



**OPCW**

**Technical Secretariat**

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14 February 2025  
ENGLISH only

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR A WORKSHOP ON GENERAL ASPECTS OF  
CHEMICAL SAFETY AND SECURITY IN LABORATORIES  
MILAN, ITALY  
20 – 23 MAY 2025**

**PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP**

1. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat) wishes to inform Member States that it will hold a workshop on general aspects of chemical safety and security in laboratories from 20 to 23 May 2025 in Milan, Italy. The workshop will be co-organised by the OPCW and the Institute of Chemical Sciences and Technologies “Giulio Natta” of the Italian National Research Council, in cooperation with Federchimica (Italy) and the University of Rome – Tor Vergata, and with support from the National Authority of Italy.
2. The objective of the workshop is to provide an update on the current standards, policies, know-how, and best practices in chemical safety and security, in both research laboratories and at small industrial production sites. It has been designed for specialised personnel, such as safety coordinators and environmental health and safety and/or security managers, as well as representatives of related policymaking institutions from OPCW Member States. The workshop is being implemented within the scope of the capacity-building programmes on the peaceful applications of chemistry under Article XI of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

**CONTENT**

3. The four-day programme will include theoretical lectures as well as practical and interactive sessions, as described below.
  - (a) Participants will be introduced to the general framework in which the OPCW and other organisations work to promote chemical safety and security management. They will also learn in greater detail about major relevant international policies, legal frameworks, awareness-raising initiatives, and tools, including the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) and the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG), among others. The workshop will feature a series of lectures dedicated to topics such as hazardous chemicals and related risk assessments, personal protective equipment, prevention and mitigation strategies, emergency management, environmental impacts, forensic sampling, as well as case analysis of incidents in chemical laboratories and at working sites. Special attention will be also paid to the themes of sustainability, green chemistry, ethics, and sound alternatives to highly hazardous chemicals.



- (b) One tabletop exercise on emergency response and risk assessment at the site of an incident involving hazardous chemicals will be conducted in order to provide participants with the practical skills needed to take action in chemical emergency scenarios as technical advisers or decision makers.
  - (c) One didactic module will be devoted to hands-on practical training at a chemical research laboratory, with a description of best practices and an interactive display of detection instruments, personal protective equipment, and safety tools in the event of minor chemical accidents in confined spaces.
  - (d) Participants will also be encouraged to present case studies and issues from their organisations and engage in an interactive discussion to identify gaps and needs, and to make specific proposals on how to improve existing practices in chemical safety and security management in their respective institutions and countries.
4. The workshop will accommodate a maximum of 20 participants from OPCW Member States. Participants will be selected based on their qualifications and experience.

#### **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

5. The workshop is open to those who:
- (a) have a minimum of a first degree (BSc or equivalent) in chemical or environmental sciences or technologies or engineering from a recognised university or institution (or a degree in other fields in combination with at least five years of qualifying experience, as referred to in subparagraph 5(b) below); and
  - (b) have been working in research and academic institutions, chemical industry, specialised organisations performing laboratory-scale activities involving hazardous chemicals, or governmental agencies that coordinate chemical safety and/or security at such establishments.
6. The workshop will be conducted in English. Candidates must therefore have a strong command of both written and spoken English.

#### **SELECTION PROCEDURE**

7. Applications will be carefully screened on the basis of the criteria specified in paragraphs 5 and 6 above. The Secretariat may decide to interview applicants. Applicants who have already participated in OPCW chemical safety and security in laboratory courses will not be considered for this workshop.

#### **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

8. Interested candidates are invited to submit their applications through Eventus—the OPCW event management system (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>). Applicants must first create an account and then register for the event. Each application must be endorsed digitally in the Eventus platform by the respective National Authority or Permanent Representation of the applicant's country to the OPCW. Only nominations endorsed by the National Authority or Permanent Representation may be considered. The National Authorities are strongly encouraged to support and endorse applications from suitable women candidates for the event.

9. Applications must be accompanied by the following:
  - (a) an updated curriculum vitae;
  - (b) a photocopy of the personal identification pages of the candidate's passport;
  - (c) a one-page description of the candidate's practical experience; and
  - (d) a letter of recommendation from the supervisor of the candidate at his or her institution addressing the candidate's qualifications in line with paragraphs 5 and 6 above and attesting the relevance of the course to the work of the institution.
10. Applications must be submitted to the Secretariat **no later than 25 March 2025**. Incomplete or improperly completed applications cannot be considered.
11. Additional information may be obtained by email from the International Cooperation Branch of the OPCW. The contact persons are Ms Rufaro Kambarami, Project Assistant (Email: [rufaro.kambarami@opcw.org](mailto:rufaro.kambarami@opcw.org)), and Mr Roman Warchol, Senior Programme Officer (Email: [roman.warchol@opcw.org](mailto:roman.warchol@opcw.org)).

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