

**OPCW****Technical Secretariat**

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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2025 REGIONAL TRAINING CYCLE
ON ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION
FOR STATES PARTIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

1. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat) wishes to invite States Parties from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC) to nominate representatives to participate in the 2025 regional training cycle related to assistance and protection under Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention), which will begin with an online introductory course on responding to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals.
2. The entire Assistance and Protection Branch training cycle will be jointly organised by the Governments of Argentina and Paraguay in collaboration with the Secretariat. It will provide training for up to 20 sponsored participants in the basics of assistance and protection, with a focus on responding to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals.
3. The training cycle will be divided into the following segments:
 - (a) an online foundation course, from 10 March to 11 April 2025;
 - (b) a hands-on basic course, from 19 to 23 May 2025, in Asunción, Paraguay;
 - (c) an online course on the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG), the CAMEO (Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations) Chemicals database, and the Incident Command System (ICS), from 2 to 30 June 2025;
 - (d) a hands-on integrated advanced course and exercise, (September – dates to be determined), in Buenos Aires, Argentina; and
 - (e) a one-day follow-up webinar in late 2025 (December – dates to be determined).
4. The online foundation course will offer basic theoretical knowledge for all participants about the OPCW, the Convention, chemical warfare agents, toxic industrial chemicals, personal protective equipment, decontamination, and detection, identification, and monitoring. The Secretariat may select up to 25 participants to participate in the online foundation course, but only 20 participants will ultimately be selected at the end of this segment of the training cycle to continue with the remaining segments. The selection will be based on demonstrated commitment to the training and the marks earned in the online foundation course.



5. The hands-on basic course will consist of a combination of theory-based lectures, demonstrations of equipment, and practical training sessions. By the end of the course, the participants will have a basic knowledge of chemical warfare agents and their actions, protective equipment and its limitations, and detection and decontamination equipment and procedures. No more than 20 selected participants from the previous segment will be sponsored to participate in this on-site segment of the training cycle, which will take place in Asunción, Paraguay.
6. The next segment of this cycle is an online course covering the ERG, the CAMEO Chemicals database, and the ICS, and will provide participants with the tools needed to manage chemical emergencies. This information will be put to use in the next segment of the training cycle.
7. The hands-on integrated advanced course and exercise will deepen the knowledge obtained in the three previous segments of this training cycle to enhance and further develop the chemical emergency response capabilities of States Parties. This hands-on training, which will explore different complex scenarios in combination with the final exercise, is an opportunity to practise and confirm the knowledge and skills acquired during the training cycle. As stated above, participants in this course will be those who complete the online course on the ERG, CAMEO Chemicals, and the ICS, as well as the previous two segments, as part of the full training cycle. This segment will take place on site in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
8. Given the objectives of the training cycle, candidates will be carefully selected from the online introductory course and should have a background in the field of chemical emergency response. **The target audience is mainly personnel from official institutions (civilians or military) belonging to front-line chemical emergency response units.**
9. Applications must be submitted online via Eventus, the OPCW event management system (<https://eventus.opcw.org>) **no later than 21 February 2025**. During the application process, it is essential that candidates attach their curriculum vitae and a copy of their valid passport.
10. Endorsement by a candidate's respective National Authority is a prerequisite to being considered in the selection process. The endorsement process must be completed online through Eventus **no later than 23 February 2025**. The Secretariat strongly encourages States Parties and National Authorities to seek, support, and endorse applications from qualified women candidates.
11. Participants should be physically fit and able to wear personal protective equipment during the practical sessions of the courses under hot, humid, tiring, and stressful conditions. Please note that a medical certificate may be required to attend the hands-on training segments.
12. Participants should undertake the necessary steps to ensure their participation in the entire cycle by obtaining the required clearances from the relevant authorities based on the invitation letter issued by the Secretariat.

13. The Secretariat expects to be able to **sponsor a maximum of 20 participants** for the full cycle. 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.
14. The Secretariat will seek the most economical options when making travel arrangements for sponsored participants. Sponsored participants are encouraged to use the tickets provided by the Secretariat. Participants are expected to arrive in the host countries for the on-site segments of the training cycle no earlier than one day before the beginning of the segment and to depart no later than one day after the completion of the segment. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the courses or resulting from unauthorised travel arrangement changes. Once the Secretariat has purchased their tickets, sponsored participants will be responsible for ensuring that they participate in the courses. In case of any unforeseen circumstances, participants should immediately contact the substantive officer responsible for the courses.
15. Courses will be conducted in **Spanish**; therefore, participants are required to have a good working knowledge of written and spoken Spanish. No interpretation services will be provided during any of the segments of the training cycle.
16. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before traveling to the host countries. Further details regarding logistics and the final programmes will be issued to participants at a later stage.
17. Interested States Parties are invited to submit and endorse nominations, making sure to provide all of the requested contact details, as well as photocopies of the personal identification pages of the candidate's valid passport, **no later than 23 February 2025**. Only selected participants will be contacted within 14 days after the submission deadline.
18. The provisional programmes for the training cycle are included as the annexes 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, as follows: 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).

Annexes:

- Annex 1: Online Foundation Course, 10 March – 11 April 2025 – Provisional Programme
- Annex 2: Basic Course for Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Response to Incidents Involving Chemical Warfare Agents and Toxic Industrial Chemicals, Asunción, Paraguay, 19 – 23 May 2025 – Provisional Programme
- Annex 3: Online Course on the Emergency Response Guidebook, the CAMEO Chemicals Database, and the Incident Command System, 2 – 30 June 2025 – Provisional Programme
- Annex 4: Integrated Advanced Course and Exercise for Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Response to Incidents Involving Chemical Warfare Agents and Toxic Industrial Chemicals, Buenos Aires, Argentina, September 2025 (TBD) – Provisional Programme

Annex 1**ONLINE FOUNDATION COURSE****10 MARCH – 11 APRIL 2025****PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

Contents	
Chapter 1	The Chemical Weapons Convention
	1.1. Historical review 1.2. The Chemical Weapons Convention 1.3. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) 1.4. Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention
Chapter 2	Introduction to chemical agents
	2.1. Chemical weapons 2.2. Chemical warfare agents 2.3. Exposure to chemical warfare agents 2.4. Toxic industrial chemicals
Chapter 3	Introduction to personal protective equipment (PPE)
	3.1. Chemical protection suits 3.2. Respiratory protection 3.3. OPCW protection levels
Chapter 4	Introduction to decontamination
	4.1. Decontamination overview 4.2. Decontamination stations and corridors 4.3. Decontamination processes 4.4. Decontamination systems
Chapter 5	Introduction to detection and identification
	5.1. Recognition 5.2. Detection 5.3. Identification

Annex 2

**BASIC COURSE FOR LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES ON
RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS INVOLVING CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS AND
TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS
ASUNCIÓN, PARAGUAY
19 – 23 MAY 2025**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity		
<i>Sunday, 18 May 2025</i>			
	Arrival of the OPCW team and participants; transfer to accommodation		
<i>Monday, 19 May 2025</i>			
09:00 – 09:15	Logistical and administrative information on the course		
09:15 – 10:00	Opening ceremony		
10:00 – 10:20	Group photo		
10:20 – 11:00	Presentation: The OPCW		
11:00 – 11:30	Presentation: Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in Paraguay		
11:30 – 11:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>		
11:45 – 12:30	Presentation: Threats of chemical attacks by non-State actors		
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>		
13:30 – 14:30	Presentation: Characteristics of chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals		
14:30 – 14:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>		
14:45 – 15:30	Presentation: Medical treatment for chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals		
15:30 – 16:30	Presentation: Emergency management – general overview and guidelines		
16:30	Transfer to accommodation		
<i>Tuesday, 20 May 2025</i>			
09:00 – 10:00	Presentation: Respiratory protection: Gas masks, filters, and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA)		
10:00 – 11:00	Presentation: Personal protective equipment (PPE) – Chemical suits and levels of chemical protection		
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>		
11:15 – 12:45	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
12:45 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>		
14:00 – 15:30	Group 2: Practical session with PPE: Donning and doffing level C	Group 3: Practical session with PPE: Donning and doffing level B	Group 1: Practical session with PPE: Donning and doffing level A
15:30 – 15:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>		

Time	Activity		
15:45 – 17:15	Group 3: Practical session with PPE: Donning and doffing level C	Group 1: Practical session with PPE: Donning and doffing level B	Group 2: Practical session with PPE: Donning and doffing level A
17:15	Transfer to accommodation		
Wednesday, 21 May 2025			
09:00 – 11:00	Presentation: Principles of decontamination. Methods and techniques. Roles and responsibilities. Tools and equipment		
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>		
11:15 – 12:30	Presentation: Recognition and detection of chemicals. Detection and identification techniques. Equipment and devices		
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>		
14:00 – 15:30	Group 1 Practical session: Dry and wet decontamination	Group 2 Practical session: Recognition, detection, and identification	
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>		
16:00 – 17:30	Group 2 Practical session: Dry and wet decontamination	Group 1 Practical session: Recognition, detection, and identification	
17:30	Transfer to accommodation		
Thursday, 22 May 2025			
09:00 – 10:00	Presentation: Introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS) for chemical emergencies		
10:00 – 11:00	Presentation: Health and safety during chemical emergencies		
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>		
11:15 – 12:30	Briefing pre-exercises		
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>		
13:30 – 15:00	Group 1 Practical session: Practical field exercise I	Group 2 Practical session: Practical field exercise II	
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>		
15:30 – 18:00	Group 2 Practical session: Practical field exercise I	Group 1 Practical session: Practical field exercise II	
18:00	Transfer to accommodation		
Friday, 23 May 2025			
09:30 – 11:30	Joint field exercise		
11:30 – 12:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>		
12:00 – 12:15	Discussion on knowledge acquired and course evaluation		
12:15 – 12:30	Closing ceremony		
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>		
13:30	Transfer to accommodation		
Saturday, 24 May 2025			
	Departure of participants		

Annex 3

**ONLINE COURSE ON THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDEBOOK, THE
CAMEO CHEMICALS DATABASE, AND THE INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM
2 – 30 JUNE 2025**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Contents	
Chapter 1	Technical aspects of attending to emergencies involving toxic chemicals
	1.1. Physical and chemical properties of substances 1.2. Toxicological values applied to the management of emergencies involving chemicals 1.3. Dispersion of contaminants in the environment after an event involving chemicals 1.4. Safety distances and planning zones
Chapter 2	Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG)
	2.1. Introduction 2.2. The yellow pages 2.3. The blue pages 2.4. Operational guides (the orange pages) 2.5. The green pages
Chapter 3	CAMEO Chemicals database
	3.1. Overview 3.2. Searching chemicals 3.3. Searching chemicals by name 3.4. Searching chemicals by United Nations number 3.5. Chemical reactivity
Chapter 4	The Incident Command System (ICS)
	4.1. Introduction 4.2. Characteristics and principles of the ICS 4.3. Roles and responsibilities 4.4. ICS structure 4.5. Facilities and resources 4.6. Command

Annex 4

**INTEGRATED ADVANCED COURSE AND EXERCISE FOR LATIN AMERICAN
AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES ON RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS INVOLVING
CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS AND TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
SEPTEMBER 2025 (TBD)**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
TBD 2025¹	
Arrival of the OPCW team and participants, transfer to accommodation	
Day 1	
08:30 – 08:45	Transfer to course venue
08:45 – 09:00	Accreditation
09:00 – 09:10	Logistical and administrative information on the course
09:10 – 09:45	Opening ceremony
09:45 – 10:00	Group photo
10:00 – 10:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:30 – 11:15	Presentation: Argentine National Authority for the Chemical Weapons Convention
11:15 – 12:00	Presentation: The OPCW
12:00 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Presentation: Safety in responding to hazardous materials
14:30 – 15:30	Lecture: Incident control techniques
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:00 – 17:00	Presentation: Rescue operations in critical scenarios
17:00	Transfer to accommodation
Day 2	
08:00 – 08:45	Transfer to the Federal Police Cadet School, Corvalán 3698, Buenos Aires
08:45 – 09:15	Reception at the Golden Room with Cadet School authorities
09:15 – 09:30	Transfer to external training area
09:30 – 10:00	Presentation: Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) (Special Risk Brigade, Federal Superintendence of Firefighters, Argentine Federal Police).
10:00 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
	Check-up and medical records with the Churruca-Visca Hospital staff, Argentine Federal Police
	Distribution of PPE
11:00 – 11:15	Transfer to training area
11:15 – 12:45	Practical session: Group 1 – Exercise with protection level A
	Practical session: Group 2 – Victim rescue exercise
12:45 – 13:00	Conclusions
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 14:30	Physical conditioning for field exercises
14:30 – 15:45	Practical session: Group 1 – Victim rescue exercise
	Practical session: Group 2 – Exercise with protection level A
15:45 – 16:15	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:15 – 17:00	Practical session: Circuit dexterity training – Groups 1 and 2

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Please note: the exact dates for this segment of the 2025 GRULAC training cycle have yet to be finalised and will be announced at a later date.

Time	Activity
17:00 – 17:30	Conclusions
17:30	Transfer to accommodation
Day 3	
08:00 – 09:00	Transfer to the Federal Police Cadet School, Corvalán 3698, Buenos Aires
09:00 – 10:00	Presentation: Tactical Medicine Unit of the Argentine Federal Police
10:00 – 10:15	Transfer to training area
10:15 – 11:15	Practical session: Group 1 – Tactical medicine and antidotes
	Practical session: Group 2 – Masks and filters
11:15 – 11:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:45 – 13:00	Practical session: Group 1 – Masks and filters
	Practical session: Group 2 – Tactical medicine and antidotes
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 14:45	Presentation: Sampling and collection of evidence (Special Risk Brigade, Federal Superintendence of Firefighters, Argentine Federal Police)
14:45 – 15:30	Presentation: Strategy, tactics, and operations for interventions in critical scenarios (Special Risk Brigade, Federal Superintendence of Firefighters, Argentine Federal Police)
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:00 – 17:00	Practical session: Critical scenario exercise – single group
17:00 – 17:30	Conclusions
17:30	Transfer to accommodation
Day 4	
12:15 – 13:00	Transfer to the Federal Police Cadet School, Corvalán 3698, Buenos Aires
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Presentation: Strategy, tactics, and operations in case of an attack with chemical dispersion devices (Special Risk Brigade, Federal Superintendence of Firefighters, Argentine Federal Police)
15:00 – 16:00	Practical session: Incident action plan – all participants and instructors
16:00 – 17:00	Practical session: Exercise development
17:00 – 17:30	Conclusions
17:30 – 18:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
18:00 – 18:30	Presentation: Strategy, tactics, and operations in the event of a technological incident (Special Risk Brigade, Federal Superintendence of Firefighters, Argentine Federal Police)
18:30 – 19:00	Practical session: Incident action plan – all participants and instructors
19:00 – 21:30	Practical session: Night exercise development
21:30 – 22:00	Conclusions
22:00	Transfer to accommodation
Day 5	
08:00 – 08:45	Transfer to the Federal Police Cadet School, Corvalán 3698, Buenos Aires
08:45 – 10:45	Practical session: Table-top exercise
10:45 – 11:15	Conclusions
11:15 – 11:30	Course evaluation
11:30 – 11:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:45 – 12:30	Closing and delivery of certificates
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i> – Transfer to accommodation