



S/1565/2018

4 January 2018

ENGLISH and SPANISH only

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR A BASIC COURSE FOR LATIN AMERICAN AND
CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES ON RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS INVOLVING CHEMICAL
WARFARE AGENTS AND TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS
PANAMA CITY, PANAMA
23 – 27 APRIL 2018**

1. On behalf of the Government of Panama 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 eighth regional training cycle related to assistance and protection under Article X of the Chemicals Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), which will start with a basic course on response to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals, to take place from 23 to 27 April 2018 in Panama City, Panama.
2. The course will be jointly organised by the Government of Panama and the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”). It will provide training for up to 20 participants in the basics of assistance and protection, which encompasses the response to chemical warfare agents and incidents with toxic industrial chemicals.
3. This course will offer an introduction to basic toxicology, the types and uses of individual protective equipment, reconnaissance, detection, and decontamination. It will cover elements related to risk assessment, prevention, and response to chemical emergencies. The course is also aimed at facilitating the exchange of information and fostering networking among the participants, with a view to enhancing the implementation of Article X of the Convention in the Latin America and Caribbean region.
4. Given the objectives of the course, candidates will be carefully selected and should have a background in the field of chemistry associated with assistance and protection against chemical warfare agents. Preference will 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 the practical sessions of the course.
5. Participants should undertake the necessary steps to ensure their participation in the entire cycle by obtaining the necessary clearances from the relevant authorities, on the basis of the invitation letter issued by the Secretariat.



6. Endorsement by the National Authority is a prerequisite for a candidate being considered in the selection process.
7. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor a maximum of 20 participants. When proposing candidates for the course, States Parties should specify whether such sponsorship is a condition of their participation. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the cost of travel, accommodation, airport transfers, medical insurance, and meals (lunch), and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses.
8. When choosing participants, the Secretariat will select only one participant from any given State Party. States Parties can send a maximum of two nominations.
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 to Panama City no earlier than **Sunday, 22 April 2018** and to depart no later than **Saturday, 28 April 2018**. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the course or that result from unauthorised changes to travel arrangements. Once the Secretariat has purchased their tickets, sponsored participants will be responsible for making sure they participate in the course. In case of any unforeseen circumstances, participants should immediately contact the substantive officer responsible for the course.
10. The course will be presented in Spanish and participants are required to have a good working knowledge of this language, both written and oral. No interpretation services will be provided in this course.
11. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Panama. Further details regarding logistics and the final programme will be issued to participants in at a later stage.
12. Interested States Parties are invited to submit the nomination form that is included as Annex 2 to this Note, making sure in particular to provide all the contact details it requests. Completed forms should be sent, along with a brief curriculum vitae and an endorsement letter from the relevant National Authority, 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 email (justo.quinteromendez@opcw.org), with a reference to the name and location of the course in the subject line. All materials must be received by the Secretariat **no later than 23 February 2018**. Only selected participants will be contacted; contact will be made within two weeks after the submission deadline.

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: justo.quinteromendez@opcw.org

Annexes:

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

Annex 1

**BASIC COURSE FOR LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN
COUNTRIES ON RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS INVOLVING CHEMICAL
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PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
<i>Sunday, 22 April 2018</i>	
	Arrival of the OPCW team and participants, transfer to accommodation
<i>Monday, 23 April 2018</i>	
09:00 – 09:15	Logistic and administrative information on the course
09:15 – 10:00	Opening ceremony
10:00 – 10:20	Group photo
Module 1: Convention-related issues and Article X; chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals	
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
<i>Tuesday, 24 April 2018</i>	
Module 2: Protection and detection	
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

Time	Activity
Wednesday, 25 April 2018	
Module 3: Decontamination, sampling and analysis	
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>
Module 4: Emergency response	
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 ¹ software
Thursday, 26 April 2018	
09:00 – 09:30	Table-top exercise: Introduction: Operations in potentially contaminated areas
09:30 – 10:30	Table-top exercise (cont.): Operations in potentially contaminated areas
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:00 – 12:30	Table-top exercise (cont.): Operations in potentially contaminated areas
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 15:00	Table-top exercise (cont.): Operations in potentially contaminated areas
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:30 – 16:30	Presentation: Recovery and demobilisation
Friday, 27 April 2018	
Module 6: Final session and evaluation	
09:30 – 10:00	Information session on the next stage
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
Saturday, 28 April 2018	
	Departure of participants

¹ WISER = wireless information system for emergency responders.

Annex 2

**BASIC COURSE FOR LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN
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23 – 27 APRIL 2018**

NOMINATION FORM

Please submit the completed form, along with a brief curriculum vitae and an endorsement letter from the relevant National Authority, **by 23 February 2018 at the latest** to: Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW
Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands
Fax: + 31 (0)70 416 3209; Email: justo.quinteromendez@opcw.org
(Subject of the email: GRULAC-Panama-2018)

Please type or use BLOCK LETTERS

Government body making the nomination			
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
Date of expiry	Day	Month	Year
Place of issue			
Area(s) of expertise			
Employer			
Position			
Contact address (Please do not give a post-office box number)	Street		
	Number	Postcode	
	City		
	Country		
Airport of departure			
Email address			

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

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

Telephone numbers, including country and city codes	Home
	Work
	Mobile
Fax numbers, including country and city codes	Home
	Work
Has the nominee previously participated in a course of this kind?	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"/>
Meal preferences	No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> If so, please describe
Sizes	Gloves S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/>
	Boots (number):
	Height (m):
	Weight (kg):
Endorsement by the National Authority: (mandatory) Name of authorising person, signature and stamp)	