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ENGLISH only

### NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

#### EVALUATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE FIFTY-FIRST OFFICIAL OPCW PROFICIENCY TEST

1. The Director-General wishes to inform the States Parties of the results of the Fifty-First Official OPCW Proficiency Test, which was conducted by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) from April to July 2022. The OPCW Laboratory is accredited by the Raad voor Accreditatie (RvA), the Netherlands, to conduct proficiency testing in compliance with the criteria laid down in International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission standard ISO/IEC 17043. The test was conducted according to the following quality management system documents:
  - (a) “Standard Operating Procedure for the Organisation of OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/SOP/PT01 (Issue 3, Revision 4, dated 25 March 2022));
  - (b) “Work Instruction for the Preparation of Samples for OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT02 (Issue 3, Revision 3, dated 19 March 2021));
  - (c) “Work Instruction for the Evaluation of the Results of OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT03 (Issue 4, Revision 1, dated 23 March 2022)); and
  - (d) “Work Instruction for the Reporting of the Results of the OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT04 (Issue 3, Revision 2, dated 23 March 2022)).
2. In order to retain their designation, designated laboratories must demonstrate once per calendar year that they have maintained their capabilities in a proficiency test organised by the Secretariat, unless the additional guidelines in decision C-20/DEC.4 (dated 2 December 2015) are applicable.
3. The Defence Science and Technology Group, Australia prepared the test samples and the Laboratorio de Verificación de Armas Químicas (LAVEMA), INTA Campus La Marañosa, Spain evaluated the results of the Fifty-First Proficiency Test.
4. Sixteen laboratories from 14 States Parties, including the two assisting laboratories, were nominated for participation in the test. Three laboratories opted to participate in this test on a trial basis.
5. The preliminary evaluation report was discussed at a hybrid meeting held online and at the OPCW Headquarters between Secretariat staff and the test participants on



- 12 July 2022. The participants were given two weeks to comment on the results and to inform the Secretariat whether they accepted their performance evaluation.
6. The evaluating laboratory submitted its final evaluation report to the Secretariat on 28 July 2022.
  7. The principal results of the Fifty-First Official OPCW Proficiency Test can be summarised as follows:
    - (a) All regular test participants but one submitted their analytical report within the test period.
    - (b) Ten regular participants identified and reported all of the spiking chemicals with sufficient analytical data for all of the spiking chemicals.
    - (c) One regular participant failed to send a report in the allocated time.
    - (d) No score was assigned to the three trial participants.
    - (e) One non-scoring chemical was reported.
    - (f) Seven false positive chemicals were reported.
    - (g) The sample preparation laboratory was awarded the maximum performance rating of “A”.
    - (h) The evaluating laboratory submitted its report and was awarded the maximum performance rating of “A”.
    - (i) There are twelve As and one F in the test score for the 13 regular participants, including the two assisting laboratories.
  8. The final results for all of the laboratories participating in the test are presented in the table in the Annex hereto.
  9. The participating laboratories are reminded that if they have made any errors or reported false positives or false negatives (arising from a failure to find a spiking chemical or to provide sufficient supporting data for a chemical that is found), they should take immediate remedial action. Before participating in the next test, each such laboratory is required to submit a detailed follow-up report to the Secretariat stating the cause of the problem and any remedial action it has taken. Any such laboratory failing to submit the required report, including details of the remedial action it has taken, will not be permitted to participate in the next proficiency test.

Annex: Final Results of the Fifty-First Official OPCW Proficiency Test

## Annex

## FINAL RESULTS OF THE FIFTY-FIRST OFFICIAL OPCW PROFICIENCY TEST

Participant Laboratory Code	No. of Spiking Chemicals <sup>1</sup> Reported	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating	Comments
<b>Algeria</b> Institut National de Criminologie et de Gendarmerie Nationale (07)	7	7	#	Trial participant.
<b>Australia</b> Defence Science and Technology Group	-	-	A	Sample preparation laboratory.
<b>Belgium</b> Defensielaboratoria - Laboratoires de la Défense (DLD) (14)	7	7	A	-
<b>India</b> Central Excise & Customs Laboratory (22)	-	-	F <sup>†</sup>	F <sup>†</sup> indicates failure of the test because the analytical report was not submitted within the test period (see QDOC/LAB/WI/PT04 §12(b)).
<b>India</b> Centre for Analysis of Chemical Toxins, CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (11)	7	7	A	-
<b>Japan</b> Chemical School, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (24)	7	7	A	Non-scoring chemical H was reported.
<b>Malaysia</b> Department of Chemistry (19)	7	7	A	-

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The spiking chemicals were as follows:

Sample 512	A	O-n-Butyl methylphosphonate
	B	Ethylphosphonic acid
Sample 513	C	n-Propylphosphonic acid
Sample 514	D	O,O-Diisopropyl isopropylphosphonate
	E	N,N-Diisopropylaminoethan-2-ol
	F	Bis(2-N,N-diisopropylaminoethyl)disulfide
Sample 516	G	3,3-Dimethylbutan-2-ol (pinacolyl alcohol)

<b>Participant Laboratory Code</b>	<b>No. of Spiking Chemicals<sup>1</sup> Reported</b>	<b>No. of Chemicals Scored</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Morocco</b> National Technical and Scientific Police Laboratory (01)	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>#</b>	Trial participant. Spiking chemicals A, B, C, D, E, and F were not reported. Insufficient data for the reported spiking chemical G. False positive chemicals I, J, K, L, M, N, and O were reported.
<b>Poland</b> Chemical Laboratory of CBRN Area Control Centre of Polish Armed Forces (18)	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>A</b>	-
<b>Republic of Korea</b> CBRN Defense Research Institute, ROK Defense Command (13)	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>A</b>	-
<b>South Africa</b> Protechnik Laboratories (05)	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>A</b>	-
<b>Spain</b> Laboratorio de Verificación de Armas Químicas (LAVEMA), INTA Campus La Marañosa	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>A</b>	Evaluating laboratory.
<b>Switzerland</b> Spiez Laboratory, Swiss NBC Defence Establishment (21)	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>A</b>	-
<b>Türkiye</b> University of Health Sciences, Department of Medical CBRN Defense (23)	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>#</b>	Trial participant. No chemicals were reported.
<b>Türkiye</b> Chemical Warfare Agents Identification and Verification Laboratory (08)	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>A</b>	-

<b>Participant Laboratory Code</b>	<b>No. of Spiking Chemicals<sup>1</sup> Reported</b>	<b>No. of Chemicals Scored</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>United States of America</b> DEVCOM Chemical Biological Center, Forensic Analytical Laboratory (09)	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>A</b>	-