



**OPCW**

**Technical Secretariat**

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International Cooperation and Assistance Division

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ENGLISH only

**INVITATION TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES TO A COURSE ON  
THE MEDICAL ASPECTS OF DEFENCE AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS  
TEHRAN, THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN  
17 - 21 APRIL 2004**

1. On behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General wishes to invite Member States to nominate candidates to the sixth annual course on the medical aspects of defence against chemical weapons, to be held from 17 to 21 April 2004, in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran.
2. The course has been designed primarily for medical doctors, although candidates from the paramedical professions will also be considered. The course will be particularly valuable to medical professionals who are new to the field of chemical defence, and who do not have an extensive background in the medical aspects of defence against chemical weapons. It will provide them with a unique opportunity to gain insights from Iranian physicians who have treated victims of chemical weapons in field situations.
3. The purpose of the course is to assist Member States with the implementation of programmes related to protection against chemical weapons, in accordance with the second part of paragraph 5 of Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and to improve their ability to make full use of the medical assistance that may be provided in accordance with paragraphs 8 to 11 of Article X. Details on what the course will cover appear in Annex 1 to this invitation.
4. Participants will be provided with an overview of the nature of chemical weapons and their effects, and an update on international efforts to eliminate chemical weapons. The course will also enable medical personnel to gain an understanding of the problems they might encounter if they participate in national or international responses to incidents involving chemical weapons, and also of the assistance and further training that are available through the OPCW. In addition, it will provide an ideal foundation to those who wish to attend specialised training courses offered by other Member States in the future. It will combine theoretical lectures with case studies involving patients who are undergoing treatment for the chronic effects of exposure to chemical weapons.



5. The course will be held at the Centre for Treatment of Chemical Weapons Victims, in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran.
6. All activities during the course will be conducted in English. No interpretation facilities of any kind will be provided. Nominated candidates are therefore expected to have a good command of the English language, both oral and written.
7. Background materials on the subjects the course will cover will be made available in advance to the successful candidates, to allow them to prepare for the course. Upon request, this material may be sent to the relevant permanent representations to the OPCW in The Hague and Brussels, to be forwarded to participants.
8. The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) expects to be able to cover the costs of travel, accommodation, and meals for a limited number of participants nominated by Member States. When proposing candidates for the course, Member States should specify whether sponsorship is a condition of their participation.
9. Member States are invited to submit the names of candidates for the course to the Secretariat **no later than 1 February 2004**. Nominations received after that date will not normally be considered. All nominations, together with a completed copy of the form that is included as Annex 2 to this invitation, should be addressed to the Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, NL-2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands. Applications may also be submitted by fax to +31 (0)70 416 3209, or by e-mail to [EmergAssistBr@opcw.org](mailto:EmergAssistBr@opcw.org).
10. Additional information on the course may be obtained from the International Cooperation and Assistance Division, which can be contacted as specified in the previous paragraph.

Annexes:

Annex 1: Subjects to Be Covered during the Course on the Medical Aspects of Defence against Chemical Weapons

Annex 2: Questionnaire to Be Completed by Candidates for the Course on the Medical Aspects of Defence against Chemical Weapons

## **Annex 1**

### **SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED DURING THE COURSE ON THE MEDICAL ASPECTS OF DEFENCE AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS TEHRAN, THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, 17 – 21 APRIL 2004**

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

- 1.1 Overview of the nature of chemical weapons and their effects
- 1.2 Introduction to protection against chemical weapons, including detection, personal and collective protection, and contamination control
- 1.3 Using chemical-defence equipment: performance reduction and ergonomic problems

#### **2. THE MEDICAL ASPECTS OF EXPOSURE TO CHEMICAL AGENTS**

- 2.1 Nerve agents (pathology, signs and symptoms, diagnosis and treatment)
- 2.2 Blister agents (pathology, signs and symptoms, diagnosis and treatment)
- 2.3 Other agents

#### **3. THE IRANIAN EXPERIENCE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

- 3.1 Review of the experiences of, and the lessons learned by, Iranian physicians when confronted with mass chemical weapons casualties during the 1980s
- 3.2 Organisation of the medical response to a chemical weapons attack in the field
- 3.3 Organisation and treatment of the chronic effects of chemical weapons poisoning, with an overview of the work of the Iranian Veterans' Foundation
- 3.4 Chronic effects of exposure to mustard gas:
  - respiratory effects
  - dermatological effects
  - ophthalmological effects
  - case studies: guided clinical-training sessions, and interviews with and examinations of patients exhibiting the chronic effects of exposure to mustard gas

#### **4. INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

- 4.1 Update on the implementation of the CWC<sup>1</sup>, and the role of medical personnel in chemical defence and disarmament
- 4.2 Medical aspects of investigations of alleged use of chemical weapons
- 4.3 International assistance for Member States of the OPCW

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<sup>1</sup> The Chemical Weapons Convention



**Experience and career summary:**

Please provide a short overview of your professional career, covering in particular any areas that you believe would be of special interest to the review panel:

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Have you had any previous training in the medical defence against chemical weapons?

Yes  No  If so, 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 so, please provide details:

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What is your current or expected future involvement in the medical defence against chemical weapons?

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