



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

International Cooperation and Assistance Division

S/536/2006

3 January 2006

ENGLISH and SPANISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
SECOND ASSISTANCE-AND-PROTECTION COURSE FOR LATIN AMERICAN
AND CARIBBEAN STATES PARTIES
MADRID, SPAIN
27 MARCH – 6 APRIL 2006**

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 Second Assistance and Protection Course for Latin America and the Caribbean, which will take place from 27 March to 6 April 2006 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 civil protection, civil 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 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, to monitoring, detection, and decontamination, and to sampling techniques. The course will also facilitate the exchange of information and experiences regarding the implementation of Article X of the Convention, and will provide a forum for the discussion of future cooperation among participating 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 transport 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 26 March 2006**, and to depart **no later than Friday 7 April 2006**. 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 and to inform the Secretariat accordingly.
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)70 416 3209, or by e-mail to EmergAssistBr@opcw.org. All materials must be received by the Secretariat **no later than 17 February 2006**. 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 contact address given above.

Annexes:

Annex 1: Provisional Programme

Annex 2: Nomination Form

Annex 1

**SECOND ASSISTANCE-AND-PROTECTION COURSE
FOR LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES PARTIES
MADRID, SPAIN
27 MARCH – 6 APRIL 2006**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

<i>Monday, 27 March</i>	
08:30 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 10:00	Opening remarks by a representative of the OPCW Secretariat, by the General Secretary of Industry, and by the First Vice-President of the Spanish National Authority (ANPAQ)
10:00 – 10:40	General aspects of the Convention, and the status of implementation of Article X
10:40 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 – 12:00	The role of National Authorities in the OPCW
12:00 – 12:40	OPCW assistance and protection, activities and programmes, and the ASSISTEX exercises
12:40 – 13:30	The Spanish National Authority, Convention implementation, legislation, Article X
13:30 – 15:00	<i>Lunch</i>
15:00 – 15:30	Review of mock exercises carried out in other countries, and of the experience gained from them
15:30 – 16:40	Review of national protection programmes
16:40 – 17:40	The resources and equipment of the OPCW, and its assistance-response system
17:40 – 19:00	Reception hosted by the OPCW
<i>Tuesday, 28 March</i>	
8:30 – 10:40	Chemical-warfare agents
10:40 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 – 13:30	Effects of and treatments for chemical-weapons poisoning
13:30 – 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30 - 15:30	National presentations
15:30 - 18:00	Bio-sensors for chemical-warfare agents
<i>Wednesday, 29 March</i>	
08:30 – 09:45	Control over foreign trade, defence, and dual-use materials (COMEX)
09:45 – 10:45	Individual protection equipment (theory)
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00– 12:15	Individual protection equipment (practical aspects)
12:15– 13:30	Collective protection
13:30 – 15:00	<i>Lunch</i>
15:00 - 16:00	Toxic industrial chemicals
16:00 - 17:00	NBC ¹ decontamination

¹ NBC = Nuclear, biological, chemical

Thursday, 30 March	
08:30 – 10:00	The NBC defence structure in Spain
10:00 – 11:00	Meteorology tools
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 – 12:15	NBC reconnaissance
12:15 – 13:00	Sampling and identifying chemical-warfare agents
13:30 – 15:00	Lunch
15:00 – 17:00	Presentations by participants
Friday, 31 March	
09:00	Transport by bus to the National School of Civil Protection
09:45 – 10:00	Welcome and presentation
10:00 – 11:00	The national system of civil protection
11:00 – 12:00	Emergency planning in connection with the transport of dangerous goods
12:00 – 12:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
12:30 – 13:30	Emergency plans in the chemical industry
13:30 – 14:30	Emergency plans in nuclear-power plants
14:30 – 16:00	<i>Lunch</i>
16:00 – 17:00	Activities conducted at the National School of Civil Protection
Monday, 3 April	
08:30 – 10:30	Discussion of chemical terrorism
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:45 – 11:30	Measures the security forces take against chemical weapons
11:30 – 12:00	Transport to La Marañosa Laboratory, an OPCW designated laboratory
12:00 – 12:20	Presentation on Fabrica Nacional La Marañosa
12:20 – 14:00	The NBC laboratory in Fabrica Nacional La Marañosa
14:30 – 16:00	Lunch, and transport to Madrid
Tuesday, 4 April	
08:15	Transport by bus to the Casualties Decontamination Centre
09:00 – 10:00	Presentation on the Casualties Decontamination Centre
10:00 – 13:30	Tour of the Casualties Decontamination Centre, and practical exercise
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 17:00	Practical exercise, continued
Wednesday, 5 April	
8:30 – 10:00	Presentation by representatives of the security forces on measures taken by the civil guard and the national police against chemical-warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals; discussion moderated by the NBC school
10:00 – 11:00	Environmental control of emissions, dumping, and wastes
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 13:00	National presentations
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 17:00	National presentations
Thursday, 6 April	
09:00 – 10:45	Evaluation
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:00	Closing ceremony hosted by the Under-Secretary of Defence, presentation of certificates, reception hosted by the Ministry of Industry

Annex 2**SECOND ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION COURSE FOR LATIN AMERICAN
AND CARIBBEAN STATES PARTIES****MADRID, SPAIN****27 MARCH – 6 APRIL 2006****NOMINATION FORM**

Please submit the completed form, **along with a brief curriculum vitae, by
17 February 2006** 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)70 416 3209; 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		

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

	number)	Country
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"/>