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NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR OFFICIAL OPCW PROFICIENCY TESTS
IN 2016 AND 2017**

1. The Director-General wishes to inform Member States of the tentative schedule for official OPCW proficiency tests in both 2016 and 2017.
2. A new proficiency testing programme for the analysis of biomedical samples will start in 2016.¹ This new programme is in addition to the two traditional proficiency tests that have led to the designation of laboratories for off-site analysis of environmental samples. These two programmes are separate, and laboratories are welcome to participate in either or both programmes.
3. Both proficiency testing programmes may be conducted with the assistance of designated laboratories. The tables that follow indicate the laboratories and Member States that have volunteered to assist the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) with the proficiency test. If the “Assisting Laboratory” column is blank, the Secretariat would welcome designated laboratories to volunteer.
4. Prior to each proficiency test, the Secretariat will issue an official Note announcing the test with instructions on how to participate.
5. The tentative test schedule and the laboratories that will be assisting are listed in the following two tables.

¹ The Conference of the States Parties at its Twentieth Session adopted a decision entitled “Designation of Laboratories for the Analysis of Authentic Biomedical Samples and Guidelines for the Conduct of Biomedical Proficiency Tests” (C-20/DEC.5, dated 2 December 2015) establishing a proficiency testing programme for biomedical sample analysis.



TABLE 1: TENTATIVE SCHEDULE AND THE LABORATORIES THAT WILL BE ASSISTING IN OPCW PROFICIENCY TESTS IN 2016 AND 2017

Proficiency Test	Assisting Laboratory: Sample Preparation	Assisting Laboratory: Evaluation	Sample Dispatch Date	Meeting to Discuss the Preliminary Evaluation of the Results
Thirty-Ninth PT-39	Spiez Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry, Switzerland	Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, Forensic Analytical Center, the United States of America	8 April 2016	29 June 2016
Fortieth PT-40	Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, Chemical and Biological Systems, Porton Down, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	FOI, CBRN Defence and Security, Swedish Defence Research Agency, Sweden	21 October 2016	8 February 2017
Forty-First PT-41		Verification Laboratory, Defence Medical and Environmental Research Institute, DSO National Laboratories, Singapore	28 April 2017	19 July 2017
Forty-Second PT-42	DGA Maîtrise NRBC Département Analyse Chimique, France	Defence Research & Development Establishment (DRDE), VERTOX Laboratory, India	20 October 2017	7 February 2018

TABLE 2: TENTATIVE TEST SCHEDULE FOR OFFICIAL OPCW BIOMEDICAL PROFICIENCY TESTS IN 2016 AND 2017

Proficiency Test	Assisting Laboratory: Sample Preparation	Assisting Laboratory: Evaluation	Sample Dispatch Date	Meeting to Discuss the Preliminary Evaluation of the Results
First BioPT-1	OPCW Laboratory	OPCW Laboratory	26 February 2016	25 May 2016
Second BioPT-2			24 February 2017	24 May 2017

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