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*S/2387/2025*

26 March 2025

ENGLISH and SPANISH only

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT****CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST TO SUPPORT "CHEMEX GRULAC"  
(MULTICOMPONENT CHEMICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPACITY-  
BUILDING EXERCISE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN)****BACKGROUND**

1. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat) is seeking an interested State Party from the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) to host "CHEMEX GRULAC"—a multicomponent chemical emergency response capacity-building exercise for the Latin America and Caribbean region—scheduled to take place in the first or second quarter of 2026. The Secretariat hereby invites interested States Parties from GRULAC to express their interest in hosting the exercise, with a view to discussing their potential participation in the project.
2. The Secretariat is also seeking voluntary contributions from States Parties interested in financially supporting the CHEMEX GRULAC project. States Parties wishing to contribute are invited to contact the Secretary to the OPCW Assistance and Protection Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division by email ([miguel.albaladejopomares@opcw.org](mailto:miguel.albaladejopomares@opcw.org)) to discuss practical arrangements or to gain further information. The Secretariat wishes to express in advance its gratitude to those States Parties that decide to make voluntary contributions to the project.
3. CHEMEX GRULAC is aimed at strengthening mitigation efforts and preparedness to respond to incidents and attacks involving chemical weapons and toxic chemicals in the Latin America and Caribbean region. The exercise aims to foster collaboration by involving instructors from the region and, if necessary, technical teams from other States Parties. The project is also aimed at cementing the technical and financial support of international donors to OPCW efforts in assistance and protection against the use or threat of use of chemical weapons or toxic chemicals.
4. The aim of CHEMEX GRULAC is to carry out high-value training and exercises to test capacity to respond to chemical emergencies in Latin America and the Caribbean. The exercise will include different scenarios and seminars in which the response capacity of regional experts can be tested in a hot zone, including rescue, detection, sampling, and decontamination operations, as well as pre-hospital care in the field and hospital preparedness.



5. The project will be implemented with a view to realising the short- and long-term outcomes listed in paragraphs 6 and 7 below, which can be achieved and measured through the annual training programme for GRULAC under Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention) in the years following the completion of the project.

#### **Short-term outcomes**

6. The project is expected to develop the theoretical and practical knowledge of participating States Parties in the area of chemical emergency response, and to widen the field of participation and increase the engagement of GRULAC technical partners in the annual delivery of specialised training to an audience of GRULAC first responders and healthcare personnel working in this field.

#### **Long-term outcomes**

7. The project is expected to strengthen the capacity of GRULAC States Parties to respond to chemical incidents or attacks and to mitigate their harmful effects. Such strengthened capacity will be observable through increased submissions under paragraph 4 of Article X of the Convention, indicating the development and adoption of programmes for protective purposes at the national level.

#### **INITIAL PLANNING**

8. Given the purpose of the exercise and its focus, interested States Parties should have facilities or institutions that could be used for the practical exercise. The Secretariat will hold two meetings ahead of CHEMEX GRULAC to prepare for the effective and orderly conduct of the exercise and associated training.
9. Once a host country and supporting States Parties have been identified, the Secretariat will host the initial planning meeting, tentatively scheduled for the third quarter of 2025. This meeting will focus, inter alia, on host nation support issues, the details and the scope of involvement of supporting States Parties, and the logistical aspects of their participation. At the end of the initial planning meeting, all stakeholders will have a clear overview of the exercise and the associated training components, the necessary tasks for each contributor, and the steps leading from the initial meeting to the conduct of the CHEMEX.

#### **FINAL PLANNING**

10. The selected host country will host the final planning meeting in the fourth quarter of 2025. The main objective of this meeting will be to follow up on the preparations and to ensure that any corrective action is taken to ensure the orderly conduct of CHEMEX GRULAC. Upon the conclusion of this meeting, all stakeholders will have confirmed their state of preparation, clarified and resolved outstanding issues, and defined tasks for the final preparations for CHEMEX GRULAC.

## CONDUCT OF CHEMEX GRULAC

11. CHEMEX GRULAC will unfold over 11 days in the first or second quarter of 2026, and will consist of five components, as follows:
  - (a) Component 1: Briefing/pre-exercise lecture/workshop (Secretariat lead);
  - (b) Component 2 (for first responders): Assistance and protection course and specialised training (GRULAC team/mentors lead);
  - (c) Component 3 (for healthcare personnel): Pre-hospital care, medical assistance and hospital preparedness (GRULAC team/mentors lead);
  - (d) Component 4: Field exercises (Secretariat/mentors lead); and
  - (e) Component 5: GRULAC stakeholder/VIP demonstration and exercise (Secretariat lead).
12. States Parties interested in hosting CHEMEX GRULAC should send a letter of interest addressed to the Head, Assistance and Protection Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands (with a copy by email to [apb@opcw.org](mailto:apb@opcw.org)).
13. All letters from States Parties interested in hosting the exercise must be received by the Secretariat **no later than 10 May 2025**.
14. Additional information may be obtained from the CHEMEX GRULAC focal points in the Assistance and Protection Branch: Mr Miguel Albaladejo (Tel.: +31(0)70 4163451; Email: [miguel.albaladejopomares@opcw.org](mailto:miguel.albaladejopomares@opcw.org)) and Mr Eduardo Herrera (Tel.: +31(0) 6 50 07 4117, Email: [eduardo.herrera@opcw.org](mailto:eduardo.herrera@opcw.org)).

Annex: CHEMEX GRULAC – Provisional Programme

