



S/1459/2017  
6 February 2017  
ENGLISH only

**NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL COURSE  
ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE VICTIMS  
OF CHEMICAL INCIDENTS OR ATTACKS  
MADRID, SPAIN  
20 – 23 JUNE 2017**

1. On behalf of the Government of Spain and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General wishes to invite Member States to nominate participants for a course on emergency medical assistance for the victims of chemical incidents or attacks, including those involving chemical-warfare agents, which will be held in Madrid, Spain, from 20 to 23 June 2017.
2. The course is related to assistance and protection against chemical weapons under Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), and will be jointly organised by the Government of Spain and the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) at the NBC Defence School of the Spanish Army in Madrid.
3. The course has been designed primarily for specialised paramedics, representatives of emergency services, and scene officers involved in providing pre-hospital care for chemical casualties and mitigation of the consequences of chemical incidents; applicants from institutions that deal with disaster medicine will also be considered. The course will be particularly valuable for professionals and managers who work in the field of medical countermeasures to chemical emergencies, and who have a background in the medical aspects of emergency response to incidents involving chemical weapons and other toxic chemicals.
4. The participants will be provided with an overview of the nature of chemical-warfare agents and other toxic chemicals and their effects. The course will enable paramedics and medical responders to gain an understanding of operating in a contaminated area and providing first aid to chemical casualties while wearing individual protective equipment. It will also provide an opportunity to discuss problems that they may encounter when participating in response operations to chemical incidents, including medical countermeasures in the event of a chemical attack during a mass-gathering event. The course, which will include both theoretical lectures and a practical component, will focus on pre-hospital care for patients exposed to toxic chemicals and on dealing with mass casualties, and will also facilitate the exchange of information and experiences regarding assistance and protection under Article X of



the Convention. The provisional programme for the course is included as Annex 1 to this Note.

5. Given the purpose of the course and its medical focus and technical nature, candidates will be carefully selected, and should have a background in pre-hospital emergency care, emergency medicine, and protection against chemical weapons and other toxic chemicals, and should belong to national emergency-response agencies and other institutions involved in dealing with chemical-related incidents. In addition, participants should be physically fit and be able to wear individual protective gear during the practical sessions.
6. All activities during the course will be conducted in English and no interpretation services of any kind will be provided. Participants are therefore expected to have a good command of the English language, both written and oral.
7. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Spain.
8. 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, accommodation and meals, and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses. The course materials and equipment will be provided by the Spanish side, at no cost to the participants. Further details regarding accommodation, the course venue, and transport will be issued to all confirmed participants at a later date.
9. 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 Monday, 19 June 2017, and to depart no later than Saturday, 24 June 2017. 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. 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, including an email address. Completed forms should be sent, along with an endorsement letter from the National Authority or their Permanent Representation and a brief curriculum vitae, to the Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, copy to the Assistance and Protection Branch, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands. Nominations may be submitted by email to [EmergAssistBr@opcw.org](mailto:EmergAssistBr@opcw.org). **All materials must be received no later than 20 April 2017.** Please be advised that participants must present an OPCW acceptance letter in order to register for the course.

11. Additional information may be obtained from the Assistance and Protection Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division. The contact persons are Mr Shahriar Khateri (+ 31 (0)70 416 3231) or Ms Maria Elena Bruno-Pousadela (+ 31 (0)70 416 3217), who can be reached by email at [EmergAssistBr@opcw.org](mailto:EmergAssistBr@opcw.org).

Annexes:

- Annex 1: Provisional Programme  
Annex 2: Nomination Form

## Annex 1

**INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE  
FOR THE VICTIMS OF CHEMICAL INCIDENTS OR ATTACKS  
MADRID, SPAIN  
20 – 23 JUNE 2017**

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

Time	Activity
<b>Monday, 19 June 2017</b>	
	Arrival of participants
<b>Tuesday, 20 June 2017</b>	
09:00 – 09:45	Opening ceremony
	Opening session: Introduction to the course, course programme, pre-course assessment
09:45 – 10:30	Lecture: The Chemical Weapons Convention, and assistance and protection under Article X
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:00 – 11:45	Lecture: History of chemical warfare and chemical incidents
11:45 – 12:30	Chemical warfare agents: classification, overview
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Lecture: Nerve agents
14:30 – 15:30	Lecture: Vesicants and lung-damaging agents
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:00 – 17:00	Lecture: Cyanide compounds and other toxic agents
<b>Wednesday, 21 June 2017</b>	
08:30 – 09:30	Lecture: Personal protective equipment
09:30 – 10:30	Practical training: Personal protective equipment, donning and doffing
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:45 – 11:45	Lecture: Triage of chemical casualties, dealing with mass casualty incidents
11:45 – 12:30	Discussion: Triage of chemical casualties / case practice
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Lecture: Principles of emergency medical care at the pre-hospital stage in case of emergencies related to toxic chemicals
14:30 – 15:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:00 – 16:00	Lecture: Incident command system
16:00 – 17:00	WISER (wireless information system for emergency response)
<b>Thursday, 22 June 2017</b>	
09:00 – 13:00	Field training and practical session at the casualty decontamination station
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 16:00	Field training and practical session (continued)
<b>Friday, 23 June 2017</b>	
09:00 – 11:00	Presentations by participants
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:30 – 12:30	Feedback from participants
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 15:00	Course conclusion and evaluation
15:00 – 16:00	Post-course evaluation and closing ceremony
<b>Saturday, 24 June 2017</b>	
	Departure of participants

**Annex 2**

**COURSE ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE  
FOR THE VICTIMS OF CHEMICAL INCIDENTS OR ATTACKS  
MADRID, SPAIN  
20 – 23 JUNE 2017**

**NOMINATION FORM**

Please submit the completed form so that it is received **by 20 April 2017** to:  
The Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, copy to Assistance and  
Protection Branch, OPCW

Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands  
Fax: + 31 (0)70 416 3209; email: [EmergAssistBr@opcw.org](mailto:EmergAssistBr@opcw.org)

**Please type or use BLOCK LETTERS**

Family name of nominee*			
First name(s)			
Date of birth	Day	Month	Year
Citizenship			
Gender**	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>	
Passport number			
Date of issue	Day	Month	Year
Expiry date	Day	Month	Year
Place of issue			
Areas of expertise			
Employer			
Position			
Contact address (please do not give a post-office box number)	Street		
	Number	Post code	
	City		
	Country		
Email address			

\* Please give the family name and the first name as they appear in the nominee's passport.

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

Airport of departure	
Telephone numbers, including country and city codes	Home
	Work
	Mobile
	Work
Has the nominee previously attended an OPCW basic assistance- and-protection course	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If so, when and where?
Is sponsorship a condition of participation?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

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