



S/2346/2024

6 December 2024

ENGLISH and FRENCH only

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR A TRAINING COURSE ON SAMPLING  
AND ANALYSIS IN A HIGHLY CONTAMINATED ENVIRONMENT  
FOR AFRICAN STATES PARTIES  
ALGIERS, ALGERIA  
23 – 26 FEBRUARY 2025**

1. On behalf of the Government of Algeria and the OPCW, the Technical Secretariat (the Secretariat) wishes to invite African Member States to nominate participants for a training course on sampling and analysis in a highly contaminated environment, to be held in Algiers, Algeria, from 23 to 26 February 2025.
2. The course will be jointly organised by the Government of Algeria and the Secretariat. The main purpose of the course is to provide expert knowledge and skills to 20 specialists from African Member States who would be responsible for conducting sampling and analysis tasks in a highly contaminated environment resulting from a chemical attack or a chemical incident.
3. OPCW African Member States that do not yet have sampling and analysis capabilities are especially encouraged to nominate participants. Given the objectives of the course and its technical nature, applicants should have a solid technical background in chemistry and the management of hazardous chemical substances. Applicants are expected to be familiar with the principles of first response, including sampling and chemical emergency management. Previous practical experience in military or civil protection is desirable. Individual protective suits will be worn for several hours each day, and participants must therefore be physically fit and able to wear such equipment for extended periods.
4. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor a limited number of participants from States Parties. For sponsored participants, it will cover the costs of accommodation and meals. Further details regarding accommodation, the course venue, and transport will be issued to all confirmed participants at a later date.
5. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. In order for the Secretariat to keep costs to a minimum, sponsored participants are expected to arrive no earlier than Saturday, 22 February 2025, and to depart no later than Friday, 27 February 2025.
6. 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.



7. Interested States Parties are invited to submit nominations as soon as possible and not later than 16 December 2024, making sure to provide all necessary contact details and valid passport details of the nominees. Endorsement by the candidates' respective National Authority is a prerequisite for consideration in the selection process. The endorsement process must be completed online before 16 December 2024 in Eventus (<https://eventus.opcw.org>)—the OPCW event management system. States Parties and National Authorities are strongly encouraged to seek, support, and endorse applications from qualified women applicants.
8. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas, including transit visas, before travelling to Algeria.
9. The provisional programme for this course is included as the Annex to this Note, and further details will be issued at a later date. Any questions may be addressed to the focal points for this training cycle in the Assistance and Protection Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the Secretariat: Mr Babatunde Olowookere (Tel.: +31 (0)653274684; Email: [babatunde.olwookere@opcw.org](mailto:babatunde.olwookere@opcw.org)) and Ms Aureliarita Marcellus (Tel.: +31 (0)640242922; Email: [aureliarita.marcellus@opcw.org](mailto:aureliarita.marcellus@opcw.org)).

Annex : Training Course on Sampling and Analysis in a Highly Contaminated Environment for African States Parties, Algiers, Algeria, 23 – 26 February 2025 – Provisional Programme

## Annex

**TRAINING COURSE ON SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS IN A HIGHLY  
CONTAMINATED ENVIRONMENT FOR AFRICAN STATES PARTIES  
ALGIERS, ALGERIA  
23 – 26 FEBRUARY 2025**

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

Time	Activity			
<b><i>Saturday, 22 February 2025</i></b>				
	Arrival of participants			
<b><i>Sunday, 23 February 2025</i></b>				
08:30 – 09:00	Participants arrive at the conference hall of the Army National Circle (ANC)			
09:00 – 09:45	Opening ceremony			
09:45 – 10:00	Official photography			
10:45 – 11:15	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>			
11:15 – 11:45	Presentation: Overview of the OPCW and Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention)			
11:45 – 12:15	Presentation: Introduction to chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals – an overview			
12:15 – 13:45	<i>Lunch</i>			
13:45 – 14:15	Presentation: Principles of protection against chemical warfare agents, toxic industrial chemicals – personal protective equipment (PPE)			
14:15 – 14:45	Presentation: Principles of detection of chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals – detection strategies and equipment			
14:45 – 15:15	Presentation: Overview of sampling – general rules, hazards, equipment, and procedures			
15:15 – 15:45	Presentation: Principles of decontamination, decontamination equipment, and methods			
15:45 – 16:00	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>			
16:00 – 16:30	Presentation: Sample preparation of collected toxic samples, laboratory analysis procedures for chemical warfare agents, and handling and analysis challenges			
16:30 – 17:00	Presentation: Laboratory safety procedures while handling toxic chemical samples			
17:00	End of day one			
<b><i>Monday, 24 February 2025</i></b>				
08:00 – 08:30	Transfer from ANC to the National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology of the National Gendarmerie (INCC/GN)			
08:30 – 09:00	Presentation: Handling toxic chemical samples, chain of custody at the OPCW			
08:30 – 09:30	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Group 1 practical session with PPE: Donning and doffing level C</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Group 2 practical session with PPE: Donning and doffing level B</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Group 3 practical session with PPE: Donning and doffing level A</td> </tr> </table>	Group 1 practical session with PPE: Donning and doffing level C	Group 2 practical session with PPE: Donning and doffing level B	Group 3 practical session with PPE: Donning and doffing level A
Group 1 practical session with PPE: Donning and doffing level C	Group 2 practical session with PPE: Donning and doffing level B	Group 3 practical session with PPE: Donning and doffing level A		
09:30 – 10:30	Practical session: Level C, B, and A suits and self-contained breathing apparatus operation (respiration, capabilities and limitations, inspection, donning and doffing, seal checking, normal use, and emergency procedures)			
10:30 – 10:55	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>			
10:55 – 12:00	Demonstration: Familiarisation with detection equipment			
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>			

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
13:00 – 16:00	Practical session: Sample collection practice in level A and level C suits; identifying hazards and sampling chemicals while wearing chemical protective clothing and respiratory protection equipment (team exercise)
16:00 – 16:25	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>
16:25	Transfer from the INCC/GN to the ANC
<b><i>Tuesday, 25 February 2025</i></b>	
07:30 – 08:30	Transfer from the ANC to the INCC/GN
08:30 – 09:00	Practice: Analytical equipment used for sampling and analysis
09:00 – 12:00	Practice: Analysis of chemical warfare agents in the laboratory and familiarisation with laboratory equipment
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 16:30	Continuation of Practice: Analysis of chemical warfare agents in the laboratory and familiarisation with laboratory equipment
16:30	Transfer from the INCC/GN to the ANC
19:00 – 22:00	Official reception at the ANC
<b><i>Wednesday, 26 February 2025</i></b>	
07:30 – 08:30	Transfer from the ANC to the INCC/GN
08:30 – 09:15	Presentation: Medical aspects, first aid for intoxicated casualties, antidotes
09:15 – 09:45	Practice: Administration of first aid and antidotes for chemical weapons casualties
09:45 – 10:00	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>
10:00 – 12:30	Feedback from participants and course evaluation; handover of certificates; closing remarks
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Field visit
<b><i>Thursday, 27 February 2025</i></b>	
	Departure of participants