



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

International Cooperation and Assistance Division

S/454/2004

16 December 2004

Original: ENGLISH

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**THE SECOND OPCW EXERCISE ON THE DELIVERY OF ASSISTANCE
(ASSISTEX 2)
LVIV, UKRAINE
10 – 13 OCTOBER 2005**

1. Each State Party has the right to request and, subject to the procedures set forth in paragraphs 9, 10, and 11 of Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), to receive assistance and protection against the use or threat of use of chemical weapons. In order to be able to implement the provisions of Article X, the OPCW is required to develop and maintain a state of readiness to provide timely, adequate, and efficient assistance to a State Party that requests it. The OPCW should be in a position to mobilise the mechanisms established for rendering assistance, to coordinate its assistance-related activities with those of all relevant national agencies and international organisations so that the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) can facilitate arrangements for assistance from the international community, and to ensure that such assistance reaches the requesting State Party.
2. The first OPCW exercise on the delivery of assistance (ASSISTEX 1) was held from 10 to 14 September 2002 in Zadar, Croatia. The overall objective of the exercise was to assess preparedness of the OPCW as a whole (that is, of both the Secretariat and States Parties) to respond to a request for assistance.
3. The Secretariat would now like to invite interested States Parties and relevant international organisations to participate in ASSISTEX 2, which is to be held in Lviv, Ukraine, from 10 to 13 October 2005. The Euro-Atlantic Disaster Relief Coordination Centre (EADRCC) has expressed an interest in being a partner of the OPCW in the conduct of Assistex 2. The exercise is intended to provide a framework for evaluating the level of preparedness of the OPCW to deliver assistance. The objectives of the exercise are as follows:
 - (a) to assess preparedness to receive and transmit requests to the OPCW for assistance, and responses to those requests;
 - (b) to assess the overall validity of drafts of standard operating procedures, of working instructions, and of other documents dealing with the delivery of assistance and the investigation of alleged use of chemical weapons;



- (c) to assess notification and activation procedures;
 - (d) to improve coordination and cooperation among the emergency-response units provided by States Parties under Article X;
 - (e) to assess cooperation between the OPCW and other international organisations in the field; and
 - (f) to test the following at a practical level:
 - (i) the OPCW's system for responding to requests for assistance from a State Party;
 - (ii) the dispatch of the assistance coordination and assessment team (ACAT) and of a team to investigate the alleged use of chemical weapons; and
 - (iii) how the ACAT facilitates field-emergency response operations.
4. The government of Ukraine will host the exercise and handle all security, safety, and medical arrangements for the exercise; in addition, with the OPCW as co-organiser, it will provide all other forms of support required for the exercise. Incoming teams will be met at the point of entry and will be escorted to the site of the exercise by representatives from the host country, who will also facilitate border crossings and customs formalities.
5. Ukraine's nuclear, biological, and chemical unit, which it offered to the OPCW under Article X and which comprises 132 trained personnel with their vehicles and equipment, will also be participating in the exercise.
6. The Ukrainian Interagency Coordinating Committee has been appointed by the government of Ukraine to prepare for the exercise with the OPCW. The Committee is composed of deputies from the ministries of security, civil emergencies, defence, foreign affairs, finance, interior, health, industrial policy, energy, customs, and border services.
7. In view of the importance of the exercise, the Director-General has decided to establish an interdivisional task force in the Secretariat to identify the objectives and goals of all of its units. The task force will form the organising committee for the exercise, along with representatives of the Interagency Committee and of the EADRCC. The Committee will become the exercise control and management team known as EXCON, which will guide and manage the exercise in accordance with Ukrainian law. An evaluation team will also be formed from members of the Committee and of participating States Parties, and will evaluate the performance of individual teams and the overall conduct of the exercise.

8. Interested States Parties that have made offers of assistance under Article X, paragraph 7, of the Convention are cordially invited to inform the Secretariat **no later than 18 March 2005** whether they intend to participate in ASSISTEX 2, and of the capacity of the unit or units they will send, including the number of people and the volume of equipment they will contribute.
9. Participating teams are expected to cover the costs of their participation unless agreed otherwise with the Secretariat. Responsibility for the movement of units, equipment, and personnel from other States Parties to, from, and within Ukraine, as well as the necessary bilateral arrangements for their status in Ukraine during the exercise, will be the responsibility not of the Secretariat but of participating States Parties (working in consultation with Ukraine and the EADRCC as appropriate). Participating States Parties will nominate a representative to attend planning meetings to be held in The Hague, Brussels, and Ukraine, as well as a liaison officer, who will be based in an on-site operations-coordination centre (OSOCC) during the exercise. Accommodation in field conditions (tents) and meals are to be provided to participating units and teams by the organisers.
10. Other representatives of States Parties and interested international organisations may attend the exercise as observers. The cost of travel, accommodation, and meals will be covered by these observers. All interested individuals are requested to complete the attached form (Annex 2) and fax it to the Assistance and Protection Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, at +31 (0)70 416 3209 **no later than 1 July 2005**. The Interagency Coordinating Committee will arrange hotel accommodation and a special programme for observers from 10 to 13 October 2005.
11. All observers and all participants (whether serving as part of a unit or as individual experts) are requested to obtain the necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Ukraine. All activities associate with the exercise will be conducted in English and Russian, and no other interpretation services will be provided. Participants nominated to work with the ACAT and the OSOCC, and the team liaison officers are therefore expected to have a good command of the English language, both written and oral.
12. Further information may be obtained from the Secretariat task force. The contact persons are Mr Hassan Mashhadi, +31 0)70 416 3555, and Mr Renato Carvalho, +31 (0)70 416 3531); both can also be reached by e-mail at assistex@opcw.org.

Annexes (English only):

Annex 1: Nomination Form

Annex 2: Team Nomination Form

Annex 1

**SECOND OPCW EXERCISE ON DELIVERY OF ASSISTANCE
(ASSISTEX 2)
LVIV, UKRAINE
10 – 13 OCTOBER 2005**

NOMINATION FORM

Please submit the completed form **by 1 July 2005** to:
Assistance and Protection Branch
International Cooperation and Assistance Division
OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands
Fax: +31-(0)-70-416 3209; e-mail: assistex@opcw.org.

Please 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.	Employer's address (Please do not give a post-office box number.)	Street		
		Number	Post code	
		City		
		Country		
13.	E-mail address			
14.	Telephone numbers, including country and city codes	Home		
		Work		
		Mobile		
15.	Fax numbers, including country and city codes	Home		
		Work		

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

Annex 2

**SECOND OPCW EXERCISE ON THE DELIVERY OF ASSISTANCE
(ASSISTEX 2)
LVIV, UKRAINE
10 – 13 OCTOBER 2005**

TEAM NOMINATION FORM

Please submit the completed form **by 18 March 2005** to:
Assistance and Protection Branch
International Cooperation and Assistance Division
OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands
Fax: +31-(0)-70-416 3209; e-mail: EmergAssistBr@opcw.org

Please use BLOCK LETTERS

1.	Team specialisation	
2.	Name of commander	
3.	Number of personnel	
4.	Personnel specialisation(s)	
5.	Special vehicles	
6.	Special logistics requirements	
7.	Mode of transport	Road <input type="checkbox"/> Rail <input type="checkbox"/> Air <input type="checkbox"/>
8.	Point of contact	
9.	E-mail address	
10.	Telephone numbers, including country and city codes	Home
		Work
		Mobile
11.	Fax numbers, including country and city codes	Home
		Work