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### NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

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

1. The Director-General wishes to inform the States Parties of the results of the Fifty-Second Official OPCW Proficiency Test, which was conducted by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) from October 2022 to March 2023. 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 OPCW Laboratory prepared the test samples and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, the United States of America, evaluated the results of the Fifty-Second Proficiency Test.
4. Twenty-six laboratories from 21 States Parties, including the assisting laboratory, were nominated for participation in the test. One laboratory 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 14 February 2023. 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 1 March 2023.
7. The principal results of the Fifty-Second Official OPCW Proficiency Test can be summarised as follows:
  - (a) All regular test participants submitted their analytical report within the test period.
  - (b) Fourteen regular participants identified and reported all of the spiking chemicals with sufficient analytical data for all of the spiking chemicals.
  - (c) Five regular participants identified and reported six out of the seven spiking chemicals with sufficient data.
  - (d) Three regular participants identified and reported five out of the seven spiking chemicals with sufficient data.
  - (e) Two regular participants provided sufficient data for the identification of fewer than half of the spiking chemicals.
  - (f) No score was assigned to the trial participant.
  - (g) One non-scoring chemical was reported.
  - (h) The evaluating laboratory submitted its report and was awarded the maximum performance rating of “A”.
  - (i) There are fifteen As, five Bs, three Cs, and two Ds in the test scores for the 24 regular participants and the assisting laboratory.
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: Results of the Fifty-Second Official OPCW Proficiency Test

## Annex

RESULTS OF THE FIFTY-SECOND OFFICIAL  
OPCW PROFICIENCY TEST

Participant Laboratory Code	No. of Spiking Chemicals Reported <sup>1</sup>	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating	Comments
<b>Algeria</b> Institut National de Criminologie et de Gendarmerie Nationale (29)	6	6	B	Spiking chemical B was not reported
<b>Brazil</b> Chemical Analysis Laboratory of the Brazilian Navy, Nuclear, Biological, Chemical and Radiological Defense Centre (30)	5	2	D	Spiking chemicals E and G were not reported. Insufficient data for reported spiking chemicals B, D, and F
<b>Brazil</b> Laboratório de Análises Químicas, Centro Tecnológico do Exército (CTEx) (06)	7	7	A	-
<b>China</b> Laboratory of Toxicant Analysis, Academy of Military Medical Sciences (01)	7	7	A	-
<b>China</b> Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry, Research Institute of Chemical Defence (18)	7	7	A	-

<sup>1</sup> The spiking chemicals were as follows:

Sample 521	A	Methylphosphonic acid
	B	2-(N,N-Dimethylamino)ethanol
Sample 523	C	3-Quinuclidinol
	D	Triethanolamine
Sample 524	E	Trichloronitromethane
	F	Dimethyl methylphosphonate
Sample 526	G	Diphenyl methylphosphonate

<b>Participant Laboratory Code</b>	<b>No. of Spiking Chemicals Reported<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>No. of Chemicals Scored</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Denmark</b> Danish Emergency Management Agency (31)	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>D</b>	Spiking chemicals B, C, and F were not reported. Insufficient data for the reported spiking chemicals A, D, and E
<b>France</b> DGA Maîtrise NRBC, Département d'analyses chimiques (32)	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>A</b>	Non-scoring chemical H was reported
<b>Hungary</b> Hungarian Defence Forces, Medical Centre, Defence Health Directorate, Scientific Research Laboratory Institute (15)	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>B</b>	Spiking chemical B was not reported
<b>India</b> Centre for Analysis of Chemical Toxins, CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (08)	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>A</b>	-
<b>India</b> Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology (25)	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>B</b>	Spiking chemical G was not reported
<b>India</b> VERTOX Laboratory, Defence Research and Development Establishment (22)	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>B</b>	Spiking chemical B was not reported
<b>Iran (Islamic Republic of)</b> Defense Chemical Research Laboratory (DCRL) (10)	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>A</b>	-
<b>Japan</b> Chemical School, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (14)	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>A</b>	-
<b>Malaysia</b> Department of Chemistry (13)	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>C</b>	Spiking chemicals B and G were not reported

<b>Participant Laboratory Code</b>	<b>No. of Spiking Chemicals Reported<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>No. of Chemicals Scored</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Netherlands</b> TNO Defence, Safety and Security (20)	7	7	A	-
<b>Norway</b> Laboratory for Identification of Chemical Threat Agents, Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI) (27)	7	7	A	-
<b>Pakistan</b> Analytical Laboratory, Defense Science and Technology Organisation (11)	7	7	A	-
<b>Poland</b> Chemical Laboratory of CBRN Area Control Centre of Polish Armed Forces (21)	6	6	B	Spiking chemical B was not reported
<b>Republic of Korea</b> Chemical Analysis Laboratory, CBR Directorate, Agency for Defense Development (07)	7	7	A	-
<b>Romania</b> Research and Innovation Center for CBRN Defense and Ecology, Chemical Analysis Laboratory (26)	5	5	C	Spiking chemicals B and C were not reported
<b>Russian Federation</b> Central Chemical Weapons Destruction Analytical Laboratory of the Federal State Unitary Enterprise, "State Scientific Research Institute of Organic Chemistry and Technology" (19)	7	7	A	-

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<b>Russian Federation</b> Laboratory for Chemical and Analytical Control, Military Research Centre (09)	7	7	A	-
<b>South Africa</b> Protechnik Laboratories (12)	5	4	C	Spiking chemicals B and G were not reported. Insufficient data for the reported spiking chemical A
<b>Türkiye</b> Tubitak Marmara Research Center, CBRN Defence Technologies Research Group (04)	5	1	#	Trial participant
<b>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</b> Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, Porton Down (23)	7	7	A	-
<b>United States of America</b> Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	-	-	A	Evaluation assistance