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International Cooperation and Assistance Division

S/1221/2014

10 November 2014

ENGLISH and SPANISH only

**NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR A REGIONAL BASIC COURSE  
ON RESPONSE TO CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS AND INCIDENTS  
WITH TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS  
SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
9 – 13 FEBRUARY 2015**

1. On behalf of the Government of the Dominican Republic and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General wishes to invite States Parties from the Latin American and Caribbean region to nominate representatives to participate in the second regional training cycle in assistance and protection, which will start with a basic course on response to chemical warfare agents and incidents with toxic industrial chemicals, to take place from 9 to 13 February 2015 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.
2. The course will be jointly organised by the Government of the Dominican Republic and the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”). It will provide training to up to 20 participants in the basics of assistance and protection against chemical warfare agents and incidents with toxic industrial chemicals as established by Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”).
3. The course will be the first stage of a three-stage regional training cycle that will occur during 2015. Selected participants for this basic course are expected to participate in the second stage of the cycle, which will consist of an advanced assistance-and-protection course that will be conducted in San José, Costa Rica, at a later date. Selected participants for this basic course will be automatically invited to participate in the advanced course in Costa Rica.
4. The course will offer a basic introduction to toxicology, the use of individual protective equipment, monitoring, detection, and decontamination, and will cover elements of risk assessment, prevention, and response to chemical emergencies. The course is also aimed at facilitating the exchange of information and networking among the participants, with a view to enhancing the implementation of Article X of the Convention in the GRULAC<sup>1</sup> region.
5. Given the purpose of the course and its technical nature, candidates will be carefully selected, and should have a background in the field of chemistry associated with

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<sup>1</sup> GRULAC = Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.



assistance and protection against chemical agents. Preference will also be given to officers from emergency-response units from institutions involved in civilian defence. Participants should be physically fit and able to wear individual protective gear during practical sessions of the course.

6. Endorsement by the National Authority is a precondition for being considered in the selection process.
7. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor a limited number of participants. When proposing candidates for the course, Member States should specify whether such sponsorship is a condition of their participation. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the cost of travel, accommodation, transfer (airport/hotel/airport), medical insurance, meals (lunch), and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses.
8. Further details regarding accommodation, the course venue, transport, and the final programme will be issued to participants in due course.
9. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. Sponsored participants are encouraged to use the tickets provided by the Secretariat. Participants are expected to arrive no earlier than **Sunday, 8 February 2015 and to depart no later than Saturday, 14 February 2015**. 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.
10. The course will be presented in Spanish and participants are required to have a good working knowledge of Spanish, both written and oral.
11. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to the Dominican Republic.
12. Interested Member States are invited to complete the nomination form that is included as Annex 2 to this Note, giving each nominee's full name, passport details and address, fax and telephone numbers, e-mail address, and area(s) of expertise. The completed nomination form, together with a brief curriculum vitae for each nominee, should be sent to the Assistance and Protection Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands. Nominations may be submitted by e-mail to [EmergAssistBr@opcw.org](mailto:EmergAssistBr@opcw.org), but also by fax to +31 (0)70 416 3209. Nominations should be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than **19 December 2014**, to allow sufficient time for the Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements.
13. A provisional programme for the course is included as Annex 1 to this Note; further details will be issued at a later date. Any questions may be addressed to the Assistance and Protection Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division:

Telephone: Mr Justo Quintero Mendez +31 (0)70 416 3775  
Ms Maria Elena Bruno Pousadela +31 (0)70 416 3217  
Fax: +31 (0)70 416 3209  
E-mail: EmergAssistBr@opcw.org

Annexes:

Annex 1: Provisional Programme  
Annex 2 (English only): Nomination Form

## Annex 1

**REGIONAL BASIC COURSE ON RESPONSE TO CHEMICAL WARFARE  
AGENTS AND INCIDENTS WITH TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS  
SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
9 – 13 FEBRUARY 2015**

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

Time	Activity
<b><i>Sunday, 8 February 2015</i></b>	
	Arrival of OPCW team and participants, transfer to accommodation
<b><i>Monday, 9 February 2015</i></b>	
09:00 – 09:15	Logistic and administrative information on the course
09:15 – 10:00	Opening ceremony
10:00 – 10:20	Group photo
<b>Module 1: Convention-related issues and Article X; chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals</b>	
10:20 – 11:15	Presentation : The Chemical Weapons Convention
11:15 – 11:30	Question-and-answer session
11:30 – 11:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:45 – 12:15	Presentation: Article X of the Convention and its implementation
12:15 – 12:30	Question-and-answer session
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Presentation: Chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals: dissemination, effects, symptoms and treatment (I)
14:30 – 14:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
14:45 – 15:30	Presentation: Chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals: dissemination, effects, symptoms and treatment (II)
15:30 – 16:00	Question-and-answer session
16:00 – 16:45	Presentation: Chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals; dissemination, effects, symptoms and treatment (III)
16:45 – 17:00	Question-and-answer session
18:00	Welcome cocktail hosted by the OPCW
<b><i>Tuesday, 10 February 2015</i></b>	
<b>Module 2: Protection and detection</b>	
09:00 – 10:00	Presentation: Principles of respiratory protection
10:00 – 11:00	Presentation: Respiratory and body protection; heat stress
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:15 – 12:30	Presentation: Individual protective equipment; donning and doffing
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	Practical session: Donning and doffing
15:30 – 15:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:45 – 16:30	Presentation: Basic principles of detection and identification of chemical warfare agents

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b>Wednesday, 11 February 2015</b>	
<b>Module 3: Decontamination, sampling and analysis.</b>	
09:00 – 10:15	Presentation: Basic principles of decontamination
10:15 – 10:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:30 – 11:15	Presentation: Decontamination of personnel and equipment
11:15 – 12:30	Presentation: Sampling and analysis
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
<b>Module 4: Emergency response</b>	
13:30 – 14:30	Presentation: Prevention and risk assessment
14:30 – 15:30	Presentation: Response to chemical emergencies
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:00 – 16:45	Presentation: Incident command system
16:45 – 17:30	Presentation: Operations in potentially contaminated areas; downwind-hazard prediction: WISER <sup>2</sup> software
<b>Thursday, 12 February 2015</b>	
09:00 – 09:30	Table-top exercise: Introduction: Operations in potentially contaminated areas
09:30 – 10:30	Table-top exercise (cont'd): Operations in potentially contaminated areas
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:00 – 12:30	Table-top exercise (cont'd): Operations in potentially contaminated areas
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 15:00	Table-top exercise (cont'd): Operations in potentially contaminated areas
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:30 – 16:30	Presentation: Recovery and demobilisation
<b>Friday, 13 February 2015</b>	
<b>Module 6: Final session and evaluation</b>	
09:30 – 10:00	Information session on the next stage: advanced training in Costa Rica
10:00 – 10:15	Question-and-answer session
10:15 – 10:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:30 – 11:30	Discussion on acquired knowledge
11:30 – 12:00	Course evaluation
12:00 – 12:30	Closing ceremony
<b>Saturday, 14 February 2015</b>	
	Departure

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WISER = wireless information system for emergency responders.

## Annex 2

**REGIONAL BASIC COURSE ON RESPONSE TO CHEMICAL WARFARE  
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**NOMINATION FORM**

Please submit the completed form, along with a brief curriculum vitae, by **19 December 2014**

to: The Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW

Attention: 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 <sup>3</sup>			
2.	First name(s)			
3.	Date of birth	Day	Month	Year
4.	Citizenship			
5.	Gender <sup>4</sup>	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		
14.	Airport of departure			
15.	E-mail address			
16.	Telephone numbers, including country and city codes	Home		
		Work		
		Mobile		
17.	Endorsement by National Authority			
18.	Is sponsorship a condition of participation?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	

<sup>3</sup> Please give the first and family names exactly as they appear in the nominee's passport.

<sup>4</sup> For this and all like items, please tick the appropriate box.