



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

International Cooperation and Assistance Division

S/760/2009

22 April 2009

ENGLISH and FRENCH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**THE THIRD OPCW EXERCISE ON THE DELIVERY OF ASSISTANCE
(ASSISTEX 3)
TUNIS, TUNISIA
11 – 15 OCTOBER 2010**

1. In accordance with the procedures set forth in paragraphs 9, 10, and 11 of Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), in order to provide assistance and protection against the use or threat of use of chemical weapons and 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 Secretariat would like to invite interested States Parties and relevant international organisations to participate in ASSISTEX 3 (working name), which is to be held in Tunis, Tunisia, from 11 to 15 October 2010. The exercise is intended to provide a framework for evaluating the level of preparedness of the OPCW to deliver assistance, as well as the level of preparedness of the States Parties and their assistance-related assets. 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.
3. The Government of Tunisia 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 necessary support required for the exercise. The 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, which will also facilitate border crossings and customs formalities.
 4. The Tunisian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been appointed by the Government of Tunisia to prepare the exercise with the OPCW. The Ministry will coordinate planning activities with other relevant national ministries and organisations.
 5. In view of the importance of the exercise, the Director-General has established a task force in the Secretariat to identify the objectives and goals of all of its units and to plan, prepare, and execute the exercise. The task force will form the organising committee for the exercise, along with representatives of the Tunisian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
 6. 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 15 September 2009** whether they intend to participate in ASSISTEX 3, including the specifications and capacity of the unit or units that they will send, the number of people that will attend, and a list of equipment that they will contribute.
 7. Participating teams are expected to cover the costs of their participation, including accommodation and meals, unless agreed otherwise with the Secretariat. Responsibility for the movement of units, equipment, and personnel from other States Parties to, from, and within Tunisia, as well as the necessary bilateral arrangements for their status in Tunisia during the exercise, will be the responsibility of the participating States Parties. Participating States Parties will nominate a representative to attend planning meetings to be held in The Hague, the Netherlands, and Tunis, Tunisia, as well as a liaison officer, who will be based in an On-Site Operations-Coordination Centre (OSOCC) during the exercise.
 8. 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 the observers themselves. All interested individuals are requested to

complete the attached form (Annex 1) and fax it to the Assistance and Protection Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, at +31 (0)70 416 3209 **no later than 14 June 2010**. The host country will arrange hotel accommodation and a special programme for observers.

9. 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 Tunisia. All activities associated with the exercise will be conducted in English and French; no other interpretation services will be provided.
10. Further information may be obtained from the Secretariat task force. The contact persons are Mr Gennadi Lutay, +31 (0)70 416 3555; Mr Ervin Farkas, +31 (0)70 416 3261; and Ms Nune Aghayan, +31 (0)70 416 3208. They can also be reached by e-mail at EmergAssistBr@opcw.org.

Annexes (English only):

- Annex 1: Nomination Form
Annex 2: Team Nomination Form

Annex 1

**THE THIRD OPCW EXERCISE ON THE DELIVERY OF ASSISTANCE
(ASSISTEX 3)
TUNIS, TUNISIA
11 – 15 OCTOBER 2010**

NOMINATION FORM

Please submit the completed form **by 14 June 2010** 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*			
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.	Date of expiry	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		

* Please give the first and family names exactly as they appear in the nominee's passport or travel document.

** Please tick the appropriate box.

Annex 2

**THE THIRD OPCW EXERCISE ON THE DELIVERY OF ASSISTANCE
(ASSISTEX 3)
TUNIS, TUNISIA
11 – 15 OCTOBER 2010**

TEAM NOMINATION FORM

Please submit the completed form **by 15 September 2009** 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.	Team specialisation	
2.	Unit commander name	
3.	Number of personnel	
4.	Personnel specialisation(s)	
5.	Total number of vehicles	
6.	Special vehicles	
7.	Point of contact/liaison officer	
8.	Telephone numbers, including country and city codes	Home Work Mobile
9.	Fax numbers, including country and city codes	Home Work
10.	E-mail address	
11.	Special logistics requirements	
12.	Point of entry	
13.	Transportation mode	Road <input type="checkbox"/> Rail <input type="checkbox"/> Air <input type="checkbox"/>
14.	Total weight of equipment (approximately)	