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S/2132/2023  
9 February 2023  
ENGLISH only

**NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS  
FOR AN INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE FOR INCIDENT COMMANDERS  
LÁZNĚ BOHDANEČ, CZECH REPUBLIC  
17 – 25 MAY 2023**

1. On behalf of the Government of the Czech Republic and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General wishes to invite States Parties to nominate participants for an international training course for incident commanders, which will take place from 17 to 25 May 2023 in Lázně Bohdaneč, the Czech Republic.
2. The course is being organised by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) and will provide training for up to 16 experts involved in emergency response to chemical incidents, specifically those who command overall response or lead specialised teams of first responders. The course will cover the following topics:
  - (a) protection of personnel in a chemical emergency;
  - (b) sampling and detection procedures;
  - (c) rescue and decontamination operations in contaminated areas;
  - (d) incident management considerations; and
  - (e) appropriate responses and countermeasures in the event of incidents involving chemical warfare agents or toxic chemicals.
3. The course will also provide an overview of the kinds of assistance the OPCW can provide and will help participating States Parties enhance the abilities and skills of their officers in charge of chemical incidents, thus boosting their ability to respond adequately to incidents associated with the intentional or accidental release of chemical warfare agents or toxic industrial chemicals. The course will also include individual and team procedures, tactics, and processes to deliver required operational readiness and understand the complexity of hot zone management during a chemical incident.
4. The course will offer an introduction to a chemical incident evaluation system using web-based databases. Tactical considerations for different scenarios will be discussed and explored with the help of checklists and web-based resources. This course will also facilitate the exchange of information and experiences in the context of the implementation of Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), and will include table-top and field emergency response exercises.



5. Given the purpose of the course and its technical nature, candidates will be carefully selected according to the following criteria:
  - (a) All participants should be first responders with responsibilities related to the management of chemical incidents. Candidates will primarily be officers whose job is to manage a chemical incident and to understand the specialised operation response necessitated by chemical hazards (i.e., protection, detection, sampling, and decontamination).
  - (b) All participants must have a solid command of English, both oral and written, as all activities during the course will be conducted in English and no interpretation services of any kind will be available.
  - (c) Preference will be given to applicants from emergency response units such as firefighters, military staff, civil defence employees, emergency medical personnel, and police officers.
  - (d) Participants must be physically fit and capable of wearing individual protective gear for several hours at a time. Some practical experience with protective equipment is desirable.
6. Applications will be carefully screened on the basis of the criteria specified in paragraph 5 above. Only the most suitable applicants will be selected. The Secretariat strongly encourages applications from qualified female candidates.
7. 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.
8. In order for the Secretariat to keep costs to a minimum, sponsored participants are expected to arrive **no earlier than Tuesday, 16 May 2023** and to depart **no later than Friday, 26 May 2023**. The Secretariat's approval is required for any changes to the arrival and departure dates of sponsored participants.
9. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the course or that result from unauthorised changes in travel arrangements. Participants who have not been sponsored are requested to make their own travel arrangements.
10. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to the Czech Republic.
11. Interested applicants are invited to register their nomination online via the OPCW website at <https://apps.opcw.org/ems> **no later than 15 March 2023**. Please note that all fields marked with an asterisk (\*) must be completed in order for applications to be processed. Interested applicants who for technical reasons are unable to submit an application online are requested to send an email to [EmergAssistBr@opcw.org](mailto:EmergAssistBr@opcw.org) explaining the problem. Only selected participants will be contacted.

12. Additional information on the course may be obtained from the International Cooperation and Assistance Division. The contact person is Mr Miguel Albaladejo (Tel: +31 (0)70 416 3451).

Annex:           Provisional Programme

**Annex**

**ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION COURSE FOR INCIDENT COMMANDERS  
LÁZNĚ BOHDANEČ, CZECH REPUBLIC  
17 – 25 MAY 2023**

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b><i>Tuesday, 16 May 2023</i></b>	
	Arrival of participants in Prague, transfer to Lázně Bohdaneč
<b><i>Wednesday, 17 May 2023</i></b>	
09:00 – 09:30	Official opening, keynote speech, introduction of participants
09:30 – 09:45	Official photo
09:45 – 10:00	Administrative information
10:00 – 10:30	Lecture: Population Protection Institute as a part of the integrated rescue system
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Lecture: Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention
11:30 – 12:15	Lecture: Chemical weapons disarmament
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 16:00	Lecture and demonstration: Basic pre-hospital care in cases of exposure to chemical warfare agents (transfer to University of Defence, Hradec Kralove)
16:00 – 16:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:30 – 17:30	Equipment handover
18:00 – 21:30	<i>Welcome dinner hosted by the OPCW</i>
<b><i>Thursday, 18 May 2023</i></b>	
08:00 – 08:45	Lecture: Chemical agents: properties, toxicity, and classification
08:45 – 09:30	Lecture: Personal protection
09:30 – 10:00	Demonstration: Personal protection
10:00 – 10:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:30 – 11:30	Lecture: Hot zone management
11:30 – 12:15	Lecture: Decontamination
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 14:45	Lecture: C-detection
14:45 – 15:15	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:15 – 16:00	Lecture: Chemical risk assessment: the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG)
<b><i>Friday, 19 May 2023</i></b>	
08:00 – 09:00	Table-top exercise: Chemical risk assessment: ERG (two teams, swapping workplaces)
09:00 – 10:00	Demonstration: HAZMAT reconnaissance vehicles (two teams, swapping workplaces)
10:00 – 10:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Chemical risk assessment and final debriefing
11:00 – 11:30	Lecture: Detection kit
12:00 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:15	Lecture: Sampling
14:30 – 16:30	On-Site demonstration and training: Detection, sampling, and decontamination (three teams, swapping workplaces)
16:30 – 17:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>

<b><i>Saturday, 20 May 2023</i></b>	
08:00 – 10:00	Presentations discussions: Intervention during chemical incidents
10:00 – 10:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:30 – 11:15	Lecture: Dealing with chemical agents and the medical point of view
11:30 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
13:00 – 16:00	Practical session: Protection and communication during a chemical emergency
16:00 – 16:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
<b><i>Monday, 22 May 2023</i></b>	
08:00 – 08:45	Lecture: The Integrated Rescue System of the Czech Republic
08:45 – 09:15	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
09:30 – 12:00	Visit and demonstration of the Regional Operation Centre
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Lecture: Incident command considerations
15:00 – 16:30	Visit of chemical, biological, and radiological laboratories
16:30 – 17:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
<b><i>Tuesday, 23 May 2023</i></b>	
08:00 – 09:30	Table-top exercise scenario 1 (initial phase)
09:30 – 10:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:00 – 12:00	Field exercise scenario 1 (special operation response phase)
12:00 – 12:30	<i>Refreshing break</i>
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 14:45	Evaluation and debriefing of field exercise scenario 1
14:45 – 16:00	Table-top exercise scenario 1 (final phase)
16:00 – 16:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:30 – 17:30	Debriefing on scenario 1
<b><i>Wednesday, 24 May 2023</i></b>	
08:00 – 09:30	Table-top exercise scenario 2 (initial phase)
09:30 – 10:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:00 – 12:00	Field exercise scenario 2 (special operation response phase)
12:00 – 12:30	<i>Refreshing break</i>
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 14:45	Evaluation and debriefing of field exercise scenario 2
14:45 – 16:00	Table-top exercise scenario 2 (final phase)
16:00 – 16:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:30 – 17:30	Debriefing on scenario 2
17:30 – 18:00	Evaluation of the course, completion of OPCW evaluation forms
<b><i>Thursday, 25 May 2023</i></b>	
08:30 – 09:15	Equipment maintenance, return of equipment
09:30 – 11:00	Transfer to Prague
11:00 – 16:00	<i>Sightseeing in Prague</i>
16:00 – 17:00	Prague hotel: check-in
17:00 – 18:00	Official closing ceremony
18:00 – 20:00	<i>Official dinner</i>