



S/2343/2024

27 November 2024

ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR A TRAINING COURSE ON THE DETECTION, SAMPLING, AND IDENTIFICATION OF CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS AND TOXIC CHEMICALS FOR CARIBBEAN STATES PARTIES BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS 24 – 28 FEBRUARY 2025

1. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat) wishes to invite Caribbean States Parties from the Latin American and Caribbean Group to nominate participants for a training course on the detection, sampling, and identification of chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals in Bridgetown, Barbados, from 24 to 28 February 2025.
2. The course will be jointly organised by the Government of Barbados and the Secretariat. The main purpose of the course is to provide expert knowledge and skills to 20 specialists from States Parties in the Caribbean region who are responsible for the detection, sampling, and identification of chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals in contaminated environments following a chemical attack or an incident involving toxic chemicals.
3. Caribbean States Parties that do not yet have sampling and analysis capabilities are particularly encouraged to nominate participants. Participants must also be qualified to use and wear personal protective equipment, including a self-contained breathing apparatus, and have experience in doing so. Participants must therefore be physically fit and able to wear such equipment for prolonged periods. Previous practical experience in military or civil protection is desirable.
4. Applicants are expected to be familiar with the principles of first response, including sampling and chemical emergency management, and will be carefully selected in line with the objectives of the course and their stated area of expertise. Ideally, participants should have completed any of the full training cycles for first responders held by the OPCW in previous years.
5. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor a maximum of 20 participants. When nominating candidates for the course, States Parties should specify whether sponsorship is a condition of their participation. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the costs of travel, accommodation, airport transfers, medical insurance, and meals (lunch), and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses. The Secretariat strongly encourages States Parties and National Authorities to seek, support, and endorse applications from qualified women candidates.



6. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. In order for the Secretariat to keep costs as low as reasonably practicable, participants are expected to arrive no earlier than Sunday, 23 February 2025 and to depart no later than Saturday, 1 March 2025. 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 the event of any unforeseen circumstances, participants should immediately contact the focal points responsible for the course (see paragraph 10 below for contact details).
7. 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 both written and spoken English. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas, including transit visas, before travelling to Barbados.
8. Interested applicants are invited to register their nomination online through Eventus—the OPCW event management system—**no later than 5 January 2025**. The registration link is accessible via the OPCW website (<https://eventus.opcw.org>). Please note that all questions marked with an asterisk (*) in the online registration system must be answered in order for the nomination to be received, and for the candidate to be considered for this event. National Authorities are strongly encouraged to endorse applications through Eventus.
9. Only selected participants with an OPCW acceptance letter will be able to participate in this course. Candidates who have been selected to participate will be contacted no later than two weeks after the submission deadline. States Parties are requested to inform the Assistance and Protection Branch of any administrative or other problems that may arise in connection with the attendance of any selected participant.
10. The provisional programme for the course is included as the Annex to this Note. Further details will be issued in due course. Any questions should be addressed to the Assistance and Protection Branch. The focal points for this training course are Mr Miguel Albaladejo Pomares (Tel.: +31 (0)70 416 3451, Email: miguel.albaladejopomares@opcw.org) and Ms Maria Elena Bruno-Pousadela (Tel.: +31 (0)70 416 3217; Email: mariaelena.bruno-pousadela@opcw.org).

Annex: Provisional Programme

Annex

**TRAINING COURSE ON THE DETECTION, SAMPLING, AND IDENTIFICATION
OF CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS AND TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS
BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS
24 – 28 FEBRUARY 2025**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
<i>Sunday, 23 February 2025</i>	
	Arrival of participants
<i>Monday, 24 February 2025</i>	
08:30 – 09:00	Transfer to the training centre
09:00 – 10:00	Opening ceremony
10:00 – 10:15	Group photo
10:15 – 10:30	General guidelines for the course
10:30 – 11:00	Presentation: The Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention) and the OPCW; implementation of Article X of the Convention in Latin America and the Caribbean
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 12:15	Presentation: Chemical weapons and chemical warfare agents
12:15 – 13:00	Presentation: Personal protective equipment (PPE)
13:00 – 13:30	PPE distribution
13:30 – 14:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:30 – 15:30	Practice: PPE donning and doffing
15:30 – 16:30	Practice: PPE skills
16:30 – 17:00	Summary of the day
17:00 – 17:30	Transfer to the hotel
<i>Tuesday, 25 February 2025</i>	
08:30 – 09:00	Transfer to the training centre
09:00 – 09:45	Presentation: Recognition and visual inspection
09:45 – 10:30	Presentation: Zoning – emergency management
10:30 – 11:00	Presentation: Sampling – introduction, roles, types, etc.
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 12:00	Presentation: Sampling kits
12:00 – 12:45	Presentation: Sampling techniques
12:45 – 13:30	Practice: Sampling techniques
13:30 – 14:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:30 – 16:30	Practice: Dry-run sampling
16:30 – 17:00	Summary of the day
17:00 – 17:30	Transfer to the hotel
<i>Wednesday, 26 February 2025</i>	
08:30 – 09:00	Transfer to the training centre
09:00 – 10:00	Presentation: Detection techniques and devices
10:00 – 11:00	Practice: Detection in the field
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 12:00	Presentation: The chain of custody – forms
12:00 – 12:30	Practice: Sampling forms

Time	Activity
12:30 – 13:00	Presentation: Dissemination methods
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00 – 16:30	Practice: Sampling procedures
16:30 – 17:00	Summary of the day
17:00 – 17:30	Transfer to the hotel
<i>Thursday, 27 February 2023</i>	
08:30 – 09:00	Transfer to the training centre
09:00 – 09:30	Presentation: OPCW designated laboratories
09:30 – 10:15	Presentation: Decontamination procedures and techniques
10:15 – 11:00	Practice: Dry run Decontamination procedures
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 13:00	Practice: Sampling in complex scenarios
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00 – 16:00	Practice: Sampling in complex scenarios
16:00 – 16:30	Summary of the day
16:30 – 17:00	Transfer to the hotel
<i>Friday, 28 February 2025</i>	
08:30 – 09:00	Transfer to the training centre
09:00 – 11:00	Final exercise
11:00 – 11:30	Return of PPE
11:30 – 12:00	Briefing and evaluation
12:00 – 13:00	Closing ceremony
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>