



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

International Cooperation and Assistance Division

S/429/2004

10 June 2004

ENGLISH and SPANISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
FIRST ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION COURSE FOR LATIN AMERICAN AND
CARIBBEAN STATES PARTIES
MADRID, SPAIN
13 – 23 SEPTEMBER 2004**

1. On behalf of the government of Spain and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General wishes to invite States Parties in the Latin American and Caribbean region to nominate representatives to participate in the First Assistance and Protection Course for Latin America and the Caribbean, which will take place from 13 to 23 September 2004 in Madrid, Spain.
2. This course is related to the offer made by Spain under Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) to provide assistance and protection against chemical weapons, and will be jointly organised by the Government of Spain and the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”). The course will provide training to up to 20 participants in planning for and building a support team in civilian protection, civilian defence, and rescue operations in contaminated areas, as well as in appropriate responses and countermeasures in the event of incidents involving chemical-warfare agents. It will also give an overview of what kinds of assistance the OPCW, the host country, and other Member States in the Latin American and Caribbean region can provide.
3. The course will offer a basic introduction to the use of individual and collective protective equipment, and to monitoring, detection, and decontamination, and sampling techniques. The course will also facilitate the exchange of information and experiences regarding the implementation of Article X of the Convention, and will also provide a forum for discussion of future cooperation among Member States and of what further offers they might make to the OPCW under Article X.
4. Given the purpose of the course and its technical nature, candidates will be carefully selected, and should have a solid background in the chemistry associated with assistance and protection against chemical weapons. Preference will be given to military officers involved in this area. In addition, participants should be physically fit and be able to wear individual protective gear for several hours during practical sessions of the course. Some practical experience with protective equipment is desirable.



5. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor the participation of a limited number of participants. Each nomination should specify whether sponsorship is a condition of the nominee's participation. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the costs of travel, medical insurance, and meals, and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses. The course materials, accommodation, and local transport during the course will be provided by the National Authority of Spain, at no cost to the participants or the OPCW. Further details regarding accommodation, the course venue, and transportation will be issued to all confirmed participants at a later date.
6. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most-economical options. Participants will be allowed to purchase tickets locally only if this leads to further savings for the Secretariat and if the Secretariat authorises it. In order for the Secretariat to keep costs to a minimum, sponsored participants are expected to arrive no earlier than Sunday, 12 September 2004, and to depart no later than Friday, 24 September 2004. The Secretariat's approval is required for any changes to the arrival and departure dates of sponsored participants. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the course or that result from unauthorised changes to travel arrangements. Sponsored participants shall bear all costs resulting from changes they make, including cancellations, once the Secretariat has purchased their tickets. Participants who have not been sponsored are requested to make their own travel arrangements.
7. All activities during the meeting will be conducted in Spanish, and no interpretation services of any kind will be provided. Participants are therefore expected to have a good command of the Spanish language, both written and oral.
8. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Spain.
9. Interested applicants are invited to complete the nomination form that is included as Annex 2 to this Note, making sure in particular to provide all contact details. Completed forms should be sent, **along with a brief curriculum vitae**, to 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 to +31 (0)70 306 3535, or by e-mail to EmergAssistBr@opcw.org. All materials must be received by the Secretariat **no later than 15 July 2004**. Please be advised that participants must present an OPCW acceptance letter in order to register for the course.
10. Additional information may be obtained from the Assistance and Protection Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, at the above-mentioned contact address given above.

Annexes

Annex 1: Provisional Programme

Annex 2: Nomination Form

Annex 1

**FIRST ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION COURSE
FOR LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES PARTIES
MADRID, SPAIN
13 – 23 SEPTEMBER 2004**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

<i>Monday, 13 September</i>	
8:30 – 9:30	Registration
9:30 – 10:00	Opening remarks by a representative of the OPCW, the Spanish Under-Secretary of Defence, and the Secretary-General of the National Authority of Spain
10:00 – 10:40	The CWC ¹ : general aspects, and the status of implementation of Article X
10:40 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 – 12:00	The National Authority of Spain, CWC implementation legislation, and Article X: presentation by the Secretary-General of ANPAQ ²
12:00 – 12:40	OPCW assistance and protection: activities and programmes, including ASSISTEX ³
12:40 – 13:40	Experiences with mock exercises in other countries
13:40 – 14:00	Discussion
14:00 – 15:00	<i>Lunch</i>
15:00 – 16:40	Overview of national programmes on protection
16:40 – 17:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
17:00 – 17:40	The OPCW's assistance-response system, resources, and equipment
17:40 – 19:00	Opening reception hosted by the OPCW
<i>Tuesday, 14 September</i>	
9:00 – 10:40	NBC ⁴ protection: properties of chemical-warfare agents
10:40 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 – 13:30	Detection of chemical-warfare agents
13:30 – 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30 – 17:00	NBC reconnaissance: sampling and identifying chemical-warfare agents
<i>Wednesday, 15 September</i>	
9:00 – 9:45	Rudiments of meteorology
9:45 – 10:45	Individual protection and protective equipment (theoretical part)
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 – 12:15	Individual protection and protective equipment (demonstration)
12:15 – 13:30	NBC defence structure in Spain
13:30 – 15:00	<i>Lunch</i>
15:00 – 16:00	Toxic industrial chemicals
16:00 – 18:00	Predicting chemical risks

¹ The Chemical Weapons Convention

² Secretaría General de la Autoridad Nacional para la Prohibición de las Armas Químicas

³ OPCW exercises on the delivery of assistance

⁴ Nuclear, biological, and chemical

<i>Thursday, 16 September</i>	
9:00 – 10:00	Collective protection: presentation by the NBC School
10:00 – 11:00	Control over foreign trade and dual-use materials
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:15 – 13:30	Effects of and treatment for intoxication by chemical-warfare agents
13:30 – 15:00	Lunch
15:00 – 16:00	Decontamination
<i>Friday, 17 September</i>	
9:00 – 11:30	Visit to the Casualty Decontamination Centre (CDC)
12:00 – 15:00	Visit to the La Marañosa NBC Laboratory (LAVEMA), OPCW-certified laboratories, and Schedule 1 facilities (lunch included)
<i>Monday, 20 September</i>	
9:00 – 10:30	Chemical terrorism: discussion
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:45 – 11:30	Controlling emissions, dumping, and wastes: presentation by the Spanish Ministry of the Environment:
11:30 – 14:00	Presentations by participants
14:00 – 15:00	Lunch
15:00 – 17:00	Presentations, continued
<i>Tuesday, 21 September</i>	
9:00 – 10:30	Visit to the National School of Civil Protection: procedures at the municipal and regional levels
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:45 – 13:00	Civil protection (continued)
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 17:00	On-site equipment
<i>Wednesday, 22 September</i>	
9:00 – 10:30	The work of the civil guard and the national police against chemical-warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals: discussion moderated by the NBC School
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break
10:45 – 13:00	Continuation of discussion
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 - 17:00	National presentations
<i>Thursday, 23 September</i>	
9:00 – 10:45	Evaluation of the course
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 – 12:00	Closing ceremony hosted by the Under-Secretary of Industry, and the National Authority; reception hosted by the Ministry of Defence (MINISDEF)

Annex 2

**FIRST ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION COURSE
FOR LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES PARTIES
MADRID, SPAIN
13 – 23 SEPTEMBER 2004**

NOMINATION FORM

Please submit the completed form, **along with a brief curriculum vitae, by 15 July 2004** to:
The Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW
Attn: Assistance and Protection Branch
Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands
Fax: + 31 (0)70 306 3535; e-mail: EmergAssistBr@opcw.org.

Please type or use BLOCK LETTERS

1.	Family name of nominee			
2.	First name(s)			
3.	Date of birth	Day	Month	Year
4.	Citizenship			
5.	Gender*	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>	
6.	Passport number			
7.	Date of issue	Day	Month	Year
8.	Expiry date	Day	Month	Year
9.	Place of issue			
10.	Areas of expertise			
11.	Employer			
12.	Position			
13.	Contact address (Please do not give a post-office box number)	Street		
		Number	Post code	
		City		
		Country		

* For this and all like items below, please tick the appropriate box.

14.	E-mail address	
15.	Telephone numbers, including country and city codes	Home
		Work
		Mobile
16.	Fax numbers, including country and city codes	Home
		Work
17.	Has the nominee previously taken part in a course of this kind?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If so, when and where?
18.	Is sponsorship a condition of participation?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>