - 15:50  Strengthening and development of a national protection programme  
               National capacity-building in the area of protection against chemical weapons  
               Brazilian National Authority

15:50 - 16:10  Coffee break

Role of the OPCW – Discussion

16:10 - 18:00  The role of the OPCW in providing expert advice and assistance to develop and improve the protection capacity of States Parties; methods and mechanisms of providing advice; what kind of advice may be given?  
               Detection, individual and collective protection, contamination control, medical countermeasures and evacuation  
               OPCW
27 March  Participation by assistance and protection experts only¹

**Preparedness and Training**

**08:30 - 09:30**  Preparedness and training: protection courses to improve national capacity
Courses on chemical protection: international courses, OPCW courses, other courses, national courses supported by the OPCW

**Information Sources**

**09:40 - 10:30**  Online/electronic information sources for protection against chemical weapons and other toxic chemicals

**10:30 - 10:50**  Coffee break

**Recognition, Detection and Monitoring**

**10:50 - 11:20**  Recognition of a chemical weapons attack/chemical weapons detection and monitoring

**11:30 - 12:10**  Activities developed by Brazilian civil defence on prevention of and preparedness for terrorist attacks using chemical, biological and radioactive weapons

**12:10 - 14:00**  Lunch break

**Protection, Assistance and Treatment**

**14:00 - 15:00**  Protection equipment/collective protection

**15:10 - 16:00**  Chemical weapons medical treatment

**16:00 - 16:20**  Coffee break

¹ National Authority representatives will be meeting separately (programme in annex 2)
Brazilian Experience with Technological Disasters Related to Chemical Agents

16:20 - 17:10 Chemical accidents           CETESB
17:20 - 17:40 Conclusions                 CEDEC, OPCW
After 18:00 Closing, certificates
ANNEX 2

THIRD REGIONAL MEETING OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
BRASILIA, BRAZIL
27 MARCH 2002

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

27 March

08:30 - 09:30  Registration

09:30 - 10:00  Opening ceremony  Brazilian authorities and OPCW Secretariat

10:00 - 10:15  Coffee break

10:15 - 10:45  Status of implementation of the CWC  OPCW/National Authorities

10:45 - 11:15  The Sixth CSP and the First Review Conference  OPCW

11:15 - 12:00  The Fourth National Authorities Day  OPCW

12:00 - 12:45  GRULAC network of legal experts: how to improve the regional situation  Chairperson of the GRULAC legal network

12:45 - 14:30  Lunch

14:30 - 15:15  Improving the quality of declarations  National Authorities/group discussions/exchange of experiences

15:15 - 16:00  Imports and exports: the role of customs in the process of implementation of the Convention: potential for regional cooperation  OPCW/National Authorities/group discussions/exchange of experiences

16:00 - 16:15  Coffee break

16:15 - 17:00  Experiences of conducting inspections in the chemical industry: developing partnerships with the chemical industry  National Authorities/group discussions/exchange of experiences

17:00 - 17:45  Summing up of deliberations  OPCW/National Authorities/group discussions/exchange of experiences
# ANNEX 3

**INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON CIVIL DEFENCE IN PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS**  
**BRASILIA, BRAZIL**  
**25 – 27 MARCH 2002**

## REGISTRATION FORM

Please submit the completed form **by Wednesday 6 March 2002** to: Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands.  
Fax: +31-(0)70-306-3535; e-mail: EmergAssistBr/opcw@opcw

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Day | Month | Year |
| 9. | Place of issue |
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| 11. | Employer  
Name of the institute/organisation, etc. |
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ANNEX 4

THIRD REGIONAL MEETING OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
BRASILIA, BRAZIL
27 MARCH 2002

REGISTRATION FORM

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Fax: +31-(0)70-306-3535; e-mail: ipb@opcw.org

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   | Yes □ | No □ |
   | If “Yes”, when and where? |          |

17. Sponsorship required?*
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18. Secretariat assistance in finding accommodation required?
   | Yes □ | No □ |

19. Interpretation services
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* Please tick appropriate box.