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ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

LIVE-AGENT TRAINING COURSE FOR EXPERTS, ZEMIANSKÉ, KOSTOL'ANY, SLOVAKIA, 27 MAY – 7 JUNE 2024

1. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat) wishes to invite States Parties to nominate representatives to participate in a live chemical warfare agent training course, which will take place from 27 May to 7 June 2024 in Zemianske Kostol'any, Slovakia.
2. The course is jointly organised by the Secretariat and the Government of Slovakia, and will provide training for up to 20 qualified participants who may be called upon to respond to chemical emergencies in their home countries.
3. The course will cover the following topics:
 - (a) detection of chemical warfare agents;
 - (b) donning and doffing of chemical protective clothing;
 - (c) preparation of samples for transport;
 - (d) decontamination operations; and
 - (e) appropriate responses and countermeasures in the event of incidents involving chemical warfare agents or toxic chemicals.
4. The course will provide participants with an opportunity to practice advanced contaminated scene operations in the presence of live chemical warfare agents.
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 and/or instructors/trainers, or be involved in the development of the chemical emergency response system in their respective countries.
 - (b) All participants must have a good oral and written command of English, 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 individuals who have demonstrable competency in the principles of chemical scene operations, including, but not limited to, completion of the OPCW assistance and protection training cycle.
 - (d) Participants must be physically fit and capable of wearing individual protective gear for several hours at a time.
 - (e) Selected participants will be required to supply confirmation of their health status from their personal healthcare provider, as required by the host facility.
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.
 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 transportation, accommodation, and meals. Further details regarding the venue and other course-specific arrangements 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 Sunday, 26 May 2024, and to depart no later than Saturday, 8 June 2024.
 9. Sponsored participants must bear all costs not related to the course or resulting from any itinerary changes made without explicit approval from the Secretariat. Participants who have not been sponsored are requested to make their own travel arrangements in accordance with paragraph 8 above. All participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas before travelling to Slovakia, including transit visas.
 10. Interested applicants are invited to register their nomination online **no later than Wednesday, 10 April 2024** through Eventus—the OPCW event management system. The Eventus registration link is accessible via the OPCW website (<https://eventus.opcw.org/>). Please note that all questions marked with an asterisk (*) must be answered in order for the nomination to be received, and for the candidate to be considered for this event. **States Parties and National Authorities are strongly encouraged to support and endorse applications from and nominations of suitable female candidates for this course.** Those who have been selected to participate will be contacted no later than one week after the submission deadline.
 11. Additional information may be obtained from Mr Babatunde Olowookere, Programme Officer (Tel.: +31704163467; Email: babatunde.olwookere@opcw.org) of the Assistance and Protection Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division.

Annex: Provisional Programme

Annex

**LIVE-AGENT TRAINING COURSE FOR EXPERTS
ZEMIANSKE KOSTOL'ANY, SLOVAKIA
27 MAY – 7 JUNE 2024**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
<i>Monday, 27 May 2024</i>	
7:00	Blood draw (NBC Technical Training Centre)
8:30 – 12:30	Opening, facility presentation, training programme, safety and medical instructions, presentations on the character of live chemical agents, health effects, first aid, detection of live chemical agents
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Distribution of individual protective equipment (IPE), laboratory demonstration, tour of the NBC Technical Training Centre, demonstration of decontamination control, demonstration of IPE use, gas mask test
<i>Tuesday, 28 May 2024</i>	
8:00 – 12:30	Briefing, detection and decontamination of live chemical agents, self-decontamination, sample transport preparation, rescue exercise, simulants
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Individual training: First contact with live chemical agents, simulants, evaluation
<i>Wednesday, 29 May 2024</i>	
8:00 – 12:30	Briefing, individual training: First contact with live chemical agents, decontamination, hygiene
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Detection of simulants and false positives, exercise on preparation of decontamination solutions, exercise on personal decontamination, simulants, evaluation
<i>Thursday, 30 May 2024</i>	
8:00 – 12:30	Briefing, exercise: live chemical agent detection and decontamination of common surfaces – live chemical agents, decontamination, and hygiene
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Team exercise: Complex samples that require preparation, simulants, decontamination, hygiene, evaluation
<i>Friday, 31 May 2024</i>	
08:00 – 12:30	Briefing, team exercise: Complex samples that require preparation, live chemical agents, decontamination, hygiene, evaluation
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:45 – 16:15	Exercise: Detection and sampling from improvised explosive devices, detection and sampling from waste incineration residues, simulants, evaluation
<i>Saturday, 1 June 2024</i>	
8:00 – 13:00	Presentations (hotel): live chemical agents analysis in field conditions, sampling (methods, types of samples, sampling equipment)

Time	Activity
<i>Monday, 3 June 2024</i>	
8:00 – 12:30	Briefing, team exercise: Detection of live chemical agents on vehicles, sampling, decontamination, hygiene
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Team exercise: Detection and sampling from collectors of drinkable water, detection and sampling from ammunition, simulants, evaluation
<i>Tuesday, 4 June 2024</i>	
8:00 – 12:30	Briefing, final complex exercise focused on detection of live chemical agents, their sampling and decontamination – sample preparation for transport, decontamination, hygiene
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Team exercise: Illegal laboratory detection and sampling, detection and sampling after road incidents, simulants, evaluation
<i>Wednesday, 5 June 2024</i>	
8:00 – 12:30	Briefing, laboratory analysis of samples collected during the training, live chemical agents, decontamination, hygiene
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Team exercise: Collection of samples in conditions of poor visibility, simulants, evaluation
<i>Thursday, 6 June 2024</i>	
7:00 – 12:30	Blood draw (hotel), IPE cleaning and return, evaluation of training, official closure
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Social activities for participants, organised by the Ministry of the Economy
<i>Friday, 7 June 2024</i>	
	Departure